

Proposal for Workshop at the Montreal Metropolis Conference

Organizer: Sharif Mohammad
Organization: Foreign Credential Recognition Program, HRSDC
Email:

Title of Workshop: "The Contribution of Industry-led Diagnostics of Foreign Credential Recognition Challenges"

Format of Workshop: Presentation Workshop
Theme: Economic and labour market integration

Co-organizer: Sylvain Brazeau
Organization: Foreign Credential Recognition Program, HRSDC

Name of the first Presenter:	Moira Grant, Director of Research
Email:	
Organization:	Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS)
Presentation Title:	Accountability in certification of internationally educated professionals: A project-based approach
Abstract:	Certification of internationally educated professionals demands attention to issues of transparency, objectivity, impartiality and fairness. In this presentation, I describe how the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science has addressed these concerns through a project-informed accountability framework. Through a series of externally-funded projects, the CSMLS has enhanced the validity and accessibility of its prior learning assessment and language proficiency processes and has created a foundation for addressing the obstacles that newcomers to Canada encounter in becoming qualified in their chosen professions.
Name of the second Presenter:	Marie Carter, P.Eng., Chief Operating Officer
Email:	
Organization:	Engineers Canada
Presentation Title:	Progress on Foreign Qualifications Recognition in the Engineering Profession in Canada
Abstract:	Engineering is the largest self-declared professions for immigrants to Canada. As a result, the engineering regulators have responded to develop better tools and processes to improve the recognition of foreign qualifications. This presentation will describe how the engineering profession has progressed in the past seven years, through targeted programs, to ease the licensing process for engineers with qualifications from abroad.
Name of the third Presenter:	Colette Rivet, Executive Director
Email:	
Organization:	BioTalent Canada
Presentation Title:	BioTalent Canada's BioSkills Recognition Program
Abstract:	This presentation will showcase the BioSkills Recognition Program being piloted at BioTalent Canada, a non-profit organization focused on human resource and skills development for the Canadian bio-economy. The project was initiated in response to a report published by BioTalent Canada entitled "Recognizing Talent: Capitalizing on the Skills of Foreign-Trained Professionals for a Vital Bio-Economy". The report highlighted the need to build capacity so that Internationally Educated Professionals can be assessed and connected with employers in an efficient and reliable fashion. In response to this need, the BioSkills Recognition Program will model how BioTalent Canada has: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developed and re-thought the recognition of foreign credentials in the workplace 2. Demonstrated the importance of incorporating industry input in workplace development plans 3. Provided a tool for industry to more effectively and quickly integrate Internationally Educated Professionals into the workplace 4. Provided resources for Internationally Educated Professionals to better gauge and demonstrate their "job-readiness".

Name of the fourth Presenter:	George Gritziotis, Executive Director
Email:	
Organization:	Construction Sector Council
Presentation Title:	Measuring the skills of internationally trained workers against Canadian standards
Abstract:	In meeting its workforce requirements, the construction industry is looking at several non-traditional sources to meet its labour needs. One of these sources is the internationally-trained immigrant population of construction tradespersons. Many internationally-trained workers may have the skills and abilities to fill critical labour gaps in Canada's construction industry. This presentation will illustrate how the Construction Sector Council is supporting its stakeholders to better assess the skills of internationally trained workers against Canadian standards, including: -Immigrant Skilled Trained Employment Program (ISTEP) -International Comparison of Training and Certification Systems for Red Seal Trades -Foreign Credential and Skills Assessment (FCSA) Workbook
Name of the Discussant:	Jan Sheppard Kutcher
Email:	
Organization:	Immigrant Settlement and Integration services, Nova Scotia
Participation:	We have not been able to contact her. We will invite her after discussing this with her and will inform the Metropolis accordingly.

Abstract:

The session will present findings and share the knowledge with participants that FCRP and its partners have collected during their primary research and fieldwork for developing tools and implementing systems in assessment and recognition of foreign credentials in occupations of strategic importance to Canadian labour market and the economy.

Summary:

This workshop will focus on drawing conclusions from a series of industry-led self-diagnosis of challenges sectors and occupations face in addressing barriers to foreign credential recognition. The workshop will be structured around the presentation of analysis and findings of the original research, conducted by field work undertaken by the relevant organizations.

It is proposed that the workshop include four presentations from specific sectors and occupations, namely pharmacists, engineers, biotechnology workers, and construction sector trades. The selection of these sectors and occupations is, in part, based on a measurement of their readiness and willingness to address foreign credential recognition related issues.

This workshop will examine the experiences of organizations that undertook, or are undertaking, self-diagnostics that attempt to evaluate the specific needs, challenges, and resource requirements for foreign credential assessment and recognition related issues. This workshop will explore the role and efficacy of self-diagnostic work in positioning the organizations for subsequent efforts at developing tools and implementing systems for addressing these barriers.

The workshop will be concluded by a synthesis of findings and conclusions of the presentations, and reflect on the implications for the development of effective policies and strategies to help access immigrant labour supply in key occupations.