

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE OTTAWA COMMUNITY
ONE PROFESSIONAL CONNECTION
AT A TIME



If you are interested in becoming
A **CONNECTOR** or **CONNECTEE**
please contact us at

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**national
CONNECTOR
program**



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

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**OTTAWA
CONNECTOR**
Building an inclusive Ottawa community
one professional connection at a time



OTTAWA CONNECTOR program is a formalized networking initiative that helps broaden Internationally Educated Professionals' networks through one-on-one meetings with established business leaders who work in the same field. It is a simple yet highly effective referral process that helps local businesses and organizations connect with talented newcomers who want to build a career and settle successfully in Ottawa.

HOW IT WORKS

MATCH

The Connector program matches Internationally Educated Professionals (Connectees) with successful local professionals (Connectors). They are matched based on industry experience, professional backgrounds, or the Connectee's interest in a specific sector.

CONNECT

Once the match has been made, the Connector and the Connectee meet face-to-face to discuss topics like:

- Professional backgrounds
- Skills and areas of expertise
- Sector related news
- Ottawa labour market

REFER

Connectors are asked to refer the Connectee to three people in their network, and in turn, each connection is asked to refer the Connectee to another three contacts. These referrals may be other professionals within the Connectee's field, members of an association, sector seminar, networking event etc.

WE BELIEVE IN
everyone's ability to **ENRICH**
Canadian society through their **UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION**

BECOME A CONNECTOR

CONNECTORS are successful professionals with well-established professional networks in Ottawa, who:

- Enjoy making introductions and connecting people
- Have listening skills and can give supportive and effective feedback
- Have a desire to support internationally educated professionals with building their network

CONNECTOR'S ROLE

- Meet with a Connectee for a one hour informational meeting once or twice per year
- Listen, ask questions, and share up-to-date sector knowledge and trends
- After the meeting, provide the Connectee with three other relevant contacts in their industry within two weeks. Each of your contacts will be asked for another three referrals

BENEFITS OF BEING A CONNECTOR

- Gain the sense of achievement of helping newcomers succeed in Ottawa
- Be seen as a professional or organization who values and supports international talents
- Bring value to your network by connecting people who could benefit from knowing each other
- Increase awareness about your organization and industry
- Contribute to a program that leads to greater community engagement and encourages a culture of inclusion and collaboration

BECOME A CONNECTEE

WHY PARTICIPATE ?

The Ottawa Connector Program supports you to build a professional network within your sector to gain more information from different professional perspectives. By building a professional network, you make new contacts and become informed. This will help you build a successful career in Ottawa.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE ?

OTTAWA CONNECTOR Program is open to individuals who meet the following criteria:

- Permanent Residents, Convention Refugees, Canadian Citizens, or International Students
- Live in Ottawa and have arrived in Canada within the last 10 years
- Have international post-secondary education and/or professional work experience
- Have Canadian Language Benchmark 7 or higher
- Are currently unemployed or working in a role that does not match their skills and education

BENEFITS FOR CONNECTEES

- Gain access to successful professionals with well-established networks in Ottawa to expand and diversify your professional network
- Understand your sector, field of interest, and the local job market better
- Share details about your experience and expertise
- Gain valuable feedback about your job search strategy and career path
- Establish connections to help you develop your career in Ottawa