Assessment and Recognition: A Pan-Canadian Perspective
Outline of presentation

- background information
- assessment and recognition in Canada
- LRC implementation in Canada
- possible next steps

Background information

- international treaties
- education in Canada
- About CICIC
International treaties

UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the States belonging to the Europe Region (1979)
  • ratified 1990

Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC)
  • signed 1997
  • ratification pending

Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications

- 2013 — preliminary feasibility study
- 2015 — preliminary report
- 2017 — first draft of the convention
- 2019 — ready for adoption?

Source: CICIC's Web site
Education in Canada

- Education and the Constitution of Canada
- 21 ministries/departments responsible for education in Canada
- Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC)
CICIC: Establishment

ENIC: European Network of Information Centres
CICIC: Mandate

- **information and referral services**
  - assessment and recognition
  - Canada’s education systems
  - inbound and outbound mobility
  - develop and manage data sets

- **pan-Canadian and international networks**

- **improve consistency and capacity**
  - develop standards, training, tools, and resources for assessors

- **labour-mobility projects**

Source: CICIC’s Web site.
CICIC: Stakeholders

individuals

assessors

employers

others
CICIC: Typical inquiries

- **newcomers**
  - What is the comparability of my international academic credential in Canada?

- **international students**
  - Where do I find information on Canada’s education systems?

- **employers**
  - Is the applicant’s international academic credential legitimate?

- **organizations outside Canada**
  - Was this educational institution from Canada able to issue academic credentials in 1985?
CICIC: Quick facts (2016)

CICIC.ca Web site
- 650,000 Web visits
- 2.1 million Web-page visits
- 76% first-time visitors

Inquiries
- 4,300 by telephone, Web, social media, or in-person
- 9,000 self-generated, tailored on-line reports

Source: CICIC. Between January and December 2016.
Assessment and recognition in Canada

- documents
- procedures
- purposes
- recognition and assessment bodies
- data hubs and originators of requests
Assessment and recognition in Canada (cont’d)

academic credentials
- degree
- diploma
- certificate

qualifications
- statement of professional standing
- language-test results
- academic credentials
Assessment and recognition in Canada (cont’d)

assessment
- authentication of documents
- comparability to Canada

recognition
- organization decides that applicant’s documents meet requirements in Canada

procedures
Assessment and recognition in Canada (cont’d)

- **purposes**
  - immigration
    - eligibility for immigration to Canada
  - further studies
    - gain admission to an educational institution
  - employment
    - obtain a licence to practise
    - job requirement
Assessment and recognition in Canada (cont’d)

recognition and assessment bodies

immigration
- federal and provincial governments

further studies
- universities
- colleges

employment
- regulatory authorities and associations
- employers
Assessment and recognition in Canada (cont’d)

- Educational institutions
- Governments and agencies
- Regulatory authorities
- Third-party providers
- Assessment services
- Employers
- Other recognition bodies
LRC implementation in Canada

- milestones
- CICIC’s information systems
  - individual
  - assessor
  - education
  - mobility
### INDIvidual Portal

#### Settle In Canada

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Work</th>
<th>Settle Outside Canada</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Choose Canada</td>
<td>Find the name of your intended occupation in Canada</td>
<td>Study internationally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply to Study in Canada</td>
<td>Learn about qualifications recognition</td>
<td>Work internationally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get financial assistance</td>
<td>Get financial assistance</td>
<td>Find the name of your intended occupation outside Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrate to Canada</td>
<td>Learn about recognition of your academic credentials</td>
<td>Learn about qualification recognition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live in Canada</td>
<td>Emigrate from Canada</td>
<td>Emigrate from Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work in Canada</td>
<td>Find an occupational profile</td>
<td>Find international labour-mobility resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study in Canada</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Individual.CICIC.ca**
Directory of Educational Institutions in Canada

- **When**: 1990s
- **Where**: Canada — public
- **Who**: assessment services and recognition bodies, prospective students
- **Why**: confirm the legal status of educational institutions, list of academic recognition bodies
- **What**: 4,000 educational institutions in Canada

Source: CICIC, *Directory of Educational Institutions in Canada*. 
Directory of Educational Institutions in Canada (cont’d)

Statistics Canada
- Postsecondary Student Information System (PSIS)

International Association of Universities
- World Higher Education Database (WHED) Portal

INDIVIDUAL PORTAL

SETTLE IN CANADA
- STUDY
  - Choose Canada
  - Find an educational institution
  - Apply to study in Canada
  - Get financial assistance
  - Immigrate to Canada
  - Live in Canada
  - Work in Canada

- WORK
  - Choose Canada
  - Find the name of your intended occupation in Canada
  - Learn about qualifications in Canada
  - Immigrate to Canada
  - Live in Canada
  - Study in Canada

SETTLE OUTSIDE CANADA
- STUDY
  - Study internationally
  - Learn about recognition of your academic credentials
  - Get financial assistance

- WORK
  - Work internationally
  - Find the name of your intended occupation outside Canada
  - Learn about qualification recognition
  - Immigrate from Canada
  - Find international education resources
  - Find international labour mobility resources

Individual.CICIC.ca
Directory of Occupational Profiles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>when</th>
<th>• 1990s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>where</td>
<td>• Canada — public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>who</td>
<td>• skilled workers seeking mobility</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| why    | • confirm occupational regulations in Canada  
      | • list of professional recognition bodies |
| what   | • 500 regulated and non-regulated occupations in Canada |

Source: CICIC, *Directory of Occupational Profiles*.
Directory of Occupational Profiles (cont’d)

Statistics Canada

- National Occupational Classification (NOC)

Source: Canadian Education Statistics Council (CESC). Postsecondary Student Information System (PSIS).
Assessor.CICIC.ca
## Quality Assurance Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>when</th>
<th>• 2012 — periodic reviews</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>where</td>
<td>• Canada — public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>who</td>
<td>• governance in assessment services and recognition bodies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| why | • greater consistency of assessment outcomes  
• support portability of assessments between organizations |
| what | • 41 guiding principles  
• policy tool for organizations |

**Source:** CICIC. 2012. *Pan-Canadian Quality Assurance Framework for the Assessment of International Academic Credentials* (QAF)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>when</th>
<th>• October 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>where</td>
<td>• Canada — public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>who</td>
<td>• governance in assessment services and recognition bodies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| why | • to learn from the experience of organizations  
• to build on their expertise and insights to find solutions |
| what | • identification and development of best practices and guidelines in Canada |

## Step-by-step guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>when</th>
<th>2017 — periodic reviews</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>where</td>
<td>Canada — public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>who</td>
<td>academic credential assessors in assessment services and recognition bodies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>why</td>
<td>practical tool for practitioners, based on QAF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>what</td>
<td>six-step approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>suggested procedure with references</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Step-by-step guide (cont’d)

1. Receive documents
2. Confirm the status
3. Authenticate
4. Compare
5. Decide on the assessment outcome
6. Communicate the result
Take into account how the documents were issued and transmitted to your organization for processing, as well as the current circumstances of the regional or local education system of the issuing country.

For internal procedures:
- **Assume that the documents are genuine** unless there are strong indications that suggest otherwise;
- **Consider the method used for delivering and receiving authentic documents** in your process. This is explained in the World Education Services’ *Best Practices: Strategies and Processes to Obtain Authentic International Educational Credentials* as the “document authenticity continuum”;
- **Consider the context of the country and educational institution**. Be mindful of:
  - what is typically expected of all applicants in similar situations;
  - previously reported situations in which fraudulent practices may have been encountered relatively frequently, such as:
    - purchase of documents through bribery;
    - alteration of original documents or forgery.
- **Check for any noticeable inconsistencies**, such as:
  - physical alteration and visual elements found on the delivery envelope;
  - delivery service stamp or invoice with the date and postal address;
  - possible Web spoofing of the issuing educational institution or competent authority through:
    - its Web URL;
    - its Web-page content; and/or
    - e-mail delivered to your inbox.

In some cases, the educational institution may provide on-line verification services for its graduates. This may facilitate the authentication process for academic credentials issued by its admissions department.
Assessor.CICIC.ca
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>• 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where</td>
<td>• Canada — public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who</td>
<td>• governance in assessment services and recognition bodies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Why   | • improve HR policies and practices  
         • increase the professionalism of the workforce |
| What  | • 27 key competencies  
         • 11 key attitudes and values |

Source: CICIC. 2012. *Competency Profile for an Academic Credential Assessor*.
### Terminology guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>where</td>
<td>Canada — public</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| who           | assessment services and recognition bodies  
|               | internationally educated individuals |
| why           | facilitate communication with subject-matter experts  
|               | assist individuals |
| what          | primary reference source  
|               | 400 terms (English and French) |

Login

Access CICIC’s tool box by entering your login information below.

- **e-mail**
- **password**

LOG-IN

**WHAT IS CICIC’S TOOL BOX?**

The tool box allows you to add or update basic information about:
- your organization;
- a specific contact person.

For registered members of the pan-Canadian community of academic credential assessors, it also offers:
- various tools to support the assessment and recognition process;
- a discussion platform for exchanges among experts in the field.

Initially, users must submit a registration request. Once registered, users will be able to access the tool box.

Get more information about CICIC’s tool box to learn about its content, eligibility criteria, and how to register.
## CICIC’s tool box

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>when</th>
<th>• 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>where</td>
<td>• Canada — password-protected area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>who</td>
<td>• 300 academic credential assessors in assessment services and recognition bodies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>why</td>
<td>• support organizations and their staff in managing sensitive information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>what</td>
<td>• on-line hub for the pan-Canadian community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CICIC. [CICIC’s tool box](#).
### ASSESSOR PORTAL

#### ASSESS AN ACADEMIC CREDENTIAL

- Issued Outside Canada
  - Receiving documents for assessment
  - Confirm the status of the educational institution and/or its academic programs
  - Authenticate the documents
  - Compare the academic credential to those found in Canada
  - Decide on the assessment outcome
  - Communicate the result to the applicant

#### ACCESS ASSESSMENT RESOURCES

- **USE THE TOOLS**
  - Quality Assurance Framework
  - Alternative qualification-assessment procedure
  - Directory of Comparability Assessment Outcomes

- **DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS**
  - Enrol in Assessment 101
  - Seek employment opportunities

- **EVALUATION listserv**

- Competency Profile
- Terminology Guides

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**Assessor.CICIC.ca**
# EVALUATION listserv

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where</td>
<td>Canada — password-protected area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who</td>
<td>300 academic credential assessors in assessment services and recognition bodies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why</td>
<td>Encourage collaboration and sharing of information by practitioners</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| What  | Get assistance with challenging cases  
|       | Networking tool for a solitary job |

Source: CICIC. [EVALUATION listserv](http://www.cicic.ca)
Assessor.CICIC.ca
Directory of outcomes

- **when**
  - 2017

- **where**
  - Canada — password-protected area

- **who**
  - 300 academic credential assessors in assessment services and recognition bodies

- **why**
  - Encourage consistency of assessment outcomes

- **what**
  - Recommended outcome for 360 academic credentials from 12 countries

Education.CICIC.ca
Canada’s Education Systems

Source: CICIC, Education portal.
Possible next steps

legal pathways

- international treaties
- provincial and territorial legal frameworks

best practices’ pathway

- improve standards, tools, and resources
- endorsement
- facilitate dialogue
Ask us.

Michael Ringuette  
• CICIC Coordinator  

Nathanaël Poli  
• CICIC Digital Communications Officer
Connecting the dots between mobility and credential recognition