

## **Hire Immigrants Ottawa gets \$1.9M in government funding**

*By Ottawa Business Journal Staff*

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A local agency that works with Ottawa employers to remove barriers to recruiting and retaining skilled immigrants says it will expand its activities after receiving a \$1.9-million provincial grant.

Hire Immigrants Ottawa will form a new working group focused on the biotechnology sector, complementing the present working groups concentrated on the health-care, information technology, finance and public sectors.

"Programs like United Way Ottawa's Hire Immigrants Ottawa have proven effective in getting newcomers jobs that match their skills, expertise and qualifications," said Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Michael Chan in a statement.

Citing the Conference Board of Canada, Hire Immigrants Ottawa said that labour demand will outstrip supply by 2014. The local organization previously said immigrants will account for all of Ottawa's net labour market growth by 2011.