

Immigration and Business Insights For Foreign Business Leaders

AI & GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURS



BRAZIL-CANADA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – BCCC

Toronto | British Columbia | Atlantic | Ottawa | Manitoba | Alberta | Nova Scotia

**“The transformative impact of AI
on immigration and business
expansion for foreign
entrepreneurs in Canada”**



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ABOUT THE BCCC

Established in 1973, the Brazil-Canada Chamber of Commerce - BCCC is a not-for-profit and independent business association held by the private sector to foster stronger commercial relations between Brazil and Canada.

We are proud to be a Canada-wide chamber with a presence in Toronto and six other Chapters, including **Ottawa, New Brunswick Atlantic, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, Kitchener/Waterloo, and Nova Scotia.**

The chamber has five operational committees:
Mining; Education; Trade & Investment; Innovation, Science and Technology - IST; ESG & Sustainability.



BCCC

Brazil-Canada Chamber of Commerce
Brésil-Canada Chambre de Commerce

1973 - 2025

WHAT WE DO

The Brazil-Canada Chamber of Commerce - BCCC mission is to strengthen and grow the link between Brazil and Canada.

The BCCC plays a vital role in linking players from Brazilian and Canadian private and government sectors. Through **networking, advocacy and insight**, we assist our members to identify critical opportunities in expanding their commercial activities, and further their business interests across borders.

WELCOME

Dear Esteemed Attendees,

On behalf of the Brazil-Canada Chamber of Commerce - BCCC, we are delighted to welcome you to Immigration and Business Insights - For Foreign Business Leaders: AI & Global Entrepreneurs. It is an honor to bring together such an esteemed group of entrepreneurs, industry experts, and thought leaders to explore the transformative impact of AI on immigration and business expansion for foreign entrepreneurs in Canada.

This session will provide valuable insights into how AI is streamlining immigration processes, enhancing business decision-making, and creating new opportunities for foreign entrepreneurs looking to expand into the Canadian market.

At BCCC, we are committed to fostering connections between Brazil and Canada, supporting international entrepreneurs, and facilitating access to essential knowledge that helps businesses thrive in today's fast-evolving landscape. We are thrilled to have such a distinguished lineup of speakers and panelists who will share their expertise on this critical topic.

We encourage you to engage, ask questions, and make the most of this opportunity to connect with like-minded professionals. Thank you for joining us—we look forward to an insightful and inspiring discussion!

Peter Hawkins and Daniel Ricica

Co-Chairs of the Brazil-Canada Chamber of Commerce



RAQUEL BOECHAT

*Founder & CEO, Canada
Starthub and Co-Chair of the
BCCC IST Committee*

CANADA
STARHUB

raquel@canadastarthub.ca

Raquel Boechat is a business strategist and entrepreneur with over 20 years of experience leading companies and empowering leaders to increase their social capital in Brazil and Canada. As the Founder and CEO of Canada Starthub, she leads a company that guides international entrepreneurs through the first steps of expanding their businesses to Canada, providing the resources and expertise needed to navigate the market effectively.

With deep knowledge of both ecosystems, Canada Starthub helps business leaders connect with the Canadian market, establish strategic partnerships, and access key resources such as

incubators, accelerators, research collaborations, and funding programs. Under Raquel's leadership, the company has supported international entrepreneurs from Latin America, Africa, Europe, and Asia to reduce their learning curve and build a strong foundation in Canada.

Raquel is also the Co-Chair of the Innovation, Science, and Technology Committee and a Board Member at the Brazil-Canada Chamber of Commerce (BCCC). Recently, she co-founded the AI Learning Lab, which provides ready-to-deliver AI courses for professional associations, educational institutions, and corporate training providers. This initiative reinforces her commitment to equipping organizations that train and prepare entrepreneurs with the knowledge and tools to leverage AI for business growth.

Raquel brings a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities of international expansion. Her expertise and strong network in both countries make her a key resource for global entrepreneurs looking to expand their business to Canada as a strategic global hub.



SONIA MIRBAHA

*Principal Advisor,
SMB Advisors*



sonia@smbadvisors.ca

Sonia is a seasoned immigration advisor and a member in good standing of the Law Society of Ontario since 2009. With an extensive background in immigration law, she brings a wealth of experience from both private practice and in-house legal environments, making her a trusted advisor for individuals and corporations alike.

Prior to her role as Principal advisor at SMB Advisors, Sonia has been managing the boutique immigration law firm in Toronto, focusing primarily on corporate immigration. She has successfully managed the immigration processes for numerous

corporations, facilitating the relocation of senior executives, specialized knowledge workers, and business visitors to Canada on temporary resident permits. Her expertise extends to help families navigate complex immigration pathways for work, study, and permanent residency in Canada.

Beyond her professional achievements, Sonia is passionate about giving back to the community through mentorship and educational initiatives. She frequently participates in speaking engagements and workshops to share her knowledge on Canadian immigration policies, empowering individuals and organizations to achieve their immigration goals.

Outside of her office hours, Sonia is a dedicated mother of two and enjoys spending quality time with her children. She is an outdoor enthusiast who appreciates the restorative power of nature and stays active through various recreational activities. Additionally, Sonia has a passion for music and dance, which she incorporates into her personal life as a source of inspiration and creativity.



ANDREA GARDELLA

*Director & Principal
Economist
at Alcance Solutions*



agardella@alcancesolutions.com

Andrea founded Alcance Solutions in 2022 to empower small and medium-sized businesses and investors, and unlock global opportunities by providing in-depth, balanced, and sustainability-focused research and risk assessments. With a multidisciplinary approach, we guide organizations to navigate complex challenges and make strategic decisions that drive sustainable success.

Andrea spent over 12 years at Export Development Canada supporting Canadian exporters and investors grow internationally first as a Principal Economist, covering South America and natural resource industries, and then as a Senior Advisor advancing Canada's climate-related analysis and finance policy.

Andrea holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Ottawa as well as a Master's in Global Security Studies-Environment and Energy from Johns Hopkins University.



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