Pan-Canadian Quality Assurance Framework for the Assessment of International Academic Credentials

ARUCC 2012 Conference
June 26, 2012

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About the Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials

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http://www.cicic.ca

- Acts as a pan-Canadian information and referral service to individuals and organizations to promote international mobility and improve the recognition and portability of Canadian and international academic credentials and occupational qualifications

- Acts as a pan-Canadian forum for a national and international network of individuals and organizations concerned with professional qualifications and academic credential evaluations

- CICIC is a unit of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC).

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Context

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Existing frameworks

- Quality Assurance Framework of the Alliance of Credential Evaluation Services of Canada (ACESC)

- General Guiding Principles for Good Practice in the Assessment of Foreign Credentials

- Recommendation on Criteria and Procedures for the Assessment of Foreign Qualifications

- ARUCC transcripts guide, AACRAO publications, etc.

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Pan-Canadian Quality Standards in International Academic Credential Assessment Project

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Goals

- To integrate internationally trained newcomers into the workforce in both regulated and unregulated professions
- **To facilitate the assessment of academic credentials for foreign students' admission to Canadian colleges and universities**

Phases

- Phase I: 2007 — Diagnostic research on the portability and consistency of academic credential assessments
- Phase II: 2010 —Reference tools developed

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Project Activities

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- *Pan-Canadian Quality Assurance Framework for the Assessment of International Academic Credentials*
- English terminology guide for academic credential assessment in Canada (http://terminology.cicic.ca)
- Country education profiles (http://countryprofiles.cicic.ca)
- Competency profile for an academic credential assessor
- Feasibility study for a distance-education program for Canadian academic credential assessors
- Feasibility study for a web-based application to share assessment results, resources, and methodologies on academic credential assessments

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Need for a QAF

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- Widespread adherence to a Quality Assurance Framework will ultimately help improve the consistency and portability of assessments performed across Canada.
- The QAF will guide and streamline the practice of academic credential assessment.
- Adherence to the QAF will also help encourage broader recognition of academic and occupational credentials in order to foster international mobility.

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Overview of the QAF

Three sections:

- The QAF fundamental principles
- Process for QAF adherence
- QAF's governance and mechanisms for continuous improvement

Pan-Canadian Code of Good Practice in the Assessment of International Academic Credentials

- **General principles:** non-discrimination, consistency, respect for provincial and territorial differences, internal quality assurance
- **Transparency:** publish document and translation requirements, processing times, fees, appeal procedures
- **Assessment procedures:** situate the credential in its context and compare to Canadian standard using a range of criteria
- **Precedents:** use and review precedents and explain deviations from established precedents

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Pan-Canadian Code of Good Practice in the Assessment of International Academic Credentials (continued)

- **Recognized institutions**: those formally approved by "competent authorities" OR widely accepted by others
- **Reporting:** provide a report to applicant and other institutions as required (with permission)
- **Fraudulent documents:** procedures to follow in cases of confirmed/suspected fraudulent documents
- **Other practices**

Implementing the QAF

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- Creation of the steering committee
- Supporting your efforts to adhere to the QAF
- Annual self-review of QAF adherence

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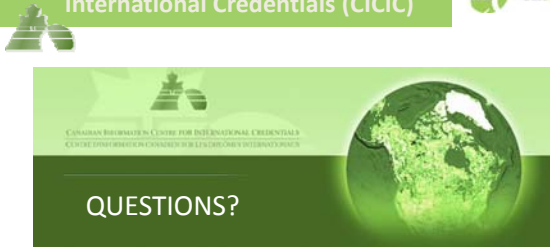## Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials (CICIC)

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QUESTIONS?

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