

For Immediate Release

Employers and Internationally Educated Professionals to Meet, Overcome Obstacles to Employment, Solve Labour Shortages

August 22, 2007, Toronto - A conference designed to assist internationally educated professionals find work in their chosen field is taking place in Toronto on October 19.

This is the fifth annual IEP Conference presented by Progress Career Planning Institute with its partners. Organizers have seen interest in the event grow steadily over the years and anticipate 1,500 participants at this year's conference which will take place at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, 255 Front St. W., Toronto.

Internationally educated professionals (IEPs) are newcomers to Canada who have professional certification or higher education degrees obtained in other countries and who cannot find work here for various reasons. In some cases, their credentials are not being recognized by employers or licensing bodies. In many cases, a lack of cultural understanding exists between employers and potential employees and this prevents professional relationships from developing in ways that are valuable to both. The IEP Conference is designed to address these and many other issues that continue to prevent the full engagement of Toronto's educated and professional immigrant population.

The key goal of the conference for the IEP is to allow potential employees to leave with real strategies and information for overcoming obstacles to meaningful employment. IEPs will have the opportunity to connect with employers, licensing bodies, educational institutions, associations and other stakeholders who can help accelerate newcomers' transition to a fuller Canadian life.

Employers will also have the opportunity to gain insight into how to integrate a greater number of IEPs into their organisations through a dedicated information exchange and exploratory session reserved for employers. As part of the 2007 focus, a survey is being conducted to seek employers' views on labour force opportunities and challenges associated with IEPs in Canada. Results of the research will be released on October 19.

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“Pressure is building on employers who are starting to feel the impact of labour shortages in key professions’, points out Conference Chair Rhonda Singer, ‘and this is creating greater impetus to solve the challenges and connect them with our internationally educated professionals so that everyone benefits, including Toronto and Canada.”

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For further information about the IEP conference, the agenda, how to register, exhibit and sponsor, please visit www.iep.ca or contact:

Rhonda Singer, M. Sc. CH.R.D
IEP Conference Chair
and President,
Progress Career Planning Institute,
1200 Markham Road,
Suite 400,

Toronto, Ont. M1H 3C3
Tel.: (416) 439-3037 Fax: (416) 439-4159
E-mail: singer@careerplan.net

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