

November 2008

DIRECTIONS FOR IMMIGRANTS LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE



Directions for Immigrants in Trades and Professional Careers

Directions for Immigrants in Trades and Professional Careers is operated by Bow Valley College. This service has been funded by the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada

STUDY GROUPS (Start dates)

Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) Qualifying Exam Part 1 **November 29**

NEW Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS) Certification Exam **December 11**

Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) Qualifying Exam Part 2 **January 3, 2009**

NEW Communication Works! **January 9, 2009**

Clear Communication for Business **January 10, 2009**

Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) Evaluating Exam **January 31 & February 28, 2009**

APEGGA National Professional Practice Exam **January 23 & 24, 2009**

Canadian Registered Nursing Exam (CRNE) **February 20 & 24, 2009**

Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT) Certification Exam **February 26, 2009**

Clear Communication for Health Professionals **March 16, 2009**

ONGOING WORKSHOPS

Orientation for Health Care Professionals

Orientation & Job Search Strategies

How to Information Interview

How to Network

Successful Work Strategies

Networking and Job Leads

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OUR LOCATION

Suite 260, 700—4 Avenue SW (McFarlane Tower)

Tel: (403) 297-2555

Fax: (403) 297-3424

The staff at Directions for Immigrants is excited about our new website. We have placed a great amount of effort into giving the website a more modern design and new useful features and topics.

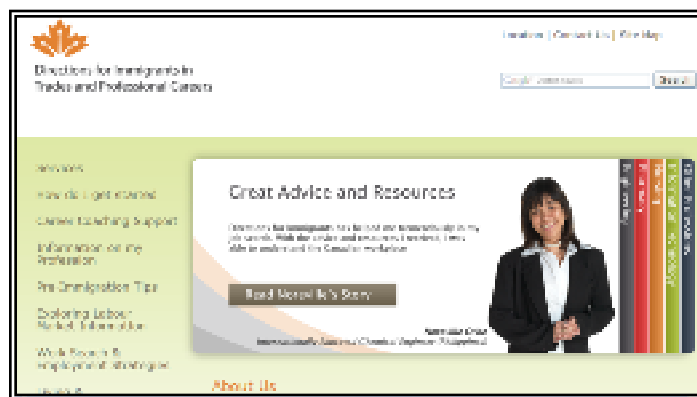
Directions for Immigrants' new website includes success stories and feedback on our services from some of our clients in the fields of nursing, pharmacy, engineering and IT. Our site incorporates a calendar where visitors can see upcoming workshops, study groups and events.

We also have an on-line poll that will allow us to have a more interactive approach with our web visitors. The site includes updated information on over 100 occupations in various sectors outlining accreditation and licensing processes in Alberta and links to licensing bodies and resources for professionals.

A section on pre-immigration provides internationally educated professionals who are in the process of moving to

Canada with advice on issues related to accreditation and licensing requirements.

We encourage you to visit and enjoy the features of our new website: www.directionsforimmigrants.ca Check it out! Feel free to give us your feed-back at bgomez@bowvalleycollege.ca



Home page of our website

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER VISITS DIRECTIONS FOR IMMIGRANTS' NEW LOCATION

On October 23, Neil Irvine, Assistant Deputy Minister from the Delivery Services Division of Alberta Employment and Immigration (AEI) visited Directions for Immigrants' new location.

Karen Jenkins, our Team Lead and Conrad Murphy, Director of TOWES and Centre for Career Advancement at Bow Valley College provided him with information related to current scope of Directions' services and future projects.

Neil Irvine was particularly interested in how Directions for Immigrants is helping internationally educated health professionals (IEHPs) with their licensing process.

He was interested in information on how our study groups are structured and the success rate of clients writing licensing exams. Karen Jenkins pointed out that a 70-80% of our study groups' participants pass their licensing exams.

Neil Irvine expressed his satisfaction towards the integral approach Directions for Immigrants is delivering to effectively assist IEHPs with the challenges they face in the process of getting back to their professions within the Alberta healthcare system.



From left to right, Conrad Murphy (BVC), Dwana Green (Manager Community and Business Services—AEI), Karen Jenkins (Directions) and Neil Irvine (Assistant Deputy Minister—AEI)

THE DIVERSITY IMPERATIVE: SURVIVE OR THRIVE?

The Diversity Imperative: Survive or Thrive? was the main theme of the Alberta Congress Board's 9th Annual Workplace Conference which took place from October 30 to November 2 at the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge.

More than 200 delegates from private and public sector organizations gathered to discuss current and emerging issues in the workplace. Particularly topics such as *Diversity - What is the Pay-off? What's in it for Me?*; *Best Practices - What Works and When it Doesn't* and *What is the Roadmap to Diversity?* were addressed through a mix of speakers, panelists, small group discussion sessions and lively debates.

One of the most interesting presentations was *"Cultivating Leadership and Diversity"* by Bonnie DuPont, Group Vice President of Corporate Resources of Enbridge Inc.

Here is an excerpt of Bonnie DuPont's speech:

"Diversity in the workplace is something we absolutely must focus on – as organizations, as a province and as a nation. If we don't use *all* of the human resources available to us, our economy will not achieve its full potential.

We all know that labour shortages in Alberta have had an impact on the ability of many companies to execute their plans. While encouraging diversity has long been synonymous with 'smart business', diversity can also be the difference for a company between thriving or merely surviving.

By fostering diversity at Enbridge we are building a strong company that is a reflection of our culture and community.

For many years now, diversity has been a cornerstone of our approach to recruitment. We even highlight it on the Careers section of the Enbridge website, on a page titled 'Valuing Diversity'.

The best decisions are made with input from as many people as possible around the table. Diversity helps ensure that Enbridge benefits from different perspectives and different experiences.

There is no question that Canada's immigrant population is a tremendous potential resource for skilled labour, but too often that potential is not being adequately realized.

We need to work together – businesses, all levels of government, immigrant organizations and communities, and other non-governmental organizations – to ensure that when people come to Canada, they are able to apply their skills, and learn new skills to ensure they are not unemployed, or under-employed.

In the short term, we need to work together and focus on promoting the domestic migration of talent within Canada from both our traditional and non-traditional talent pools. We need to do a better job of promoting our economic hot spots to all Canadians so that more people are aware of and are moving to regions where the opportunities for employment and skills development exist".

Enbridge operates the world's longest crude oil and liquids transportation system. In 2008 Enbridge was recognized as one of Canada's 'Best Diversity Employers' for engaging and enabling more women to take leadership roles in the organization and creating employment opportunities for Aboriginal Canadians.

NEW UPCOMING STUDY GROUPS: CSMLS AND COMMUNICATION WORKS !

Directions for Immigrants is starting a new study group for preparing internationally educated Medical Laboratory Technologists to write the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS) certification exam. This study group will last eight weeks and will meet on Thursdays for 3 ½ hours from December 11, 2008 to February 12, 2009.

Communication Works! is also a new study group that will address key workplace communication skills including: Canadian workplace culture, sending and receiving information effectively, problem solving, group skills and conflict resolution. The study group meets once a week for 6 weeks. Starting Date: January 9, 2009, from 9-12 pm

Call to get more information on eligibility criteria at **403 297-2555**

Orientation Course on Canadian Health Care System

Directions for Immigrants is currently hosting an Orientation Course: *Canadian Health Care System, Culture and Context for Internationally Educated Healthcare Professionals*. This is a course administered by the University of Toronto and is facilitated by Gail Thauberger, Coordinator of Allied Health Programs at Bow Valley College.

16 participants, among them doctors, nurses and radiology technicians from Russia, Poland, India, China, Romania and the Philippines are actively taking part on discussions about culture and its impact on health care, federal and provincial health care systems, patient-centred care and ethical dilemmas in the workplace.

Gail Thauberger says that participants are doing exceedingly well. "Culture of the Canadian Health Care System is one of the key topics. There has been great interest among participants in communication issues, professionalism and Canadian professional ethics".



Gail Thauberger (BVC) facilitating one of the study group's sessions

Samuel Cabrera, a nurse from the Philippines, says that he is learning a lot in this course: "The information and resources provided will help me succeed once I get into a health workplace". A lina Muresan, a medical doctor from Romania, thinks that this course gives the opportunity to compare health care practices of foreign countries with those of the Canadian health system. She adds that the most important challenge for an internationally educated physician is to really understand what the steps are of the licensing process.

The Orientation Course started on October 27 and will run for ten three-hour sessions until November 27. The course will be offered again during January and February next year. If you are interested in registering for this course, the deadline for applications is December 15, 2008. Visit www.iehpcanada.utoronto.ca or call 1-866-969-9499