



Networking during the holiday season

Whether you are job searching or wanting to expand your professional network, the holiday season brings opportunities for meeting new people and nurturing your ongoing relationships. "Christmas time is usually a less busy season for some businesses, so people may have more free time to share helpful advice and have informational interviews," suggests Patrick Cotter, career coach at Directions. "Plus people tend to be in better spirits," he adds.

Set a goal for yourself to connect with two or three professionals for a coffee meeting before the third week of December. Remember to connect on social media right after your

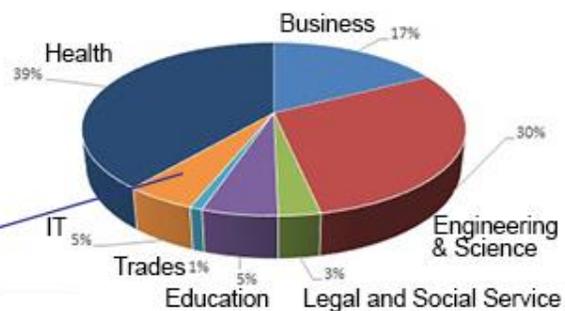
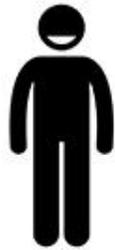
meeting and send a personalized note.

The season also brings many volunteer opportunities to help people in need. For example, you can join a team of volunteers for wrapping gifts, sorting or delivering donated items, or cooking and serving food at local shelters. Visit a community centre, a local shelter, or [Propellus](#) for more information.

If you need help to get ideas for networking during the holiday season, meet with a career coach at Directions for Immigrants at 403-770-5155.

Occupations A to Z

IT professionals



We help internationally educated professionals in any occupation, in any industry.

For this edition of the newsletter we are highlighting the occupation of Information Systems Professionals also known as Information Technology (IT)

professional. ISPs analyze, design and develop business solutions, and also provide advice on a wide range of information systems issues, according to the [ALIS](#) website.

In Alberta, you do not need to be licensed to work in the Information Systems industry; however, to call yourself an Information Systems Professional or use the ISP designation, you must be a registered member of the Canadian Information

Processing Society of Alberta ([CIPS Alberta](#)). To learn about the requirements for internationally educated ISPs, visit the [Directions for Immigrants website](#).



Success Story

Congratulations to Folorunso

Congratulations to Folorunso. He is an internationally educated IT professional from Nigeria. With over 10 years of experience he recently landed a job as an IT Security Analyst in Calgary. He received one-on-one career coaching and attended workshops at Directions for Immigrants. While looking for work he volunteered for the Cyber Security 2017 Congress as well as for his community association. "I always recommend this centre to new immigrants. They will benefit from your services," says Folorunso.

Career Coaching Tip

Attend a holiday party

Holiday Party



Attend a holiday party at an immigrant serving agency where you are a client. It's good practice for networking. You will meet staff, other clients and volunteers. The idea is to network anytime, anywhere.

Darlene Baker, career coach at Directions for Immigrants.



Accreditation

Upcoming changes in the licensing process for pharmacists

Starting in November, the Pharmacist Qualifying Examination Part I (MCQ) will be a computer based exam. This exam is required as part of the licensing process for internationally educated pharmacists and it is administered by the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC). The PEBC is moving to the computer-based testing to improve access and flexibility for the exam candidates. To learn more, book an appointment with a career coach at Directions for Immigrants or visit the [PEBC](#) page.

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