



TRIEC

Toronto Region Immigrant
Employment Council

New Realities. New Opportunities.

Attention News/City Business Assignment Editors:
For immediate release

Top performers recognized for leveraging skilled immigrant talent *TRIEC announces winners of 5th Annual Immigrant Success Awards*

TORONTO, March 9th, 2011 - The Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC) and RBC are pleased to announce the winners of the 5th Annual Immigrant Success (IS) Awards, recognizing exemplary practice in integrating skilled immigrants in the Toronto Region.

"RBC's proud support of the IS Awards reflects our strong belief that diversity is a competitive advantage. The more employers tap the full range of capabilities of our workforce - to innovate and adapt, develop new markets and foster new relationships - the more competitive Canada will be in the global economy and the more prosperous we will be at home," says Zabeen Hqj, chief human resources officer at RBC.

"Over five years we've seen a notable uptake and sophistication of recruitment and retention strategies. Employers are now realizing the benefits of a more diverse, globally-aware and connected workforce. IS Award winners are real examples of the benefits that can come from utilizing the best and brightest in our city," says Elizabeth Mitsuai, executive director of TRIEC.

Why immigrant integration matters to Toronto:

- Immigrants can open doors to global markets and trade
- International and diverse work experience can trigger innovative products and solutions
- Knowledge of additional languages can lead to new and deeper business opportunities
- Immigrants can bring high levels of postsecondary education and training
- 50 per cent of Toronto's population was born outside of Canada

Three organizations and one individual will be honoured tonight for their innovative and leading practices that work to engage skilled immigrants in the workforce.

Winners

- **Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS)**

CBC Toronto Vision Award for Immigrant Inclusion

Internationally trained doctors - not yet practicing medicine here in Canada - are employed to provide vision and hearing screening in priority neighbourhoods. Immigrant doctors gain Canadian experience while supporting largely newcomer populations with essential and culturally-sensitive healthcare services in their native languages. The program is built on a network of partnerships with the Toronto District School Board, Skills for Change, Sport Asset Management, and receives over \$500,000 in donations from Walmar Vice Centre annually.