

# THE MENTORING SWITCHBOARD



March 2009

## Marching into Spring

*Mentoring Connections* is a program that matches skilled immigrants with local professionals. However, that is not all that we do. Whether it's celebrating with one of our partners, attending professional conferences, or organizing events for our clients; we like to stay active and develop the different facets of our program.

### AFCA-BC's First Annual Induction Ball Dinner & Dance

As partners of the Association of Filipino Canadian Accountants (AFCA-BC), *Mentoring Connections* attended AFCA-BC's First Annual Induction Ball Dinner and Dance on February 21st at St. Patrick's Parish Hall. AFCA-BC is a non-profit organization that promotes personal and professional development among its members, and our new partnership matches skilled immigrants with experienced AFCA-BC professionals in mentoring relationships.

At the Induction Ball, 2009 President Cecil Sanchez, previous President Thelma Siglos, Director Angelo Siglos, and Mentorship Program Coordinator Rosemarie Diamzon warmly welcomed our *Mentoring Connections* representatives, introducing them to friends and colleagues who showed great interest in the program. Many thanks to AFCA-BC for inviting us to this well-organized, fun, and successful event!

### Career Development Conference

The Career Development Conference brings together individuals in the career management and career development field. Each member of the *Mentoring Connections* team attended several presentations at the conference organized by the Career Management Association of BC. A highlight for *Mentoring Connections* at the conference was the presentation by Program Manager Laurie Sing.

Laurie has 15 years of experience implementing employment programs and providing skills training, career planning, job search, and mentoring services. Her presentation "Helping Immigrants Find Work – Basics & Best Practices" introduced new employment and settlement workers to culturally-related employment counselling concepts.

### Mock Interview Workshop

On Saturday March 21st, *Mentoring Connections* organized a Mock Interview Workshop for our clients who wish to find work in the field of architecture or construction. Six clients were registered for 30-minute sessions with a volunteer who has experience as a recruiter in these industries. The six individuals were asked to send a copy of their resume, a cover letter, and a job posting to relate the mock interview to their field and job targets. The benefit of the workshop stems from the relevance of the mock interviews. Those who attended were able to practice answering questions that they would be asked on real job interviews for their specific industry.



*Mentoring Connections* Program Manager Laurie Sing at the Career Development Conference

### Working Super Fair

**When:** Tuesday March 31st, 10:00am – 6:00pm

**Where:** Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre

The \$5 entry fee gives you access to a networking event where you can make new contacts, solidify existing connections, and maintain a line of communication with businesses that interest you.

<http://www.png.canwest.com/superfair/exhibitors.html>

### Upcoming Events

#### 1st Immigrant Professionals Conference in BC

Saturday March 28th, 9:30am to 4:30pm  
Holiday Inn Express  
Metrotown, Burnaby

Learn about the programs and services immigrant serving organizations and government departments are offering. Attend presentations by successful immigrants and learn about strategies that can assist you in your career path.

[www.bcitp.net](http://www.bcitp.net)

#### 2009 Multicultural Family Resource Fair

Friday March 27th, 10:30am to 1:30pm  
UBC Acadia Park Commonsblock  
2707 Tennis Crescent - UBC

Kitsilano Neighbourhood House is working with UBC Acadia Park and University Apartments for the 2009 Multicultural Family Resource Fair. The fair features information on healthcare, childcare, safety, and resources in several languages. There will also be story time, Kids Fun Corner, face painting, and much more.

<http://www.kitshouse.org/family.html>

### Ask Mentoring Connections

**My mentor told me he would call me on Monday to schedule our next meeting, but now it is Thursday and I still haven't heard from him. My mentor is so kind and I don't want to push him or use too much of his time so I don't want to call him. What should I do?**

Mentors are volunteering their time to help you and are willing to have you contact them when you need assistance. Sometimes it is very easy to forget to call someone, so this does not mean that he is too busy to meet with you. Since this mentorship is primarily for your benefit, it is important that you ask for help when needed and take the initiative when contacting your mentor, especially if he did not call when agreed. If you do not want to disturb him with a call, a quick email asking when he is available next will work fine.