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SKILLS CONNECT FOR IMMIGRANTS PROGRAM

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WHAT IS SKILLS CONNECT?

Helps immigrants connect to employment in areas relevant to their skills and experience

Canada

British Columbia
The Best Place on Earth

WelcomeBC

The Skills Connect for Immigrants Program is part of the WelcomeBC umbrella of services, made possible through funding from the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.

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BRIEF HISTORY

- July 2006 – Dec 2010
- 9000+
- Sept 2009 – Aug 2011
- 2300 annually
- $12.3million annually

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SUCCESS RATE

78% of program participants successfully attached to the labour market

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Participant profile

- Skills, qualifications, experience
- Unemployed/underemployed
- Permanent resident
- Intermediate level of English or higher
- Settled sufficiently to focus on professional employment goals

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BARRIERS – Technical skills

- Credential recognition
- Lack of Canadian training/experience
- Language skills
- Job title mismatch

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BARRIERS – Soft skills

- Workplace communication
- Presentation – formal/informal
- Conflict resolution
- Negotiation and persuasion
- Building positive working relationships
- Asserting oneself effectively
- Giving and receiving feedback

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BARRIERS – Job search skills

Many skilled immigrants lack:

- Knowledge of LMI
- Job search skills
- Networks
- Confidence
- Time

May be resistant to process

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How does Skills Connect for Immigrants help?

- § Technical barriers – partial funding
- § Soft skills barriers – mandatory course
- § Job Search barriers – 1-on-1/group interventions

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For further information:

www.welcomebc.ca

www.issbc.org/skillsconnect