

# Labour Market Report

## Centre for Skilled and Internationally Trained Professionals



### Centre Update

Though December can be a frustrating month of job search, filled with voicemail referrals and vacation announcements, it does not mean that you should cease your efforts. It is a great time to make connections that may become fruitful in the new year.

Centre staff would like to wish everyone a warm and happy holiday season.

### The Importance of Communication Skills

Although technical skills specific to an occupation are an important consideration for the job seeker, they actually place third on the list of employer-desired traits.

Many employers say that while specialized skills and experience are valuable, depending on the candidate, companies are willing to invest training time and dollars in those who are capable of fitting in and growing with the organization. Simply put, “hard skills” can be taught.

On the other hand, “soft skills”, including personality and “transferable skills”, like communication, are often what potential employees are judged on.

The Centre cannot recommend strongly enough the writing of the Canadian Language Benchmark Assessment (CLBA) through Catholic Social Services. Free for Permanent Residents and Canadian Citizens, it is an exam that can be taken every six months. Scores of 1-8 are awarded in four areas: speaking, listening, reading and writing. Keeping in mind that the test is not academic or occupation-specific in nature, and aims only to determine the candidate’s language ability to live and work on a general basis in Canada, it is still a helpful tool in troubleshooting one’s strengths and weaknesses. Call Catholic Social Services at 424-3545 to make an appointment.

Of course, the exam is just a start. Once scores are obtained, you are encouraged to meet with the Case Manager or Employment Developer at the Centre to see if English as a Second Language upgrading is necessary. The Centre is knowledgeable in providing referrals to conversation groups, language classes, some of which are free, low-cost, or can be funded through government bursaries. Please see a staff member if you would like more information about training you can take.

### Occupational Specific Group Meetings & Centre Events

- IMG Study Group Meetings*: See Anna
- IEV Study Group Meeting*: See Echo
  
- December 9, 9-11am: Informational Interviews workshop
- December 15, 2-4pm: Internationally Educated Dentists meeting and EE study group
- December 17, 9-11am: Working in Canada workshop (contracts, pay, etc.)
- December 17, 1-3pm: Culture in the Workplace workshop
- December 18, 10am-12pm: APEGGA Licensure information session
- December 19, 11:30am-1:30pm – Holiday client luncheon: come and reconnect with friends and associates at the Centre in celebration of the season! For more information or to RSVP, please call the Centre at 425-3730.
  
- December 12, 11:30am-4:30pm – Centre closed for staff celebration
- December 24, 25, 26 – Centre closed for the Christmas holidays
- December 27 & 28 – Centre open 9am-4pm
- December 31 – Centre open 8am-12:30pm

### Monthly Reflection

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## December Events

- **December 3, Forum for Internationally-Educated Nurses:** hosted by the Government of Alberta to answer questions about working as a nurse in Alberta. More information at [www.health.alberta.ca](http://www.health.alberta.ca)
- **December 10, 6pm, Edmonton Chinese Engineers Society:** Annual General Meeting, Mirama Restaurant. More information at: <http://www.eces.cc/>
- **December 20, 3-6pm, M.A.P.S. Alberta Capital Region:** Open House, 10220-121 Street.

Remember to pick up a copy of the free and low-cost calendar of events happening in and around the city!