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Wild Rose

Wild Rose Report

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CRACKING DOWN ON CROOKED IMMIGRATION CONSULTANTS

Anytime that you have a queue for something, you can bet there are those who will think they can unfairly cut ahead in line.

While most immigrants who aspire to come to Canada apply to do so legally, there is an industry that has cropped up in the shadows of our immigration system that caters to those who are not willing to take their turn, or that simply misleads and exploits potential immigrants through outright fraud.

Crooked immigration consultants working right here in Canada have made an industry of opening “back door” portals into Canada over the years. But they will now find that the landscape has changed dramatically.

In June, our Conservative Government took measures to maintain the integrity of Canada’s immigration system by passing into law Bill C-35, which targets those who skirt the rules.

This bill strengthens the rules governing those who charge their clients for immigration advice or representation, making it an offence for anyone other than an accredited immigration representative to conduct business, for a fee or other consideration, at any stage of an application or proceeding.

New Canadians are too often exploited by fraud. So this law targets undeclared “ghost” consultants as well as other unscrupulous immigration representatives who prey on new Canadians.

Our Government has designated the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council (ICCRC) as the new regulator for immigration consultants. Consultants who are currently members in good standing of the Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants (CSIC) were able to begin registering with the ICCRC as of the end of June.

Canadian citizenship that is not fairly gained according to the rules is simply not valid. Our Government has shown our commitment to this principle in a number of ways, including our recent move to revoke the citizenships of some 1,800 individuals who did not choose Canada as their home, but simply saw our country as their pit-stop of convenience.

When I meet new Canadians, they are proud of how they followed the rules, waited patiently, and respected our laws, and are upset to learn that others were able to cut in line ahead of them. These changes are entirely in line with our Government’s stated goal – to protect and enhance the integrity of our immigration system for Canadians and immigrants alike.

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