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Recognition of Foreign Credentials

The federal government has announced that it intends to expedite the process that informs foreign-trained workers whether their training will allow them to work in Canada. Read the CBC News article [here](#).

For further details on *The Pan-Canadian Framework for the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Qualifications*, read the Government of Canada [news release](#) and the [report](#) from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

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THE MENTORING SWITCHBOARD



A message from *Mentoring Connections*



I would like to wish you all a joyful holiday season...may you have a chance to relax, catch up with family and friends wherever they are in the world, and do the things you love to do!

The *Mentoring Connections* team is pleased to have matched many of you over the past year, and we look forward to finding volunteer mentors next year for many more. Throughout 2009, our mentees have told us about many fruitful outcomes such as greater confidence in attending interviews, a better understanding of Canadian culture, and development of new career ideas. And although it is not part of our program's mission, we have also been happy to hear about unexpected job offers! Over the past few months, we started to offer more opportunities to meet with working professionals, and we will continue to develop new events over the coming months that we hope you'll find useful and motivating.

May you all enjoy an invigorating and fulfilling New Year!

Sincerely,

Laurie Sing, Manager

Meet a Mentor

This has been a good experience for me so far these past couple months. It's a great opportunity to share experiences, answer questions and guide someone toward meeting their goals. As a first time mentor, it can seem a bit intimidating. You think, "What do I know about being a mentor?" But so far I have found it to be simple. Mentoring is about sharing knowledge, building a professional relationship and giving advice or feedback.

For me, the key has been hearing from my mentee that my input is making a difference. It has been amazing how things like informal meetings answering questions, reviewing a resume, or role playing to prepare for a business interaction can really be a help to the mentee.

- Janine Kurtz

Upcoming Video

We would like to extend our gratitude to the following mentors and mentees who helped us with filming a promotional video for our program:

- Martyn Bayne
- Lokesh Chaudhry
- Francisco Hernandez
- Chi-Jen Hung
- Malay Kapoor
- Firoozeh Kolahi
- Janine Kurtz
- Randall Mountain
- Tully Mtatiro
- Sara Pereira
- Armi-Bless Pacis
- Sanjay Regmi
- Shirley Shannon



Not only do we need to thank them for donating their time, but also for all of the heartwarming comments that they expressed on camera. Hearing their thoughts and feelings gave us the opportunity to reflect on what our program has achieved in our brief existence. Through this video project, we hope to share the voices and present the faces that have helped create the identity for *Mentoring Connections*.

December 2nd Networking Event

The crowd began to thin and the room cooled down. The networking event was coming to a close after nearly 3 hours. Afterwards, I heard from one of the attendees, "I learned a lot today." "Even though I'm not working in the speaker's industry, I still got a lot of tips and gained good advice," I heard from another.

The attendees were treated to four presentations from an Environmental Engineer, a Telecommunications Engineer, an Architect, and an Industrial Engineer. Martyn Bayne started the evening by talking about the importance of patience and networking. Alfredo Cruz followed by providing some insight to future technologies in the telecommunications industry. Sebastien Garon articulated the importance of setting goals and making your own "luck." Finally, Heinz Avendano concluded the presentations by sharing his journey to re-enter his professional field in Canada.

With each presentation, the audience built on their knowledge. They picked up a tip. They received some advice. Be patient. Work hard. Make a plan. Don't give up. The advice could sound old and tired; however, coming straight from individuals who lived it, the words voiced a meaningful and optimistic message. At least that's what I heard.