



Media Advisory
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 27, 2008

The Chamber's Talent Pool Takes Action to Help Calgary Business Evaluate the Qualifications of Skilled Immigrants

Calgary, AB – About 14,000 skilled immigrants moved to Calgary in 2007 to build new lives. Less than half were able to find work in their chosen profession and often not at a level reflecting their international experience. Sixty-four percent say their home country education and work experience is not recognized by employers in Canada. These new immigrants form a pool of skilled, able workers anxious to find meaningful employment.

As Calgary business continues to suffer from a shortage of skilled workers, the Chamber's Talent Pool Development Society is working with business to better understand why skilled immigrants in Calgary are not fully utilized before Companies travel overseas to find temporary foreign workers.

As the result of a survey of Calgary business, a report titled "A Waste of Talent" was released describing what Calgary business expects skilled immigrants to have in order to be hired in their chosen profession/vocation. Through the results of the survey, it appears there are many gaps between what is expected from the employer in terms of qualifications, and what immigrant candidates have or can reasonably be expected to have.

The Calgary Employer Council for Immigrants was formed to champion efforts to close these gaps and facilitate the full employment of these new Calgarians. The Council is comprised of business leaders from ATB Financial, the City, Petro-Canada, Enbridge, Bow Valley College and Alberta Employment and Immigration.

The Council is supporting the development of assessment tools to help business evaluate the qualifications of internationally trained professional/skilled workers. This critical first step will begin on June 16, where The Talent Pool Development Society joins with Employment and Immigration, International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS) to link with employers to find the inefficiencies, build the tools to expedite the assessment and hiring process, and overcome some of the barriers to hiring foreign workers.

WHAT: Building Employer Tools Workshop

WHERE: The Calgary Chamber of Commerce
4th floor, 100 6th Avenue S.W.

WHEN: Monday, June 16th, 2008, 8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (Includes breakfast & lunch)

About The Talent Pool:

The Talent Pool Project is a collaborative effort of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce, member Companies and the Provincial and Federal Governments working to increase the pool of skilled workers for Calgary business. For more information please visit www.chambertalentpool.com.



About the Chamber:

The Calgary Chamber of Commerce is a volunteer driven, not-for-profit, and non-partisan advocacy group whose mission is to lead and serve the Calgary business community, valuing its diversity.

On critical and emerging issues in public policy, the Chamber acts as the leading forum for debate, and advocates public policy solutions that improve the business climate on behalf of our members.

- 30 -

For a copy of the “A Waste of Talent” report, please email Julie Ball at talentpool@calgarychamber.com.

For more information, please contact:

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