



**Arthur Kroeger College of Public Affairs  
Award for Citizenship and Community Affairs  
2010**

**Citation for Hire Immigrants Ottawa**

The jury for the Arthur Kroeger College Award in Citizenship and Community Affairs has unanimously selected a project which we believe has demonstrated a creative and common sense approach to the integration of immigrants into the Canadian community.

In recent decades, new Canadians have increasingly arrived on our shores from countries and cultures significantly different from the Western European nations that traditionally supplied Canada with emigrants. One of the unintended consequences of this cultural shift has been the exclusion of recent immigrants from skills-appropriate employment, as businesses favour employees who match the organization's dominant culture. This is damaging to the immigrants themselves, as appropriate integration into the work force is a necessary first step toward engaged citizenship, and to the country as a whole. According to the Conference Board of Canada, under-employment of immigrant workers costs the Canadian economy almost \$6 billion a year.

Emerging from a partnership of government, private sector and third-sector agencies, *Hire Immigrants Ottawa* was launched in 2006 and over the past four years has effectively engaged and recruited the business and employer community to create real and respected work for new Canadians, and in doing so they have shown persistence, leadership and remarkably good citizenship which is indeed worthy of this special recognition.

It is my pleasure to present this award to Hire Immigrants Ottawa's Director, Mr. Henry Akanko.