
**ACCESS TO TRADES BY INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED
TRADESPERSONS IMPROVED THROUGH
NEW PROGRAM INITIATIVE FUNDED BY
THE MINISTRY OF TRAINING, COLLEGES, AND UNIVERSITIES**

(Toronto) – July 5, 2004 – COSTI Immigrant Services is pleased to announce the launch of a new project that provides community agencies across Ontario with up-to-date and clear information on the Trades Apprenticeship System in Ontario. **The Newcomers Connecting to Trades Apprenticeship Resources (NeCTAR) project is designed to facilitate the access of Internationally-Trained Tradespeople to apprenticeship and employment opportunities through improved provision of service delivery.**

NeCTAR is funded by the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities, and supported by the Consortium of Agencies Serving Internationally Trained Persons (CASIP). NeCTAR is a partnership project between COSTI, ACCESS and JVS Toronto; connecting community agencies with Internationally-Trained Tradespeople (ITT), employers, unions, apprenticeship offices, training programs, and other service providers. Its aim is to develop training materials and provide training to community-based agencies that will enhance their capacity to provide appropriate information, counselling, referral, and improve community outreach to ITT.

To ensure that training materials meet the needs of ITT and community-based agencies, pilot training sessions will be held in September and November for 100 Internationally-Trained Tradespeople and 50 community-based agencies frontline staff. Final training sessions will be delivered to 200 staff of community-based agencies across the GTA. Information materials will be distributed to agencies across Ontario at the end of the project.


COSTI Immigrant Services is a community-based multicultural agency providing employment, educational, and social services to new Canadians and individuals in need of assistance. Since 1952, COSTI has been helping those in need, assisting newcomer professionals and tradespersons, individuals looking for employment, providing hope to refugee families, protecting women and children, strengthening families, combating racism and discrimination, and assisting all those who function at a disadvantage in society. With a staff of over 200 people, speaking more than 60 languages, COSTI strives to ensure that all individuals, regardless of language, cultural, or financial barriers, are given the opportunity to use their existing skills, learn new ones, and participate in all aspects of Canadian life. COSTI presently provides support to over 41,000 individuals annually.

ACCES provides employment and training services to adults from diverse backgrounds facing barriers to employment, to integrate into the Canadian job market. ACCES achieves this by providing employment services, linking employers to skilled people and building strong networks in collaboration with community partners. ACCES officially opened in 1986 and now the majority of those who currently use the services are new immigrants with international work experience and professional skills to contribute to a skilled Ontario workforce.

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JVS Toronto is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization that partners with both the government and business sectors to help people succeed. With a focus on educational and vocational services, JVS Toronto helps thousands of people from diverse backgrounds with diverse needs to identify their strengths, goals, develop skills and achieve success in school, work and life.

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**For further information, or to arrange
an interview, please contact:
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