



MOSAIC

Spring 2010

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**MOSAIC**

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**MOSAIC's**

**Workplace Connections**

*Mentorship Program*

Workplace Connections helps immigrants move their careers to Canada.

We create mentorships with skilled immigrants and working professionals.

It is about relationships, cultural exchange and opening career paths in Canada.

# Working Papers

A newsletter for  
**Workplace Connections Mentorship Program**

## Let MOSAIC Employment Programs Help Your Job Search

BC's Labor Market is starting to pick up and experts say there is work to be found if you know where and how to look. In the past year, **MOSAIC Employment Programs** have assisted over 7,000 immigrant job seekers with their employment related needs. Our programs and services are designed to help you in areas such as resume writing, interviewing, labour market information and financial assistance for training. Individuals who attend employment programs are better prepared when looking for work.

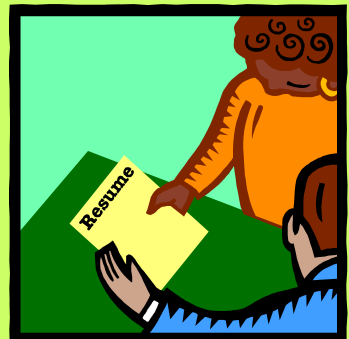
Here are some tips on how MOSAIC can help you with your job search:

### Visit an Employment Resource Centre

If you are unemployed or suspect that you may be laid off soon visit an **Employment Resource Centre** in Vancouver or Burnaby. Job seekers have free access to computers, high speed Internet, fax machines, photocopiers, labour market information, job search resources, and job boards.

### Update your cover letter and resume

Your cover letter is an important tool that introduces you to employers. It should include a brief summary of your education, experience and skills. The purpose of the resume is to get the interview. Studies show that the average hiring manager spends approximately 20 seconds looking at your resume. The truth is that most of us are not trained in creating this important marketing tool.



To ensure that your resume gets the expert attention it deserves why not attend one of MOSAIC's Employment Programs? **Career Connections**, **New Start** and **Direct to Work** programs all offer resume writing services that have helped thousand of job seekers to get interviews and job offers.

### Network

Networking is even more important in a tight job market. Call everyone you know and tell them you're looking for work. Ask each person if he/she can recommend someone else you could talk to. Attend job fairs, professional meetings, and conferences to meet people in your field and learn about potential job opportunities and trends. A great networking opportunity is available to you through MOSAIC's **Workplace Connections Mentoring Program**. **Tips N Talk** is another MOSAIC monthly networking event where employers offer workshops on working in their industry.

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### Update your skills

This may be the right time to return to school to upgrade your skills. Options include full or part time courses or online home study programs. If you are currently receiving Employment Insurance benefits or have been in the past three years, you may be eligible for financial assistance from MOSAIC's **Immigrant Access Training (iACT)** program. If you are a skilled immigrant who has been in Canada for five years or less, you may be able to receive financial supports from the **Skills Connect for Immigrants** program for upgrading such as courses, licensing and certification fees.



*There is no single best way to find work, but your greatest chance of success starts with getting help from the employment professionals at MOSAIC.*

### Use a variety of job search techniques

Don't rely on any one technique to find your next job. Most job seekers spend a majority of their time on major job boards instead of specific employers' websites or specific job boards for your industry or profession. We believe the best approach, especially in a competitive job market, is a multifaceted approach using a number of job search techniques. MOSAIC's **Job Developer** matches job seekers and employers, provides job leads and referrals to jobs and holds regular onsite employer recruiting sessions.

To learn about what programs and services that are available to you, why not make an appointment to see a **Case Manager**. Case Managers at MOSAIC are skilled professionals who will help you to identify your specific employment needs.

*Rumani Singh*  
MOSAIC Employment Programs

## Our hats are off to:

**Ain Li** is enjoying her new job at a small accounting firm. She is happy to be back on track. Ain says, "the beauty of working with a small firm is that I am exposed to everything from bookkeeping to tax and other statutory filing". A great learning experience for her. Ain credits her success to the effort she invested in networking. She met professionals in her field and maintained contact with them. Ain's advice to newcomers is to get out there and shake hands."

**Alper Kocer** accepted a job offer from Clearly Contacts, as a lab technician. The employment opportunity was sent to Workplace Connections by another newcomer who recently started working there. Alper is grateful that we shared the information and for his mentor, Allison who provided a great reference!

**Sinan Sendemir** who started his Canadian career with CIBC as a Customer Service Representative. With his wealth of banking experience in Turkey, we are sure he will quickly be celebrating promotions.

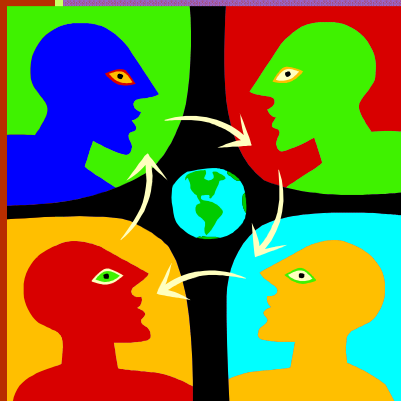
*All the best to each of you!*



*"Hats off to you" is an expression of respect.*

*It is usually said to someone who has done a job well.*

## 2nd Annual Immigrant Professionals Conference in BC



- Find programs and services offered by immigrant serving agencies.
- Learn from successful immigrants.
- Discover new strategies to assist you in your career path.

**Saturday, April 10, 2010, 9:00 am ~ 4:30 pm**

Executive Hotel, Burnaby

Register to attend. Space is limited.

There is no cost to attend this event. For more information:

**Toll-free phone:** 1-888-287-4957 x 229 **Email:** info@aspect.bc.ca



## From the Bookshelf

*By Cleusa Yamamoto*

Being new in the country, I am interested in understanding Canadian culture. My Workplace Connections mentor suggested I read the book 'How to be a Canadian' by Will Ferguson & Ian Ferguson. Written in a conversational style, the book is light and fun, and gives insights into Canadian life. It is not a serious guide to Canadian culture, but a caricature (humorous exaggeration). The book is critical of the Canadian way of living, without offering balancing positive notes.

Each of the 17 chapters corresponds to daily life topics - such as, Canada: A Rich Tapestry (How to mingle with Canadians), Mating Rituals (How to be as romantic as a Canadian), and Social Values (How to be as upstanding as a Canadian).

Anyone who has lived in Canada for some while – or even their whole life – may observe how their perceptions about Canadian culture matches the authors' views. For instance, about Vancouver, the Fergusons say: 'The official emblem of Vancouver is an umbrella turned inside out. With an activist chained to it. .... Vancouver: It's not just a city, it's a state of mind.'

Read it and you might add some new words to your vocabulary (e.g. mullet, pogy, Muzak). It is a worthwhile read for anyone who likes to laugh and is open to new perspectives about Canadian lifestyle.

I enjoyed the unpretentious and funny reading. It also helps me to have a sharp eye on the daily life events in the country!



# Mark your calendars!



## Working Sessions

Each month we hold meetings for all mentors, newcomers and interested guests. The evenings center around an activity, discussion or presentation related to job search and workplace culture.

**All meetings held at:**

**MOSAIC**  
**1522 Commercial Drive**  
**6:30-8:30 pm**

**Thursday April 15th**

### Volunteering in Canada

How can volunteering help your job search?  
What should you consider when you look for volunteer roles?  
Where do you find volunteer opportunities?

**Special guest: Stacey Ashton of Volunteer Connections**

**Thursday May 29th**

### Position Yourself – Resumes that Work!

In an increasingly competitive job market, its never been more important to stand out from the crowd.  
Learn to POSITION YOURSELF and get noticed.

**Special guest: Neil Pritchard of Resume Hut**

**Thursday June 17th**

### Intercultural Communications at Work

Join us for a discussion about how culture can affect how we work in teams, receive feedback, and supervision.

Register by:

**Phone:** 604-254-9626 ext. 483

**Email:** mentors@mosaicbc.com **Everyone is welcome.**

## Upcoming Orientations

### For Newcomers:

Friday Mornings  
9:30 am – 12:30 am

**April 23rd**  
**May 28th**  
**June 25th**

In the MOSAIC office  
1720 Grant Street

### For Mentors:

Saturdays  
9:30 am – 3:30 pm

**April 24th**  
**May 29th**  
**June 26th**

In MOSAIC's  
Community Room  
1720 Grant Street  
Ground floor

## MOSAIC Job Search Centre now open late every Thursday!

Services include:

- Advice on the best way to plan your career and find a job
- One-One job search support
- Access to computers, faxes, photocopiers, job postings and information on the job market.

**MOSAIC'S Employment Resource Centre for Immigrants**  
312 - 2555 Commercial Drive.

**Open on Thursdays from 8:45 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

