



BACKGROUND

The Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC)

The Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC) creates and champions solutions to better integrate skilled immigrants in the Greater Toronto Region labour market, while helping organizations benefit from the talents and skills immigrants bring with them to Canada.

Since 2003, TRIEC has facilitated collaboration among a diverse group of stakeholders including employers, post-secondary institutions, employment service providers, community organizations, regulatory bodies and all three levels of government.

The goal is to assemble these key players to find and implement local, practical solutions that lead to meaningful employment for skilled immigrants. By bringing together government representatives through TRIEC's Intergovernmental Relations Committee, engaging employers through The Mentoring Partnership and hireimmigrants.ca, and working with organizations in the community, TRIEC is finding solutions, ensuring action, and connecting partners in new and unique ways.

Objectives

1. To work with key stakeholders, particularly employers, building their awareness and capacity to better integrate skilled immigrants into the workforce.

TRIEC initiatives include:

- **hireimmigrants.ca** – provides employers with interactive tools and resources to accelerate the integration of skilled immigrants into their organization. www.hireimmigrants.ca
- **How-To HR Workshops** - increasing companies' capacity to recruit, select and integrate skilled immigrants through complimentary workshops. www.hireimmigrants.ca/workshops
- **The Immigrant Success (IS) Awards** – recognizing innovative organizations and outstanding individuals that have proven leadership in recruiting, retaining and promoting skilled immigrants. www.isawards.ca
- **20 Journeys** – telling the stories of immigrants who have contributed to the vibrancy of the Toronto Region, and celebrating their success and the programs and employers that have shared in their milestones. www.triec.ca/20journeys

2. To convene and collaborate with partners, creating opportunities for skilled immigrants to connect to the local labour market.

TRIEC has launched:

- **The Mentoring Partnership** – provides occupation-specific mentoring to skilled immigrants. Mentors gain leadership and cross-cultural awareness skills and training. www.thementoringpartnership.com

TRIEC has partnered with:

- **Career Bridge** – internships offered through the Career Edge Organization provide immigrants with their first Canadian work experiences and allow employers to test the waters. www.careerbridge.ca
- **CASIP** – eight non-profit employment service agencies serving immigrants that partnered with TRIEC to better coordinate outreach to businesses and connect them to practical resources, programs and a wider talent pool of skilled immigrants. www.casip.ca

3. To work with all levels of government, enhancing coordination and effecting more responsive policy and programs for skilled immigrant employment.

TRIEC works with various governments, ministries and departments, so they are better aware of what each is doing, and can better coordinate policy and programming around issues of immigrant labour market integration.

How TRIEC Came to Be

In 2002 the Toronto City Summit – a conference of leaders representing the city’s various sectors and communities – was held to assess the Toronto region’s strengths and challenges, and shape future directions to move the region forward. Following the Summit, the Toronto City Summit Alliance (TCSA) was formed to address the challenges the Summit identified as critical to a shared future.

One of the challenges identified by the Toronto City Summit Alliance was immigration – more specifically the labour market integration of immigrants. Employment is a key benchmark in settlement, and immigrants face many barriers to employment in the Toronto Region. To face this challenge, the TCSA, along with Maytree, formed TRIEC – the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council.

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