

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

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UPDATE ON THE INTERNATIONAL CREDENTIALS RECOGNITION ACT & REGULATIONS

Further to the Legislative Briefing titled [International Credentials Recognition Act Receives Royal Assent](#) published on November 9, 2023, the BC Government recently [announced](#) that the [International Credentials Recognition Act \(Act\)](#) will come into effect on July 1, 2024, with regulations under the *Act* to follow on January 1, 2025. The purpose of the *Act* is to streamline the process for internationally trained professionals in 29 occupations to get their credentials recognized with 18 regulatory bodies.

Update to Regulations under the Act

Following the *Act* coming into effect on July 1, 2024, there are two key transition periods regarding the new regulations that are intended to create a more streamlined, efficient and transparent process to get international credentials recognized in BC.

January 1, 2025:

One major barrier to work for internationally trained professionals that the *Act* aims to eliminate is the catch-22 of a person needing work experience to work in Canada but not being able to work in Canada because of the lack of Canadian work experience. On January 1, 2025, regulations defining prohibited Canadian work experience and rules for when the superintendent of international credential recognition may grant an exemption to a regulator who has a valid reason for requiring Canadian work experience will come into effect.

July 1, 2025:

Following the release of the regulations, effective July 1, 2025, the requirement for Canadian work experience will be prohibited, in most cases, for regulators who require it. The Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills is currently working with regulatory authorities to understand current approaches and identify any existing Canadian work experience requirements that would be prohibited under the new regulations.

As mentioned in the previous [Legislative Briefing](#), superintendents have the power to conduct audits or inspections of the regulatory authorities regarding their responsibilities under the proposed legislation, and impose administrative penalties if breaches of the proposed legislation are found. The maximum administrative penalty has been set at \$100,000.

For more information on the international credentials recognition *Act* and upcoming regulations, please visit the BC Government webpage on [International professional credential recognition](#).

What's Next?

RES will continue to monitor developments related to the Act, and the regulations as they are introduced, and will provide updates as needed.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any comments or questions about this update, please e-mail RES360@metrovancover.org or call 604-451-6558.

SOURCES

New regulations streamline pathway for international credentials | BC Gov News

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2024PSFS0022-000907>

Bill 38 – 2023: International Credentials Recognition Act (gov.bc.ca)

<https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/bills/billsprevious/4th42nd:gov38-2>

International professional credential recognition - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca)

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/post-secondary-education/international-credentials>