



ALLIES

A Maytree idea

ALLIES - Background

ALLIES (Assessing Local Leaders with Immigrant Employment Strategies) supports local efforts in Canadian cities to successfully adapt and implement programs that foster the sustainable employment of skilled immigrants. Through a series of multi-stakeholder initiatives, ALLIES and local partners continue to build a stronger Canada by using the skills, connections and experience of skilled immigrants who have made Canada their new home. ALLIES is a project jointly funded by Maytree and The ITC, McConnell Family Foundation.

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. Today, immigration plays a critical role in the growth of Canada's labour market and by 2021 our net population growth will be derived entirely from immigration.

Canada brings in roughly 200,000 immigrants per year. This figure is composed 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 being equipped to meet the needs of our evolving economy. However, currently only 60% of all 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' training and credentials costs the economy \$1.4 - 3 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 suitable employment. These multi-stakeholder groups are typically comprised of employers,

community organizations, post-secondary institutions, assessment centres, labour, labour-immigrant professional associations and all other 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:

- The National Immigrant Initiative which supports cities in developing, implementing and evaluating pioneering programs for skilled immigrants in their communities.
- The website immigrants.ca which provides employers with interactive tools and resources to support the recruitment, integration and retention of skilled immigrants.
- Conventions with national employers.
- Policy development and testing a strategy to engage SMEs in connecting with immigrant talent in Canadian cities.
- Web based "how-to guides" on effective programs such as mentoring, networking, and public awareness campaigns.
- Coaches who guide and mentor communities in the development of their programs and
- Grants to support the creation of local immigrant employment councils and development of their programs.

To complement these activities, ALLIES has a series of conferences to share ideas, strategies and experiences about successful immigrant employment approaches.

Contact information

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