

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. Face-to-face meetings are most productive, but the four hours could also include other forms of contact. Each relationship is unique so the program is flexible and takes into account the schedules of both the mentor and the mentee. If both you and your mentee are having a difficult time scheduling face-to-face meetings, telephone calls and emails will be helpful until both of you can meet. Also, we've found that some mentors want to spend additional time finding information or making contacts that could benefit their mentees - if you have the time, we certainly won't impose a number of hours!

Do I need to find my mentee a job?

No. *Mentoring Connections* is not a job placement service. The purpose of mentoring is for the mentee to receive advice, guidance, and resources that could assist them in finding work in their chosen fields. You could give them 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 your mentee to return to his or her occupation in Canada.

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

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

There are several factors to consider when finding you a mentee. For a mentor with a more specialized position and more extensive experience, it may be more challenging to find a mentee right away. Also, the demand for mentors in each occupation is unpredictable and varies from month to month. We make every effort to match you with a suitable mentee and appreciate your patience as we look for the right person.

In the meantime, if you are interested in volunteering in another way while waiting for a mentee, please contact the *Mentoring Connections* team. We welcome any form of your contribution and would be grateful for your help with informational interviewing, advisory committee membership, or several other activities in progress. 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

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>

Mentee Profiles

These individuals are looking for mentors to help them get back in their field. Take a look at their profiles and if you know anyone who could help them, let us know.

Power Engineer

Specializing in Heat and Power Engineering, his twenty years in the field includes experience in design, safety, and renovation involving electrical generators, boilers, and steam turbines. Right now he is taking courses in refrigeration, heating, and ventilation. He is looking for a mentor who can help identify employment and training opportunities.

Chemical Researcher

Having experience in pharmaceuticals and organic synthesis, this Chemical Researcher worked as a research assistant and has been published numerous times. She is looking for a mentor on the research side of her field and is interested in improving professional language and gathering information on local industries and potential employers.

Physician

A licensed physician in the Philippines, her goal is to become a family physician here in Canada. She is motivated and has already started the accreditation process; she would like a mentor who can provide guidance and support for this. Additionally, she would like to be able to discuss how the medical system is structured (federally and provincially), and workplace culture, expectations, and opportunities.