

ACCESS TO PROFESSIONS AND TRADES POLICY ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

This environmental scan was prepared by the Centre for Research and Education in Human Services for the Policy Roundtable Mobilizing Professions and Trades (PROMPT). PROMPT is a provincial advocacy body recently formed in 2003. Its long-term goal is to improve the economic and social integration of immigrants to Canada who are professionals and tradespeople in regulated fields. The roundtable works towards this long-term goal by developing policy recommendations and advocating for policy change related to access to professions and trades. PROMPT's membership is made up of a diversity of associations representing immigrant professionals, tradespeople, ethno-racial social planning councils, umbrella groups and community initiatives.

An environmental scan was required by PROMPT as a first step in the policy development process. This environmental scan will be used as a roadmap by PROMPT to inform the policy development and advocacy process. The environmental scan was necessary to identify key individuals and initiatives working on access to professions and trades issues. The scan was also needed to identify ministry/department mandates and identify key areas of challenge and opportunity. While the primary focus was to be government, nongovernmental groups would also be explored.

The environmental scan seeks to answer the following questions:

- Who are the key players on the issue of access to professions and trades?
- Who are the champions of this issue within government?
- What ministries/departments have responsibilities that impact on APT issues and what are their specific mandates?
- Which inter and intra governmental/departmental relations pose challenges?
- Which inter and intra governmental/interdepartmental relations create opportunities?
- What initiatives currently exist or are underway?
- Who else is doing policy development and advocacy on APT issues?

This scan is divided into three main sections. The first section reviews the process through which information was gathered. The second section is the heart of the scan—a chart detailing the key policy stakeholders, and their roles and initiatives in access to professions and trades issues. The final section provides preliminary interpretation of the scan for future PROMPT action.