



FAIRNESS COMMISSIONER

COMMISSAIRE À L'ÉQUITÉ

THE OFC NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

WELCOME TO SEPTEMBER:

EMBRACING NEW BEGINNINGS AND A BUSY YEAR AHEAD!

HELLO
September

As the sun begins to set a little earlier, the air takes on a hint of crispness, and the leaves start to change their colors, we find ourselves bidding a fond farewell to summer and embracing the arrival of September. It's a time of transition, a season of new beginnings, and an opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments and memories collected during the warmer months.

Whether you enjoyed a beach vacation, explored new destinations, or spent time at home with your families, we at the Office of the Fairness commissioner (OFC) hope that this summer was everything you wished for and more. It's these moments that make life rich and remind us of the importance of taking a break to recharge.

Now that September is upon us, it's time to re-focus on our work-related responsibilities. This year promises to be a busy one, filled with opportunities for growth, learning, and finding ways to better fulfill our important roles. Fall is often associated with change and transformation. Just as the leaves shift from vibrant greens to a palette of reds, oranges, and yellows, we too need to embrace new ways of thinking to better serve the public interest.

- ✓ Find ways to assist applicants who have almost fulfilled their requirements to make it over the finish line (e.g., through mentoring and wraparound supports). Don't leave talented people behind!
- ✓ Show leadership across the fair registration practices ecosystem by forging strong links with upstream and downstream stakeholders, including educational institutions, government departments and employers.
- ✓ Pay close attention to the needs of employers who will absorb the supply of new professionals and tradespersons, including the skill sets in demand and any unfounded concerns or stereotypes about the qualifications of internationally trained applicants.
- ✓ Make the collection and analysis of relevant data a cornerstone of your approach to build organizational capacity, take a risk-informed approach to your work, and create a client focused approach to registration.

For further details on best practices, we invite readers to access our website and refer to the following documents in the [Compliance](#) section of our website:

- [Legislated Obligations and Best Practices Guide-Regulated Professions and Compulsory Trades \(fairnesscommissioner.ca\)](#).
- [Legislated Obligations and Best Practices Guide - Health Regulatory Colleges \(fairnesscommissioner.ca\)](#).

SURVEY: CREDENTIAL RECOGNITION



On August 30, 2023, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development launched an important survey to help identify opportunities to improve credential recognition for both internationally trained newcomers and individuals certified in another province seeking a licence in Ontario. Its intended audience are applicants, regulated professions that are subject to the *Fair Access to Regulated Professions and Compulsory Trades Act, 2006*, and other stakeholders involved with credential recognition.

The survey will gather input from a broad range of individuals and groups to help inform options on how the credential recognition system could be strengthened.

We encourage you to complete the survey and promote it among internationally trained individuals and those certified in other provinces who have recently moved / are planning to move to Ontario, particularly those with a background in a regulated profession or skilled trade.

The survey will close on September 18, 2023, and can be accessed at [Survey: Credential recognition | ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca/survey/credential-recognition).

While on this topic, we also wish to bring to your attention a consultation initiative led by Ontario's [Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board \(peqab.ca\)](https://www.ontario.ca/postsecondary-education-quality-assessment-board), which is exploring the development of a quality assurance framework for micro-credentials.

Micro-credentials may be thought of as short-duration, occupation-focused, targeted and flexible skills that internationally trained applicants, in particular, need to acquire to become registered in a profession or trade. Historically, these have often been difficult to locate, and the quality of the educational offering hard to assess.

If you are interested in reading or commenting on this consultation, please refer to the document: [Ontario Micro-Credentials: Harnessing the Potential.pdf \(peqab.ca\)](https://www.ontario.ca/ontario-micro-credentials-harnessing-the-potential). Please note that your comments must be received by September 30, 2023.

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