



Freedom To Create. Spirit To Achieve.

# A Foreign Qualification Recognition Plan for Alberta and A Pan-Canadian Framework for the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Qualifications

**2011 AAISA Provincial Conference**

**October 27, 2011**

**Government  
of Alberta** ■

# Alberta FQR Plan: November 2008



## A Foreign Qualification Recognition Plan for Alberta

Government  
of Alberta

Alberta  
Freedom To Create. Spirit To Achieve.

Available at:

<http://employment.alberta.ca/Immigration/6427.html>

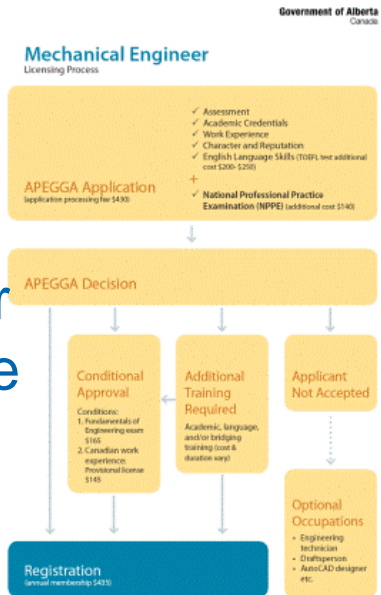
# FQR PLAN: 3 Strategic Themes

1. Specialized Information:
  - Immigrants have easy access to information regarding recognition of their foreign credentials
2. Assessment Standards and Resources:
  - Ensure transparent and fair assessment of foreign credentials
3. Bridging the Gap
  - Ensure availability of appropriate programs to bridge gap between immigrant qualifications and standards required for the workplace

# Highlights of FQR Initiatives

## 1. Specialized Information:

- Developed FQR resources posted on the Alberta-Canada Immigration website
- Developed 65 accreditation guides for regulated occupations, which describe the process to become licensed or registered to practice in these occupations; guides are available at: [www.albertacanada.com/immigration/working/occupations.aspx](http://www.albertacanada.com/immigration/working/occupations.aspx)
- Developed *How to work in your occupation in Alberta* brochure, which can be downloaded at [www.employment.alberta.ca/Immigration/6427.html](http://www.employment.alberta.ca/Immigration/6427.html)



# Highlights of FQR Initiatives

## 2. Assessment Standards and Resources:

- Provided over \$2.4 million to professional regulatory organizations for 27 projects to improve assessment and recognition processes for internationally educated applicants
- Met with professional regulatory organizations to develop FQR reports
- Organized forums with professional regulatory organizations to discuss FQR opportunities and challenges
- Delivered information workshops on how to evaluate foreign credentials

# Highlights of FQR Initiatives

## 3. Bridging the Gap

- Provided over \$400,000 in contracts for innovative projects that support successful integration of skilled immigrants
- Sponsored 77 workshops on workplace diversity and two FQR employer forums Provided over \$1 million to the Immigrant Access Fund Society
- Developed a policy framework for bridging programs and funded bridging programs in various occupations



**A Foreign Qualification  
Recognition Plan for Alberta**  
Progress Report 2009-2010

# A Pan-Canadian Framework

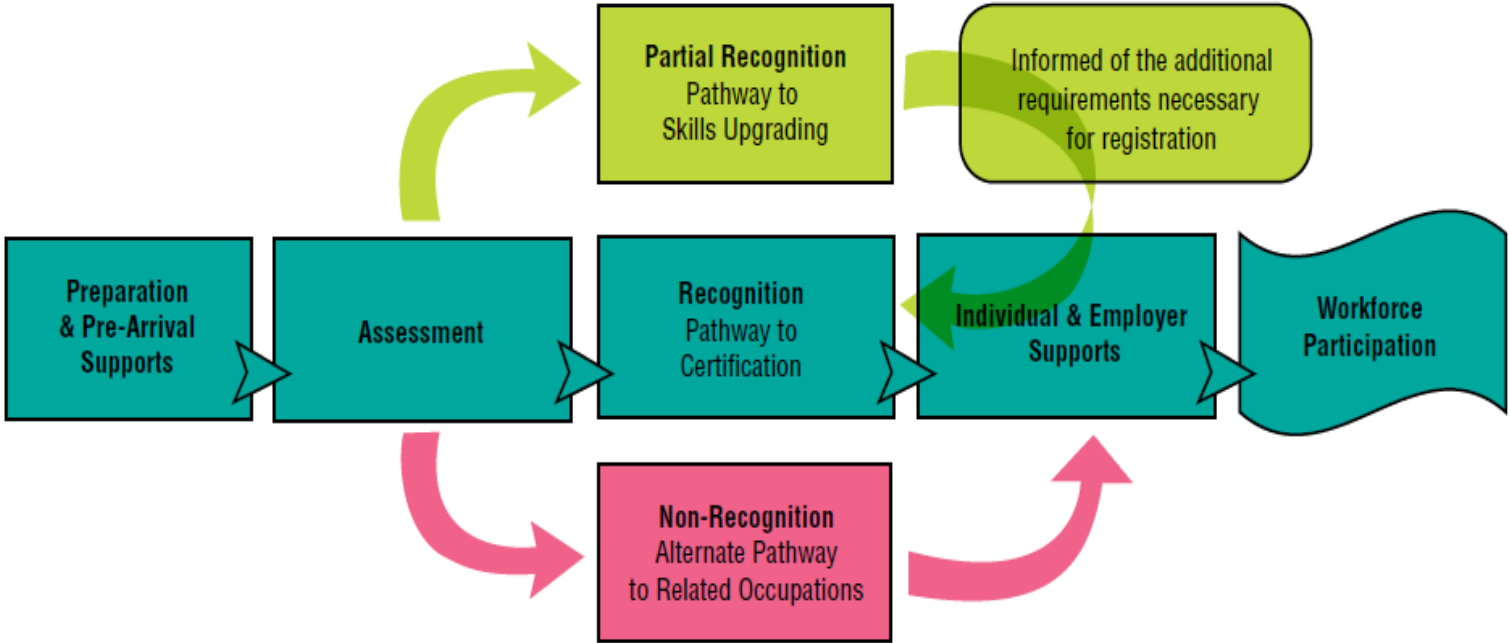
for the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Qualifications

---

FORUM OF LABOUR MARKET MINISTERS

- Governments of provinces, territories and Canada made a public commitment towards improving qualifications assessment and recognition practices and creating positive change for immigrants in Canada
- Alberta served as co-chair of the national working group that developed the Framework and plays an active role in its implementation
- Framework Principles
  - Fairness
  - Transparency
  - Timeliness
  - Consistency
- Framework can be found at:  
[www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/publications/fcr/pcf.shtml](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/publications/fcr/pcf.shtml)

# A Pan-Canadian Framework: Pathways to Recognition



# Pan-Canadian Framework: Target Occupations for 2010-2011

<p><b>First Set of Target Occupations by December 31, 2010</b></p>	<p><b>Second Set of Target Occupations by December 31, 2012</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Architects</li> <li>• Engineers</li> <li>• Financial Auditors and Accountants</li> <li>• Medical Laboratory Technologists</li> <li>• Occupational Therapists</li> <li>• Pharmacists</li> <li>• Physiotherapists</li> <li>• Registered Nurses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dentists</li> <li>• Engineering Technicians</li> <li>• Licensed Practical Nurses</li> <li>• Medical Radiation Technologists</li> <li>• Physicians</li> <li>• Teachers (K-12)</li> </ul>

# The Framework Relationship to FQR Plan for Alberta

- The Pan-Canadian Framework compliments and reinforces the FQR Plan for Alberta
- The Alberta FQR Plan directly supports the Framework's FQR pathway:
  - Specialized information (supports pre-arrival)
  - Assessment Standards and Resources (supports assessment)
  - Bridging (supports bridging and workforce participation)

# FQR Priorities for 2011/12

- Continue to develop new and improve existing tools and resources for immigrants
- Continue to actively participate in the implementation of the Pan-Canadian Framework
- Maintain and strengthen partnerships with regulatory organizations
- Support improvements of assessment and recognition outcomes
- Explore partnerships with other provincial governments to jointly deliver bridging programs across multiple jurisdictions
- Develop and implement employer FQR engagement/support strategy

# I Q A S

## INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS ASSESSMENT SERVICE

- The mandate of IQAS is to promote the fair and accurate recognition of international educational credentials
- IQAS achieves this mandate through the following key activity areas:
  - Assessment Services
  - Development and Publication of Information Resources
  - Workshops and Consultancy Services to Stakeholders

# Assessment Services

- IQAS issues assessment certificates to immigrants that indicate how their foreign academic credentials compare to educational standards in Canada.
- IQAS certificates are designed for general employment purposes, as well as admission into post secondary institutions and professional licensing organizations.

# Assessment Services (cont'd)

- IQAS offers three types of assessments:
  - Basic: for those seeking general employment;
  - Educational: for those seeking admission to specified post-secondary education institutions in Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories; and
  - Specialized: to meet specific post-secondary and professional regulatory requirements.

# IQAS Website

- IQAS has updated the website to provide more streamlined and current information. This includes:
  - a new electronic application form that generates a 2D barcode,
  - video tutorials on the application process,
  - current processing times,
  - separate sections dedicated to stakeholder groups, and
  - lists of the organizations using IQAS, along with the type of assessments they require.
- <http://employment.alberta.ca/Immigration/4512.html>

# International Education Guides (IEGs)



<http://immigration.alberta.ca/iqas-ieg>

# International Education Guides (IEGs) (Cont'd)

They cover information such as:

- country overview
- school education
- higher education
- grading scales
- documentation
- replacement recommendations

# Education Overview Guides

- Developed in response to stakeholder feedback on the challenges of the breadth and depth of the information contained in the IEGs.
- The Education Overview Guides provide a brief online summary of the information and recommendations in the IEGs.
- The Education Overview Guides can be found at: [www.employment.alberta.ca/educationguides](http://www.employment.alberta.ca/educationguides)

# IQAS Assessment Workshops

- Workshops on international credential assessment and education systems provided to educational institutions and professional regulatory bodies
- In 2010/2011, IQAS provided workshops to approximately 80 representatives from 33 post-secondary institutions and professional regulatory bodies in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

# Publications & Resources

- FQR Plan and Progress Report for 2009-2010
- Pan-Canadian Framework
- Occupation Fact Sheets
- How to Work in Your Occupation - brochure
- International Education Guides
  - China, South Korea, United Kingdom, Philippines and India

THANK YOU!