



TCWC

TRI-CITIES WELCOMING COMMUNITIES

tcwcp.successbc.ca

Is There a Newcomer Qualified for this Work?

Whatever your field the answer is probably "yes." In the Tri-Cities the following were the largest occupational categories of recent immigrants according to the 2011 census. Categories in which recent immigrants differed from the total population by more than 10% are marked with a + or -.

RETAIL TRADE:	16.5%+
ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES:	11.1%+
HEALTH CARE & SOCIAL ASSISTANCE:	10.4%
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL:	9.4%
CONSTRUCTION:	8.5%-
MANUFACTURING:	7%
EDUCATION:	6.7%-
FINANCE & INSURANCE:	3.8%-
INFORMATION & CULTURE:	2.9%-
TRANSPORTATION & WAREHOUSING:	2.8%-

(4.6% are categorized as "other services.")

IMMIGRANTS + HELP = A MORE EFFICIENT LABOUR MARKET

Immigrating to another country is never easy. There are a myriad of obstacles to overcome. But with support from the governments of Canada and British Columbia, numerous organizations provide a variety of services to ease the transition. These services not only support new immigrants but also benefit employers and the business community.

Finding Workers and Preparing Them for the Job

Skills Connect is the province's immigrant employment program. It is an individualized employment bridging program that helps skilled immigrants connect to jobs in BC that build on their pre-arrival skills, training, knowledge and experience with services including the following: www.welcomebc.ca/Work/fqr/fqr-qualifications/skills-connect.aspx

- Assesses recent immigrants' skills, qualifications and experiences
- Provides career counseling and planning
- Provides skill upgrading and other enhancements, including workplace language support
- Offers workplace practice opportunities, such as mentoring

In the Tri-Cities Skills Connect is delivered by a variety of community service providers including:

- Back in Motion Rehab, www.skillsconnect.ca
- Douglas College, www.douglas.bc.ca/training-community-education/skills-connect.html
- Training Innovations, www.skillsconnectbc.com/
- Immigrant Services Society of BC, www.issbc.org/prim-nav/programs/career-services/skills-connect-for-immigrants

In addition to Skills Connect, there are several other Tri-Cities programs that assist new immigrants with their job search. These programs not only support newcomers to find work, but are an excellent source of workers and on-the-ground information. S.U.C.C.E.S.S. (several programs), www.successbc.ca. Immigrant Services Society of BC (several programs), www.issbc.org : Douglas College (Employment Skills Access Program): www.douglas.bc.ca/training-community-education/skills-access

Tri-Cities WorkBC Employment Service Centres

WorkBC is the government of British Columbia's source for labour. In addition to resources for both employers and jobseekers, it is home to a comprehensive job-listing service that is easily accessible to employers. www.workbc.ca. In the Tri-Cities WorkBC contractors include the following: In Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam: Avia Employment Services, a division of Back in Motion, www.aviaemployment.ca. In Port Moody: Training Innovations, www.portmoodyesc.com





TCWC

TRI-CITIES WELCOMING COMMUNITIES

tcwcp.successbc.ca

The Tri-Cities Welcoming Communities Project

The communities of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody attract a significant share of immigrants to Metro Vancouver. Immigrants and refugees are offered an array of settlement and support services, but research shows that basic settlement services alone are not enough to integrate and retain new immigrants. What makes the difference is a community's overall receptivity.

The Tri-Cities Welcoming Communities Project was born out of that recognition. In partnership with 21 government and community stakeholders and Welcome BC, TCWCP aims to dramatically improve our capacity to be welcoming communities for newcomers to Canada.

Several initiatives are underway.

A Workplace Integration program addresses problematic gaps in understanding between newcomers and potential employers. The goal? To grow the capacity of workplaces to be more welcoming, so that newcomers can settle more quickly and in turn contribute more to the local economy.

Welcoming Spaces follows from research showing that when immigrants develop a sense of belonging they are much more likely to stay in the community and contribute positively.

The Tri-Cities Service Map provides a comprehensive, community-based database, representing and highlighting the services and supports of the Tri-City area as a community.

And Our Home, Our Stories identifies and highlights the nature and special features of immigration within the Tri-Cities.

MORE HELP IN THE TRI-CITIES

BECAUSE WORK LIFE EXTENDS BEYOND THE HIRING PROCESS

Creating an environment in which recent immigrants can thrive involves much more than job finding and employment preparation. Fortunately, in the Tri-Cities dozens of organizations provide immigrants employment and settlement services. As part of the multi-pronged Tri-Cities Welcoming Communities Project, these services have been compiled into an easy-to-access online directory. Whether you're a newcomer experiencing life in a new country or an employer concerned about employees' support networks, it's important to know what is available and how to access it.

Find the directory at:

www.coquitlam.ca/city-hall/City-Government/new-residents/newcomers-directory.aspx

The directory holds information about the following types of services, and much more:

- Employment services
- Family, youth and seniors programs
- English as a Second Language
- Housing
- Multilingual help lines
- Parenting
- Personal and family counselling
- Refugee services
- Settlement services
- Training and skill upgrading
- Women's services

Languages Spoken At Home

Language is an issue that many Tri-Cities immigrants and their employers must deal with, but even among recent immigrants English is the language most likely to be spoken at home, according to the 2011 census. Of course, there are also many advantages to having a multilingual workforce with a global outlook.

English	27%	Russian	4%
Korean	16%	Tagalog	4%
Mandarin or Chinese	15%	Romanian	3%
Persian (Farsi)	11%	Arabic	2%
Spanish	5%	Punjabi	1%