
DATE: November 17, 2009

REPORT TITLE: **TORONTO REGION IMMIGRANT EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL IN PEEL**

FROM: Janet Menard, Commissioner of Human Services

OBJECTIVE

This report provides an update on the involvement of the Region of Peel with the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC) and the work they are doing in Peel. The Executive Director of TRIEC, Elizabeth McIsaac, will be delegating to General Committee on December 3, 2009 to dialogue with Council.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC) was formed in September 2003 to create and champion solutions to better integrate skilled immigrants in the Greater Toronto Region labour market.
- The Region of Peel is a member of the Council of TRIEC and co-funds with the United Way of Peel Region its mentorship program in Peel. The Commissioner of Human Services sits on its Intergovernmental Relations Committee and the Executive Director of the United Way of Peel Region serves on its Board of Directors
- TRIEC now has an office in Mississauga serving both Peel and Halton; participates in the Peel Newcomer Strategy Group; has assisted with the design of the Immigration Peel web portal; and served on the advisory committee of the labour market survey that will be released in early 2010 to support local strategies for integrating skilled immigrants.

DISCUSSION

The Region of Peel has had an active engagement and growing partnership with the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC) since its inception in 2003.

While there are many organizations helping immigrants become labour-market-ready, there are fewer helping employers become immigrant-ready. TRIEC's various awareness- and employer capacity-building initiatives have demonstrated measurable success at promoting skilled immigrants to employers and moving them into employment that taps into the education, experience and skills they have brought to Canada.

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These initiatives include: The Mentorship Partnership, with a growing circle of employers leveraging mentoring as a professional development opportunity; hireimmigrants.ca, which provides employers with strategies and techniques to recruit, integrate and retain skilled immigrants more effectively; the Immigrant Success Awards, which recognizes employer best practices in integrating immigrants into their workplaces; and 20 Journeys: A Photo Essay of the Immigrant Experience, a public education display that highlights the stories of immigrants who were successful in connecting with the labour market.

The Region of Peel and the United Way of Peel Region are co-funders of the TRIEC mentorship program, and many senior staff and prominent citizens in Peel have mentored immigrants over the past five years. The mentorship program has a strong track record of helping immigrants establish the "soft" knowledge and networks that can give them access to jobs suited to their training.

The Commissioner of Human Services is active in TRIEC's Intergovernmental Relations committee, which brings together representatives from the three levels of government to share information, discuss new strategic interventions, and enhance coordination on the issue of immigrant employment in the Toronto Region.

Many private sector employers in Peel participate in TRIEC programs. Pitney Bowes and Microsoft Canada are leading corporate partners participating in The Mentoring Partnership program. Xerox Research Centre of Canada and Nytric Ltd., both based in Mississauga, have garnered best-employer recognition through TRIEC's Immigrant Success Awards.

The Brampton and Mississauga Boards of Trade each serve on the Council of TRIEC, and have promoted and participated in various TRIEC initiatives. As well, a large number of regional employers have sought TRIEC's help in connecting with immigrant-readiness programming.

TRIEC staff have, in turn, contributed actively to the collaborative initiatives under way in Peel aimed at integrating immigrants into the community and workplaces. TRIEC now has an office in Mississauga serving both Peel and Halton; participates in the Peel Newcomer Strategy Group; has assisted with the design of the Immigration Peel web portal; and served on the advisory committee of the labour market survey that is now being released to support local strategies for integrating skilled immigrants.

The Region of Peel has participated in TRIEC initiatives, including the advisory committee for the hireimmigrants.ca Roadmap, a uniquely Peel-based project that provided an interactive interface to hireimmigrants.ca information, as well as various 20 Journeys events in the region.

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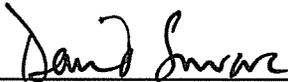
CONCLUSION

The Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council is a long standing partner with the Region of Peel in promoting improved employment outcomes for immigrants. TRIEC and its founding sponsor, Maytree, provide vital leadership throughout the GTA in the effective use of the education, skills and work experience arriving every year with immigrants who choose to settle here.



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Commissioner of Human Services

Approved for Submission:



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