



Jabina Ahmed



Bola Adebisi-Akinbile

Volunteering has a positive impact when you are building a new life in Canada

The spirit of volunteerism is grounded as a Canadian value. Over 12 million Canadians volunteered their time in 2013, according to [Statistics Canada](#). Most Canadians like to help others and work together for a common goal. For new Canadians, volunteering is a great way to start a new life in this country. We asked Jabina Ahmed and Omobolanle (Bola) Adebisi-Akinbile, two of our clients to share

their volunteer experience with us.

Jabina is an internationally educated researcher who came to Calgary from Pakistan in September 2016. She visited [Immigrant Services Calgary](#) to learn about available volunteer positions. After a screening process that included an interview, Jabina started as a tutor in March 2017. She provides tutoring to immigrant and refugee learners in grades 1-12 to improve their academic skills and study habits. "I really enjoy it. I'm thankful to Rachel, my career coach here at Directions who suggested the idea," says Jabina.

Among the benefits of volunteering, Jabina mentions increasing her self-confidence, a better understanding of the Canadian education system, and interacting with school staff and fellow volunteers. "Your volunteer experience shows that actions are louder than words, that you have great potential. At the beginning I was hesitant to volunteer, but now I ask myself why didn't I start earlier," says Jabina.

Bola is an internationally educated physiotherapist who came to Canada from Nigeria in July 2015. Joan, her career coach at Directions helped her research volunteer positions aligned with her professional background. Bola arranged an interview with the volunteer coordinator of the Association for the Rehabilitation of the Brain Injured ([ARBI](#)). Then she started a 9-month commitment to work diligently with persons with severe, acquired brain injury to improve their quality of life. Bola's volunteer role focused on implementing the exercise portions of the program for one-on-one therapy.

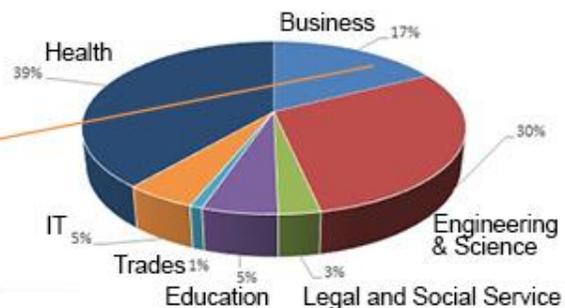
"If I hadn't volunteered I wouldn't have learned about the new trends, equipment,

and how much I could help in the rehabilitation of a patient," says Bola. She learned about the roles in the Canadian health care system as well as the patient-centered care model. "Volunteering bridges the gap between where you come from and where you are going to. It has been a fantastic experience, it means giving part of yourself and feeling happy about it," says Bola.

If you need help seeking volunteer positions in Calgary, visit [Propellus](#) or meet with a career coach at Directions for Immigrants at 403-770-5155.

Occupations A to Z

Accountant



We help internationally educated professionals in any occupation in any industry. For this edition of the newsletter we are highlighting the occupation of Accountant. Accountants provide financial reporting and consulting services for organizations and individuals.

In Alberta, you must be registered with the Chartered Professional Accountants of Alberta, referred to as CPA Alberta, to practice as a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) and to use the title Chartered Professional Accountant. CPA Alberta is the sole professional regulatory organization authorized by the Government of Alberta to accredit and register CPAs. To

learn about the requirements for internationally educated accountants, visit the [Directions for Immigrants website](#).



Career Coaching Tip

3 steps to volunteering

1. Use the [Propellus Advanced Search option](#) to find opportunities to match your interests, strengths and availability. If there are no volunteer opportunities that directly match your profession, you could pick a role that develops a skill you will need for your profession.
2. Treat a volunteer search like a job search. Target your resume and cover letter to match the position, research the organization and prepare accomplishment statements before your interview.
3. Use your “elevator speech” when you contact the organization’s volunteer coordinator.

Julie, career coach at Directions for Immigrants.

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ARTICLES

Competency-Based Assessments Coming in 2017

October 21, 2016

UPDATE: The self-assessment worksheet is now available. This article was updated January 2017.

APEGA currently requires applicants to describe specific work tasks and then determine what level of engineering or geoscience expertise was required for that task. The time-consuming method requires staff to assess applicants correctly document their experience for the Board of Examiners.

This system will change in mid 2017 for engineering applicants seeking a **Professional Engineer (P.Eng.)** or **Licensee** status.

Top Articles:

- Board Awards Recognize Engineering and Geoscience Excellence
- APEGA 2016 President Elected in APEGA Seeks Client Registration Office
- APEGA Warns Against Falsifying Application Materials

Accreditation

Upcoming changes in the licensing process of the engineering profession

Starting in mid-2017, the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA) will require competency-based assessments (CBA) as part of the application process for a Professional Engineer (P.Eng) or Licensee license. APEGA has previously required applicants to submit a Work Experience Record. For more information, read the update on the [APEGA](http://www.apega.ca) website. If you are an internationally educated engineer or geoscientist needing help to understand the licensing process as a P.Eng or P.Geo, call 403-770-5155 to book an appointment with a career coach at Directions for Immigrants.

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