

BRIEFING NOTE-INTERJURISDICTIONAL COMMITTEE (IJA) 2023 MEETING

The annual IJA Committee meeting was held on May 16th-17th, 2023. Following is an overview of the those issues that have been identified as being of most interest and concern for the coming year:

- **Shared Database Repository for AAP Firms:** The initial intent was to collaborate with the IT Committee in the implementation of a database to store a working list of AAP firms, and reduce the transfer of associated paper between jurisdictions. However, it has been determined that the IT Committee is not the appropriate group to assist with this project. Sophie Genest, the sponsor of the IJA Committee, will approach Cheryl Tucker to discuss other options available through the AWCBC.
- **Translation Services for Benefits in Kind.** The Committee continued with its discussion regarding French language translation when one jurisdiction seeks Benefits in Kind from another jurisdiction. The IJA currently provides that the cost of the translation of documents is to be incurred by the jurisdiction seeking the Benefits in Kind. Quebec has identified that this leads to a disproportionate cost to its jurisdiction as, practically, it is the only jurisdiction that sends documents that require translation. Although various options were canvassed that would allow for a more equitable result, it has been decided that Sophie Genest will seek some assistance from the AWCBC with respect to what support may be available to the Committee with respect to translation services.
- **Review of the Interjurisdictional Agreement.** There is consensus that the Agreement, which had its last amendment in 2017, requires a detailed review and further updates to several provisions to properly reflect intent of the provisions or necessary change to ensure consistency in their interpretation and application. A subgroup has been formed to initiate the review in the fall of 2023.

*Paula M. Arab, K.C.
WCB of NS
Outgoing Chair*