



# TRIEC

Toronto Region Immigrant  
Employment Council

New Realities. New Opportunities.

## VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

### **St. Michael's Hospital Toronto Star Award for Excellence in Workplace Integration winner 2009 TRIEC Immigrant Success Awards**

**John King, EVP & CAO, St. Michael's Hospital:** St. Michael's Hospital is the 550 bed downtown trauma centre. Career Bridge is a program and an organization. They provide internships for professionals that have come to Canada. This program was adopted here at St. Michael's in 2004.

It's beyond the success that I think it would be. It's a little more than just giving someone an opportunity. We have managers and directors now that say to me that they could not live without a Career Bridge intern.

**Sylvia Halliday, Vice-president, Human Resources:** We have a position called specialist, internationally educated professionals and that person is responsible for ensuring that the program runs smoothly, that the interns are brought onboard and integrated well into the receiving department and supported then through mentorship, follow-ups and so forth.

**John King:** Many of these individuals have MBA background or engineering background, IT specialists.

**Patricia Simeons, Project Manager:** I came from Johannesburg, South Africa and I worked in the telecommunications industry as a sales manager. After I came to Canada I really struggled to find a job. I applied to over a hundred positions and applications but nothing came through.

I happened to stumble across a Career Bridge website one day and when I looked at what they had to offer I said this is the perfect thing for me.

Having an internship position boosted my confidence, made me feel that I was marketable and was employable. Just before my internship ended I was offered a one-year contract with St. Michael's Hospital.

**Sylvia Halliday:** People who bring experiences - not Canadian experiences to the workplace - what that does is increase the diversity of ideas and brings new ideas that we might not have seen out of our own universities and colleges.

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