

NCON Professional Development Conference

September 2014

Peel Halton Workforce Development Group (PHWDG) hosted its sixth annual NCON Professional Development Conference on September 26th, 2014 at the Novotel Toronto Mississauga Centre Hotel in Mississauga. Ninety-three people attended, primarily front-line workers from immigrant serving agencies.

Ravi Jain, certified specialist in citizenship and immigration law, opened the conference with a keynote address titled “An Overview of the Overhaul of Canada’s Immigration Laws.” He was followed by two workshops, delivered simultaneously, each to half the audience in the morning, half in the afternoon.

Pamela Paterson taught her audience how to adjust their resumes to the new automated resume-review systems that many employers are using.

Murali Murthy presented five proven strategies for unlocking potential, maximizing talents and leading teams.

Nina Spencer closed the conference with her keynote titled “Getting Passion out of Your Profession: How to keep Loving your Living” in which she presented interactive exercises and strategies for reconnecting with your early love of your work plus techniques for boosting your passion and giving your best.

A hot breakfast, a hot lunch and coffee breaks completed the day.

QUOTES TAKEN FROM ATTENDEES AT THE 2014 PD CONFERENCE

“I found this conference to be extremely helpful and informative! I’ve been to many conferences and this is by far the most engaging and relevant conference that I’ve been to in the last five years. The information was relevant and presented in an exciting and engaging way. The speakers were dynamic, engaging and passionate in presenting their material. I learned a lot and am going to bring a wealth of information back with me. I especially liked Nina’s presentation and it really spoke to me.”

“NCON conferences have always come up with good speakers and this is one workshop we all look forward to. NCON has always provided quality workshops and we always come back with good moments and learning experiences. We would like to see NCON conferences in the near future.”

“For non-profits on fixed budgets these conferences allow for continued skill development which in turn is spread to the clients – leading to increased skills possibly better chance of getting jobs which means service provider reaches outcomes which also means the funder looks good as well.”

“Today’s session illustrated that “old-school” methods are out the door! Service providers need to stay cutting edge in order to support the clients – which supports the funder.”

“I would like to stress how important and valuable these workshops were for me as a front line worker, assisting individuals in need. It was refreshing and very much needed. These professional development events offer the opportunity for much needed networking, information gathering and learning. A lot of our organizations have no funding for training and this posed as an alternative to assist in our professional development. I am thankful for the opportunity.”

“Settlement workers are already facing barriers to professional development opportunities and the nature of our work calls for frontline staff and managers to be exposed to the most current and up-to-date information. Effective settlement leads to immigrant success, which essentially leads to Canadian economic and social success. Newcomers need the support to quickly transition into life in Canada which they cannot do effectively without settlement services; therefore our settlement sector needs investment in professional development to further catapult Canada’s future toward success, where immigrants are the future!”