

**Speaking Notes for Al Nasturzio
MTCU Funding Announcement for CIITE December 9, 2009
George Brown Casa Loma Campus – Career Centre**

CON*NECT is proud of the work that the CIITE project has accomplished since 2003 and is excited about the implementation of products and services for skilled immigrants that will be made possible because of this funding.

CON*NECT was established to provide a convenient, single point of access to the extraordinary training and development resources of Ontario's Colleges. CIITE parallels this mandate, working to create clear, convenient and efficient pathways to employment for internationally trained immigrants.

Meeting the needs of internationally trained immigrants (ITIs) is a complex challenge since they do not represent a homogeneous population. They need access to flexible and customized services and training that align with their international credentials, work experiences, and life situations.

- The Ontario College system is an ideal entry point for skilled immigrants looking to access employment in their field.
- The Ontario colleges are **convenient** with 850 learning sites in 200 communities across Ontario.
- Colleges are **leaders** in delivering employment-focused programs and services and have substantial experience in tailoring outreach, academic support and student services to the needs of specific groups.

There are two projects that will be leading CIITE work during this phase of funding – internationally trained immigrant advising and the Record of Education and Experience (REE)/My Record.

The CIITE internationally-trained immigrant advising project funds and provides training for advisors at 18 Ontario colleges, and has served over 10,000 immigrants since 2003. The Record of Education and Experience (REE)/My Record project is a web-based application that consolidates an immigrant's validated and evaluated academic credentials plus other

appropriate information, leading to the creation of a secure report that reflects international education and work experience.

CIITE would like to thank MTCU for the current funding which will make the implementation of these projects possible and MCI for supporting the development of these in past phases. At this time, I would like to introduce one of our advisors. These are the people that do some great work in the front lines.