



Community and Health Services
Office of the Commissioner

Memorandum

TO: Members of Committee of the Whole

FROM: Adelina Urbanski,
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

DATE: June 11, 2015

RE: ***The Gateway Conference for Internationally Educated Professionals***

This memo is to advise that on November 9, 2015, York Region will be hosting its second conference for internationally educated professionals - *The Gateway*. *The Gateway 2015* conference will bring together 500 internationally educated professionals (IEPs), entrepreneurs and employers to connect, exchange ideas and learn from one another. *The Gateway* is an action under the *Immigration Settlement Strategy*, developed by the Community Partnership Council to address the economic and social integration of newcomers in York Region. The Community Partnership Council is co-chaired by Mayor Scarpitti, City of Markham and Stephen Lam, Director of Immigrant Services and Community Programs, Catholic Community Services of York Region.

By 2016, immigration is estimated to account for the entire net labour force growth in Canada¹. As the population ages, York Region businesses may face a labour market shortage in the coming years despite it being a popular destination for newcomers with approximately 13,000 arriving in 2013. York Region can benefit from the skills and experience of this growing and talented pool of labour.

The Gateway conference will include a series of workshops, panel discussions and networking opportunities where attendees will learn about:

- Canadian work culture
- credentials and accreditation
- entrepreneurial opportunities
- networking
- the local economy

¹ Kustec, Stan. *The Role of Migrant Labour Supply in the Canadian Labour Market*. Citizenship and Immigration Canada, June 2012.

Based on the top employment sectors in the region, the workshops will focus on:

- Information Technology
- Human Services
- Healthcare
- Industry and Trades
- Professional, Scientific and Technical, Engineering
- Business

Conference planning is being led by the Region with strategic direction provided by a Steering Committee representing community stakeholders from the settlement, post-secondary, and economic development sectors. The Committee has raised \$80,000 in funding for the conference. This includes \$60,000 from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities as well as donations from corporate sponsors.

Currently the conference program is being developed and speakers are being organized. Registration will open in summer 2015 through YorkWelcome.ca/TheGateway. There will be extensive outreach and promotion for the conference during the summer months.

Council will be provided with a report on the outcome of the conference in early 2016.

Adelina Urbanski
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

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