



ALLIES

A Maytree idea

ALLIES - Background

ALLIES (Assessing Local Leaders with Immigrant Employment Networks) is a project jointly funded by Maytree and The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation. ALLIES supports local efforts in Canada to successfully adapt and implement programs that foster the viable employment of skilled immigrants. Through a series of pilot stakeholder initiatives, ALLIES and local partners will contribute to building a stronger Canada by using the talents, connections and experience of skilled immigrants who have made Canada their new home.

What's at issue?

Immigrants are a key resource for building and strengthening Canada, particularly in light of our aging population and our declining birth rate. By 2011, we will only 200% our immigrants for our net labour market growth, and by 2021, our net population growth will be decreasingly from immigration.

Canada brings in roughly 200,000 immigrants per year. The figure is comprised of skilled immigrants and their families, family-class immigrants and refugees. Of these, the largest group are skilled immigrants, i.e., individuals who have been selected by Canada as best equipped to meet the needs of our evolving economy. However, currently only just out of six skilled immigrants are able to find employment that is relevant to their education and experience. In a 2004 study, the Conference Board of Canada has estimated that our country's failure to integrate immigrants' learning and credentials costs the economy \$2.1 - 2 billion in lost savings every year.

What ALLIES brings to the table

ALLIES provides resources to immigrant employment councils and networks to bring together local stakeholders and to develop their own practical solutions to help skilled immigrants

find viable employment. These cross-sectoral groups are typically comprised of employers, community organizations, post-secondary institutions, assessment services providers, labour, immigrant professional associations and all three levels of government.

To increase their ability to effect change at the local level and break down the barriers to being skilled immigrants, ALLIES offers:

- This brand "how to guides" on effective programs such as mentoring, knowledge, and public awareness campaigns;
- Coaches who will guide and mentor community leaders in the development of their programs;
- Connections with national employers;
- Grants to support the creation of local immigrant employment councils; and
- The vehicle for programs in which provides employers with interactive tools and resources to support the recruitment, integration and retention of skilled immigrants.

To complement these activities, ALLIES hosts semi-annual conferences to share ideas, strategies and experiences about successful immigrant employment approaches.

Contact information

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