

Colleges Integrating Immigrants to Employment (CIITE) Launches Phase 3 Projects

Toronto June 3, 2008 - Ontario's Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI) has allocated \$5.3 million to the Colleges Integrating Immigrants to Employment (CIITE) project, led by CON*NECT Strategic Alliances. This funding will support significant work to upgrade the capabilities of Ontario's colleges to serve the needs of immigrants to achieve employment faster. Each year almost 15,000 immigrants apply to Ontario's full-time college programs and well over 40,000 access continuing education courses.

MCI's new funding will launch the first year of a three-year implementation period in which CIITE will lead activities designed to expedite the transition of internationally trained immigrants (ITIs) through college into employment commensurate with their skills and experience. Implementation activities will incorporate the extensive analysis and pilot project work already conducted by CIITE and colleges across Ontario over the last five years. The changes will improve Ontario college practices and services for ITIs in the areas of ITI advising, credential recognition, competency assessment, language benchmarking, employment services, ITI data collection, flexible delivery, and cultural intelligence training.

To secure sustainable transformation, colleges will build on the support they have already experienced from community partners. CIITE will continue to involve organizations that have a mission of helping ITIs such as settlement and employment agencies in order to maximize service and minimize duplication. "CIITE performs a critical service in adapting the Ontario college system to better integrate skilled immigrants to employment. CIITE is making a significant contribution to the economic integration of immigrants in Ontario" says Elizabeth Mclsaac, Executive Director of TRIEC.

CON*NECT Strategic Alliances is a marketing alliance of Ontario's 24 colleges of applied arts and technology. It provides both the public and private sector with convenient, single point access to the education and training resources of Ontario colleges and develops strategic alliances with business, industry, and government.

For further information contact:
Trevor Massey, Executive Director
Massey@collegeconnect.on.ca

Leslie James, Senior Project Manager
James@collegeconnect.on.ca
416-415-5000 ext. 4032