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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.

# 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, spend time with family and friends, and do the things you love to do!

The *Mentoring Connections* team greatly appreciates the time our volunteer mentors have contributed over the past year. Throughout 2009, we have seen many fruitful outcomes such as a turnaround in mentees' perspective and confidence levels, new career ideas, and unexpected job offers. We are proud to be working with you, our mentors, whose dedication, generosity, and wisdom inspires us. Amazingly, we are coordinating a third mentoring relationship with those of you who were willing and had a waiting list of mentees in your profession.

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

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## 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.

- Jericho Bundac