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Title of workshop:	Challenges of foreign credential recognition in Canada and immigrants' impact on economic development in smaller regions
Format:	Workshop
Theme:	<i>Economic and labour market integration</i>
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<b>Presenter 1:</b>	A.H Akbari. and Yigit Aydede
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Organization:	Saint Mary's University and Atlantic Metropolis Centre (Halifax)
<b>Title:</b>	Substitutability of immigrants and Canadian-born within an educational group: A production function analysis
<b>Presenter 2:</b>	Victorina Baxan
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Organization:	University of Toronto (Toronto)
<b>Title:</b>	Credential fraud and immigration: Discouraging the use of illegitimate educational documents
<b>Presenter 3:</b>	Jan Sheppard Kutcher
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Organization:	Immigrant Settlement & Integration Services (Halifax)
<b>Title:</b>	Multi-stakeholder work groups – making systemic change in regulated occupations
<b>Presenter 4:</b>	Wimal Rankaduwa
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Organization:	University of Prince Edward Island (Charlottetown)
<b>Title:</b>	Immigrant inflow and economic development in Atlantic Canada.
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Organization:	Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
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### Abstract

Challenges of foreign credential recognition in Canada and a model of coordinated efforts by stakeholders in Atlantic Canada to address the issue, will be discussed. Immigrants' contribution towards economic growth and development in Atlantic Canada will also be discussed by analyzing their impact on labour productivity.

### Summary

Non-recognition of education credentials and foreign experience in Canadian labour markets is a well known challenge immigrants face. It has been argued that such non-recognition means insufficient exploitation of the economic benefits of immigration. Canadian government has adopted several measures to help overcome the challenge of foreign credential recognition so that immigrants integrate well in labour markets and contribute towards socioeconomic development in Canada. Professional organizations have also begun to recognize the problem in the light of labour market shortages of skills that have appeared especially in smaller areas of Canada. A coordinated effort is needed by stakeholders to take a broader approach to mitigate the issue. On the other hand, imperfect information prevents policy makers and professional organizations to confirm the validity of immigrant credentials.

This workshop explores the extent of the issue of foreign credential recognition in Canadian labour markets and its impact on immigrants' contribution towards economic development in smaller regions. There will be four presentations. The first presentation will analyze, within an economic framework, Statistics Canada data to investigate the issue of foreign credential recognition. The second presentation will examine the impact of credential fraud on the economic integration of immigrants in Canada. The third presentation will discuss a model for addressing the challenges of international qualifications assessment and recognition by

organizing profession-specific multi-stakeholder working groups. The last presentation will present some evidence on the impact of immigration on economic growth and development in Atlantic Canada, highlighting the importance of dismantling barriers to economic integration of immigrants.