

THE MENTORING SWITCHBOARD



February 2009

Ask Mentoring Connections

The Mentoring Connections program is a dynamic community initiative that aims to match skilled immigrants with experienced professionals in the Vancouver area. The program has been continuously growing since its conception 7 months ago. As it gets bigger and gains momentum, we have been fielding more questions about the program and the relationships that we coordinate. Here are some frequently asked questions that some of you may also be wondering about:

How many hours per month should I commit to the mentoring relationship?

The minimum number of hours we suggest you commit is four per month, but that includes face-to-face meetings and other forms of contact with your mentor. Mentees should be prepared to spend more than four hours per month. We have found that it is beneficial for mentees to spend additional time doing research and preparing for meetings with their mentor. The mentoring relationship is a useful resource. You should prepare to spend as much time as you can to get the most out of it.

It is important to keep in mind that each relationship is unique, scheduling meetings should be flexible and take into account the schedules of both the mentor and the mentee. If both you and your mentor are having a difficult time scheduling face-to-face meetings, telephone calls and emails will be helpful until both of you can meet.

Will my mentor find me a job?

No. *Mentoring Connections* is not a job placement service. The purpose of mentoring is for the mentor to offer advice, guidance, and resources that could assist you in finding work in your chosen field. Your mentor could give you information and advice about the BC labour market, how to network within the industry, useful training courses, where to find job leads, and other topics that could potentially help you return to your occupation in Canada.

How are the matches made? Approximately how long will it take to find me a mentor?

We are committed to ensuring that matches are beneficial and successful. To make an appropriate match, we discuss your potential mentor's background and experience with you and we discuss your background and experience with your mentor. Once all individuals agree that it is a good match, the mentorship can begin.

There are several factors that influence the ease of finding you a mentor. For a mentee with a more specialized position and extensive experience, it may be more challenging to find a mentor right away. Some individuals cannot be matched at all with a mentor. We make every effort to match you with a suitable mentor and appreciate your patience as we look for the right person. If you have questions or are wondering how things are going, don't hesitate to contact us at **604-637-1307**.

- Mentoring Connections



Your friendly neighbourhood Mentoring Coordinators... Ana-Marie Caday and Romanda Simpson

Events

City of Coquitlam Job Fair

When: Thursday, February 19, 2009
5:00 - 8:00 pm

Where: Pinetree Community Centre, 1260 Pinetree Way, Coquitlam

The city of Coquitlam is recruiting self-motivated and responsible individuals for their Leisure & Parks Services and Engineering & Public Works divisions.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.coquitlam.ca/City+Hall/Jobs+and+Volunteering/Job+Postings/Job+Fair.htm>

CIA Information Session

When: Tuesday, February 24, 2009
5:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Where: Downtown Vancouver

The Vancouver chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) will be holding an information session about the Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) designation. This session aims to provide information to those of you who are looking to write, or already in the process of writing the CIA designation examination. It will highlight available study guides and provide tips for preparing for the exam. A panel of CIAs will share their experience and answer your questions.

For further information, please contact *Mentoring Connections* at **604-637-1307**

News Briefs

"Learn by Example"

Mentoring Connections is proud to have members of our program featured in an article published by Canadian Immigrant Magazine. Interviews were conducted with a mentor as well as a mentee, helping create a well-rounded view of the program.

Special thanks to Libardo Amaya and Jackie Hu for representing *Mentoring Connections*. Check out the full article at:

<http://www.canadianimmigrant.ca/education/postsecondary/article/3033>

CMA Information Session

The *Mentoring Connections* team is pleased to be working with the Certified Management Accountants Society of BC. On Thursday, February 5, *Mentoring Connections* along with CMA BC organized an information session at the ISSofBC Terminal office. Those who attended learned about topics such as current industry trends, what makes an accountant employable in Canada, and the diverse job opportunities available to individuals with a CMA designation.

ISSofBC's New Faces of Vancouver

ISSofBC invites aspiring photographers and professionals to submit photographs that celebrate Vancouver's multicultural identity. Photos will be viewed by a panel and those selected will be exhibited on May 15-16, 2009 at Centre A Gallery in Vancouver.

<http://www.issbc.org/newfaces/index.html>

