

## **PERIDOT IMMIGRATION CONSULTING LIMITED**

### **Personal Information Protection Policy**

At Peridot Immigration Consulting Limited, we are committed to providing our clients with exceptional service. As providing this service involves the collection, use and disclosure of some personal information about our clients protecting their personal information is one of our highest priorities.

While we have always respected our clients' privacy and safeguarded their personal information, we have strengthened our commitment to protecting personal information as a result of Nova Scotia's *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA)*. PIPEDA, which came into effect on January 1, 2004, sets out the ground rules for how Nova Scotia businesses and not-for-profit organizations may collect, use and disclose personal information.

We will inform our clients of why and how we collect, use and disclose their personal information, obtain their consent where required, and only handle their personal information in a manner that a reasonable person would consider appropriate in the circumstances.

This Personal Information Protection Policy, in compliance with PIPEDA, outlines the principles and practices we will follow in protecting clients' personal information. Our privacy commitment includes ensuring the accuracy, confidentiality, and security of our clients' personal information and allowing our clients to request access to, and correction of, their personal information.

### **Collecting Personal Information**

Unless the purposes for collecting personal information are obvious and the client voluntarily provides his or her personal information for those purposes, we will communicate the purposes for which personal information is being collected, either orally or in writing, before or at the time of collection.

We will only collect client information that is necessary to fulfill the following purposes:

- To verify identity;
- To identify client preferences;
- To understand the immigration needs of our clients;
- To deliver requested services;
- To provide immigration services;
- To ensure a high standard of service to our clients

### **Consent**

We will obtain client consent to collect, use or disclose personal information (except where, as noted below, we are authorized to do so without consent). Consent can be provided orally, in writing, electronically or through an authorized representative or it can be implied where the purpose for collecting using or disclosing the personal information would be considered obvious and the client voluntarily provides personal information for that purpose. Consent may also be implied where a client is given notice and a reasonable opportunity to opt-out of his or her personal information being used for mail-outs or marketing of new services or products and the client does not opt-out.

Subject to certain exceptions (e.g., the personal information is necessary to provide the service or product, or the withdrawal of consent would frustrate the performance of a legal obligation), clients can withhold or withdraw their consent for Peridot Immigration Consulting Limited to use their personal information in certain ways. A client's decision to withhold or withdraw their consent to certain uses of personal information may restrict our ability to provide a particular service or product. If so, we will explain the situation to assist the client in making the decision.

We may collect, use or disclose personal information without the client's knowledge or consent in the following limited circumstances:

- When the collection, use or disclosure of personal information is permitted or required by law;
- When the personal information is available from a public source (e.g., a telephone directory);
- When we require legal advice from a lawyer;
- For the purposes of collecting a debt;
- To protect ourselves from fraud;
- To investigate an anticipated breach of an agreement or a contravention of law;

### **Using and Disclosing Personal Information**

We will only use or disclose client personal information where necessary to fulfill the purposes identified at the time of collection or for a purpose reasonably related to those purposes such as:

- To carry out the services as instructed by our clients;
- To conduct client surveys in order to enhance the provision of our services;
- To contact our clients directly about services that may be of interest;

We will not use or disclose client personal information for any additional purpose unless we obtain consent to do so. We will not sell client lists or personal information to other parties unless we have the consent to do so.

### **Retaining Personal Information**

If we use client personal information to make a decision that directly affects the client, we will retain that personal information so that the client has a reasonable opportunity to request access to it. Subject to the above, we will retain client personal information only as long as necessary and in line with the ICCRC regulations to fulfill the identified purposes or a legal or business purpose.

### **Ensuring Accuracy of Personal Information**

We will make reasonable efforts to ensure that client personal information is accurate and complete where it may be used to make a decision about the client or disclosed to another organization. Clients may request correction to their personal information in order to ensure its accuracy and completeness. A request to correct personal information must be made in writing and provide sufficient detail to identify the personal information and the correction being sought. If the personal information is demonstrated to be inaccurate or incomplete, we will correct the information as required and send the corrected information to any organization to which we disclosed the personal information in the previous year. If the correction is not made, we will note the client's correction request in the file.

### **Securing Personal Information**

We are committed to ensuring the security of client personal information in order to protect it from unauthorized access, collection, use, disclosure, copying, modification or disposal or similar risks. The following security measures will be followed to ensure that client personal information is appropriately protected:

- The use of locked filing cabinets
- Storage in a cloud location
- The use of user ID's and passwords
- Encryptions
- Firewalls
- Restricting employee access to personal information as appropriate

We will use appropriate security measures when destroying client's personal information such as shredding documents and deleting electronically stored information. We will continually review and update our security policies and controls as technology changes to ensure ongoing personal information security.

### **Providing Clients Access to Personal Information**

Clients have a right to access their personal information, subject to limited exceptions e.g, the information is protected by solicitor-client privilege; the disclosure of the information would reveal confidential commercial information that if disclosed, could, in the opinion of a reasonable person, harm the competitive position of the organization; the information was collected or disclosed without consent, for the purposes of an investigation and the investigation and associated proceedings and appeals have not been completed; the information was collected or created by a mediator or arbitrator in the conduct of a mediation or arbitration for which he or she was appointed to act under a collective agreement or under an enactment, or by a court; the information is in a document that is subject to a solicitor's lien

A request to access personal information must be made in writing and provide sufficient detail to identify the personal information being sought. Upon request, we will also tell the client how we use their personal information and to whom it has been disclosed if applicable. We will make the requested information available within 30 business days, or provide written notice of an extension where additional time is required to fulfill the request. A minimal fee may be charged for providing access to personal information. Where a fee may apply, we will inform the client of the cost and request further direction from the client

on whether or not we should proceed with the request. If a request is refused in full or in part, we will notify the client in writing, providing the reasons for refusal and the recourse available to the client.

**Questions and Complaints:**

The Privacy Officer is responsible for ensuring Peridot Immigration's compliance with this policy and the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Document's Act*. Clients should direct any complaints, concerns or questions regarding Peridot Immigration's compliance in writing to the Privacy Officer. If you are not satisfied with the response you receive, you should contact the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nova Scotia:

**Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nova Scotia**

5670 Spring Garden Road, Suite 509 Halifax, NS B3J 1H6

Phone: 800-855-0511 Toll Free: 1-866-243-1564 E-mail: [oipecns@novascotia.ca](mailto:oipecns@novascotia.ca)