

Immigrants and Economy to benefit from Continued Funding for CON*NECT's Colleges Integrating Immigrants to Employment (CIITE) Project

June 5th, 2009

Toronto – Colleges Integrating Immigrants to Employment (CIITE), a CON*NECT Strategic Alliances project, is excited to announce funding to maintain three ongoing pilot activities that are helping internationally trained immigrants achieve employment in their field more quickly and efficiently.

Currently, the Conference Board of Canada estimates the Ontario labour force shortfall to be 364,000 workers by 2025. Labour shortages will be the greatest in high-skilled occupations that require post-secondary education and which represent 70% of new jobs in the next ten years. CIITE is confronting the gap through three activities that focus on advising internationally trained immigrants (ITIs), recognizing international credentials, and collecting data about ITIs so that they can be better served in the future.

- **Advising** – Currently, 36 ITI Advisors (20 of whom are funded by CIITE) are serving ITIs across 15 colleges (Algonquin, Boreal, Centennial, Conestoga, Confederation, Durham, Fanshawe, George Brown, Georgian, Humber, La Cité, Mohawk, Niagara, Seneca, and Sheridan). ITI Advising Training has been delivered to 39 college staff.
- **Data Collection** – Information on the clients visiting the ITIs Advisors is being collected on the *Colleges Advisement System*. The *Colleges Advisement System* was launched in March 2009. The ITI Advisors use this as a case management tool, with over 5000 clients in the system.
- **Credential Recognition** – “My Record” and the Record of Education and Experience (REE) were developed to streamline the recognition of international credentials for ITIs. Currently, 49 ITIs are taking part in the pilot at four colleges (Algonquin, Fanshawe, George Brown, and Sheridan).

The feedback received on these activities has been positive. Of the 4,096 ITIs advised, 86.6% reported that the service was “good” or “excellent”. CON*NECT is excited about the tremendous potential for these pilots to help better serve internationally trained immigrants, especially in growth and in-demand professions.

“We are excited about the potential these activities have to place immigrants in jobs that fit their previous education and experience from abroad”, said Cynthia Murphy, Director, Immigration Initiatives and Workforce Development, CON*NECT Strategic Alliances, “we are thrilled with the potential these activities have to be applied to the immigrant population in general and other individuals seeking to have their skills and knowledge recognized.”

For further information visit www.ciite.ca or contact Cynthia Murphy, CON*NECT Strategic Alliances, 416.351.0330 x 2280 or Murphy@collegeconnect.on.ca.