



February 3, 2015  
**News Release**

## **Employers Risk Losing International Talent to Entrepreneurship** *Upcoming conference emphasizes innovation for Internationally Educated Professionals*

**Toronto** – In today’s tight job market, Internationally Educated Professionals (IEPs) are being dared to innovate. This is the key message for the upcoming 12<sup>th</sup> Annual IEP Conference on February 27<sup>th</sup> at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

IEPs and employers are invited to attend the biggest conference of its kind focussing on five key sectors: Engineering, IT, Sales/Marketing/Communications, Finance/Accounting, and Health Care. The conference offers excellent opportunities for IEPs to network and to learn from panel entrepreneurs, industry experts, and regulators.

Keynote speaker Frank O’Dea, founder of Second Cup, will highlight the path towards entrepreneurship, challenging IEPs to take innovative risks. Evidently, employers who emphasize a skills gap need to make moves to hire talent before they miss their chance.

For IEPs, entrepreneurship is an increasingly viable option. Ten years ago, starting a business seemed like a risky move, void of security and stability. Today, many find that the right venture at the right time can be both lucrative and fulfilling. As a 2012 CIBC report found, the upward trend in small businesses and start-ups shows no sign of slowing down – and contributing to this trend are the 20% of self-employed immigrants, two-thirds of which arrived as adults and have potential business connections abroad.

For employers looking to recruit new talent, this is an important consideration. The conference highlights the benefits of hiring talented IEPs. The idea is to think *big*. “Hiring IEPs means greater access and fluency in global markets”, says Silma Roddau, president of the Progress and Career Planning Institute (PCPI). “Firms who hire IEP talent have a competitive edge when expanding internationally - their employees not only have networks abroad, but also cultural intelligence on a global level”. If employers want to stay competitive in the global market, they will need to hire innovative IEPs who bring a different perspective.

Sponsored by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (Employment Ontario), and attended by over 1,400 IEPs and employers, the IEP Conference is not one to miss for those looking to explore innovative options and network with like-minded talent.

**About The Conference:** The IEP Conference is a unique Canadian initiative for Internationally Educated Professionals (IEPs) that brings together stakeholders in a forum to discuss, share experiences and strategies to address skills gap in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) to ensure the city's economic competitiveness.

**About Progress Career Planning Institute (PCPI):** PCPI is a business-focused, not-for-profit organization that offers career development services for people to realize their full potential. The Annual Internationally Educated Professionals Conference is a key component of its work.

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To learn more about the IEP Conference visit <http://www.iep.ca>



This *Employment Ontario* service is funded in part by the Government of Canada.