



Canada helps newcomers integrate into the labour market

NEWCOMERS to Canada will get the help they need to better integrate into the workforce through a new project funded by the Government of Canada.

The Honourable Peter Kent, Minister of State of Foreign Affairs (Americas) and Member of Parliament for Thornhill, made the announcement on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development.

“Attracting and retaining the best international talent to address existing and future labour market challenges is critical to Canada’s long-term economic success,” said Minister of State Kent. “Our government is working with partners to address barriers to foreign qualification recognition so that newcomers can maximize their talents. Our Economic Action Plan is helping to strengthen the Canadian economy and improve the

standard of living from coast to coast to coast.”

JVS Toronto will receive over \$1.7 million in funding from the Government of Canada’s Foreign Credential Recognition Program to support the Integrated Pre-Arrival Services Online project.

The project will help newcomers better integrate into the workforce by providing them with a comprehensive set of online tools before they arrive in Canada. These online tools will allow foreign-trained workers to access the information they need from the moment they decide to move to Canada, and will include subjects such as language training, labour market information, mentoring, and how to find a job.

“We are delighted to work in collaboration with our partners to offer the Integrated Pre-Arrival Services Online program,” said Ms.

Karen Goldenberg, President and Chief Executive Officer, JVS Toronto. “The opportunity to work with a number of service providers will provide seamless access to a package of pre-arrival services that will enable internationally trained individuals to integrate into the Canadian labour market in a more meaningful and timely manner.”

Canada’s Economic Action Plan invested \$50 million to work with the provinces and territories to address barriers to foreign credential recognition in Canada, and contributed to the recently announced Pan-Canadian Framework for the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Qualifications.

Under the Framework, foreign-trained workers who submit an application to be licensed or registered to work in certain fields will be advised within one year whether their qualifications will be recognized. The Framework is part of the Government of Canada’s strategy to have the best educated, most skilled and most flexible workforce in the world.

With this \$50 million investment, the Government will:

- develop the principles that will guide the process of foreign credential recognition;
- develop standards for the timely handling of requests;
- identify key occupations that will be the priority for developing recognition standards; and
- help people who want to come to Canada understand what they need to know before they arrive.

The Foreign Credential Recognition Program and the Foreign Credentials Referral Office are the key federal initiatives in place to support pan-Canadian implementation of the Framework.

Tax relief for long-haul truck drivers

THE INCREASE from 70 percent to 75 percent in the deductible portion of meal expenses for long-haul truck drivers, which will be applicable to eligible expenses incurred in 2010, was highlighted today by the Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance.

“Long-haul truck drivers are some of our country’s hardest-working people,” said Minister Flaherty. “They play a pivotal role in our economy as they transport goods across the country and across our borders. Our Government is pleased to support their important work by providing tax relief to these hard-working individuals.”

In its 2007 budget, the Government of Canada increased, over five years, the deductible portion of meal expenses for long-haul truck drivers to 80 percent, during eligible periods of travel.

The measure also applies to employers that pay, or reimburse, such costs incurred by long-haul truck drivers that they employ. The deductible portion will increase to 80 percent for expenses incurred after 2010.

Source: The Government of Canada

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