

March 15, 2026

Via email: [minister@cic.gc.ca](mailto:minister@cic.gc.ca)

**RE: Recommendation for the Creation of a Canadian Business Immigration Council (CBIC)**

Dear Minister Diab,

On behalf of the Canadian Immigration Lawyers Association (CILA), we are writing to share our new report, "[\*Engine of Growth: How a Canadian Business Immigration Council Can Support National Prosperity\*](#)." This report, a culmination of 11 roundtable discussions with experts across Canada, outlines a strategic roadmap to revitalize business immigration as a pillar of Canada's economic future.

As noted in Prime Minister Carney's May 2025 mandate letter, Canada faces a series of complex economic challenges: weak productivity growth, affordability issues, and a shifting global trade landscape. While the federal government has recently scaled back business immigration targets to 500 admissions annually—down from historical highs of 30,000—CILA believes this category remains an untapped engine for addressing these very economic challenges.

**The Proposal: A Canadian Business Immigration Council (CBIC)**

The central recommendation of our report is the formation of a Canadian Business Immigration Council (CBIC). The CBIC would be comprised of stakeholders from the three levels of government, private sector leaders (e.g., business community, investment brokers, immigration lawyers), academia, and civil society experts. Its primary objectives would include:

1. **Collaborative Policymaking:** Moving toward a model of "shared stewardship" where government and non-government participants work together to help design and maintain programs that advance the Government of Canada's policy priorities.
2. **Real-Time Market Intelligence:** Collecting and analyzing data to identify global trends and Canada's goals, ensuring Canadian programs remain globally competitive.
3. **Adaptive Governance:** Implementing a framework to test and iterate programs. Rather than abruptly closing programs that face challenges (such as backlogs or low uptake), the CBIC would recommend data-driven adjustments before challenges risk undermining the outcomes of programs.



4. **Evidence-Based Performance Tracking:** Establishing clear metrics to ensure business immigration effectively supports national priorities, including GDP per capita growth, healthcare, housing affordability, and foreign direct investment.

Canada does not need a "perfect" policy at launch; it needs a system capable of becoming better, faster. The CBIC provides the architecture for this continuous improvement.

We believe that by creating the CBIC, the Government of Canada can restore public confidence in business immigration and leverage it to secure our country's long-term prosperity.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the implementation of this Council in greater detail. We thank you in advance for considering this idea.

Sincerely,



Joycna Kang  
Director



Rick Lamanna  
Director



Siavash Shekarian  
Chair, Business Immigration Committee

