



MEDIA RELEASE

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LOCAL INITIATIVE AIMS TO INTEGRATE WORKERS WITH GLOBAL EXPERIENCE

[SUDBURY, ON] – The Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with MIRARCO, and with the support of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC), have joined forces to engage local employers in an effort to integrate internationally trained professionals.

“Greater Sudbury has expanded its reputation beyond resources. However, the mineral industry still plays a huge role in our economic growth and development,” acknowledges Jane Djivré, representing MIRARCO. “Everyone agrees that highly-qualified human resources are scarce. MIRARCO and the Greater Sudbury Chamber hope to become part of the solution through the ‘Highly-Skilled Professionals (HSPs) Recruitment Program’ for the mineral resources industry.”

The Highly-Skilled Professionals Recruitment Program is one of seven projects across the province that will form part of an OCC initiative entitled Global Experience @ Work.

“We’re proud to be able to support such a vital community program which clearly has the backing of many valuable partners and puts the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce in a position to be able to further invest in Sudbury,” says Len Crispino, President & CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. “Not only does each of these local projects meet a demonstrated need in the community, but they provide the vital link to employers – a link that is imperative if efforts to integrate immigrants with international experience, a segment of our workforce that has gone untapped for far too long, are to be fully realized.”

The first phase of the Highly-Skilled Professionals Recruitment Program will be developed with the assistance of a local consultant. Drawing on existing initiatives and known staffing needs, the program will define expedited placement pathways for internationally-trained HSPs based on an educate-train-upgrade-experience model. This initiative will involve participation of education providers, industrial receptor companies, and R&D organizations.

Global Experience @ Work is just part of an OCC strategy to better promote Ontario as a career, business and investment destination of choice, and to ensure that Ontario keeps pace with a competitive global economy by investing in human capital. It’s been reported that by

2011 immigration will account for 100% of Canada's labour force growth, making it essential that employers and immigrants connect.

"If we are to compete globally, we must help immigrants maximize their employment potential and help employers access this growing labour pool," explains Crispino. "We're already facing crippling shortages of skilled workers in Ontario, a shortage that will only get worse as a result of a declining birthrate and increased number of retiring workers."

After a detailed review process, projects were approved in Greater Sudbury, Brampton, Hamilton, Kitchener Waterloo, Markham, Ottawa, Richmond Hill, and St. Catharines. Collectively the projects engage 9 local chambers of commerce, and over 80 other community organizations.

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The OCC represents over 57,000 businesses through 160 local Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade, and has been Ontario's business advocate since 1911. Its advocacy and policy initiatives focus on six areas key to the economic well-being of the province: health; education; energy; finance & taxation; transportation & infrastructure; and border issues.

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