

Conference promoting immigrant employment wraps up

Published on March 24th, 2010
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Ottawa Business Journal Hire Immigrants Ottawa concluded its annual Employer Council of Champions Summit Thursday, an event that drew representatives from public- and private-sector organizations, immigrant serving agencies and other groups.

The two-day gathering featured a learning exchange, networking events and a keynote address by Carleton University's Linda Duxbury.

The 2010 Employer Excellence Awards, meant to recognize local employers who have implemented innovative practices in the recruitment and retention of skilled immigrants, were also handed out. OCRI's TalentBridge program, the City of Ottawa and Revera Health Services were each recognized with an award.

"With declining birthrates, decreasing numbers of post-secondary graduates, and a coming wave of retirements, Ottawa's employers face impending skills shortages, and they need to prepare their workplaces for the effective recruitment and integration of skilled immigrant talent," said representatives of Hire Immigrants Ottawa, in a release.

The organization said that according to Statistics Canada's latest projections, by 2031 more than 25 per cent of Canadian residents will likely be foreign-born. That's the highest proportion since confederation, it added.