

Release

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Toronto employers met with internationally trained professionals to address labour shortages and obstacles to employment

October 19, 2007, Toronto – The fifth-annual IEP Conference, designed to promote the employment of internationally educated professionals was held today.

Over 1,500 internationally educated professionals; employers; and representatives from licensing bodies, educational institutions and associations were in attendance.

Responding to the need for increased understanding of the cultural differences between Canadian employers and internationally trained professionals, employers at the Conference gained tools to integrate a greater number of educated newcomers to Canada into their organizations. Potential employees learned strategies to overcome obstacles to meaningful employment by connecting with Conference participants.

“Employer action and engagement is the single most critical factor in ensuring that the qualifications, skills and experience of internationally educated professionals are recognized,” said Kurtis Kitagawa, PhD, MPhil, MA, BA (First Class Honours) Principal Research Associate, The Conference Board of Canada. “Canadian employers need to build foreign credential recognition and the recertification of internationally educated professionals into their strategic workforce plans ... to attract quality workers and take advantage of business doors that newcomers can open for them.”

Currently immigrants account for 70% of labour market growth and it is estimated by 2011, immigrants will account for all labour market growth.

“Pressure is building on employers who are starting to feel the impact of labour shortages in key professions,” points out Conference Chair Rhonda Singer. “This is creating greater impetus to solve the challenges facing internationally educated professionals and tap into that growing pool of the nation’s labour force.”

The 2007 IEP Conference, presented by Progress Career Planning Institute, was sponsored by the Government of Canada; Toronto Community News; the Government of Ontario; the City of Toronto Economic Development, Culture & Tourism; Educational Program Innovations Center; and Chartered Accountants of Ontario.

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Progress Career Planning Institute (PCPI) is a business-focused not for profit organization that aligns career development with Cultural Intelligence to enhance performance in a multicultural workforce.

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For further information on PCPI or the IEP conference visit www.iep.ca or call: 416-439-1825.

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