

Summit Brief

2014 Employer Council of Champions Summit & Awards

Theme: Leveraging Immigrant Talent to Grow and Diversify Ottawa's Economy

The annual Employer Council of Champions Summit is a premier event that brings together over 100 business, government and civic leaders in a program designed to inform, celebrate and inspire employer excellence in Ottawa. The main objective of the event is to increase awareness about systemic barriers to the effective integration of skilled immigrants. It also provides valuable information to assist employers in creating policies and practices that will help them access and fully utilize the tremendous skills available in Ottawa's immigrant talent pool.

This year's Summit will highlight the opportunities that skilled immigrants present for economic growth and diversification of the economy in the National Capital Region. Immigration is both a source of business investment dollars and new entrepreneurs, as well as an important source of the skills needed by the dynamic growth sectors of Ottawa's economy, including telecommunications, software, photonics, semiconductors, life sciences, and others.

The 2014 Summit program will accentuate the support required to leverage immigrant talent for business development; including programs to identify and support immigrant business aspirations, and workplace policies and practices that effectively leverage and integrate the skills of newcomers. Harnessing the full potential of immigrant talent in these ways would contribute significantly to numerous economic development objectives, including the expansion of trade and the development of new products and services to fuel business expansion.

The two-day Summit program features prominent keynote speakers, expert panel discussions, a learning exchange, networking opportunities, Newcomer success stories, and the presentation of the [2014 Employer Excellence Awards](#).

At the Learning Exchange on Day 1, the keynote address will be delivered by **Bruce Linton**, an Ottawa-based entrepreneur a founder, CEO and Board member of a range of enterprises. Mr. Linton has extensive experience pursuing business endeavors in more than 30 countries around the globe, and he will discuss the value of leveraging immigration for economic growth in small and medium sized businesses in Ottawa.

At the Summit Breakfast of Champions on Day 2, the keynote address will be delivered by **Edward Greenspon**, Editor-at-large for Bloomberg Canada. Mr. Greenspon chaired the Global Positioning Strategy for Canada project, an initiative of the Canadian International Council, which produced the report "[Open Canada: A Global Positioning Strategy for a Networked Age](#)". A former Editor-in-Chief of The Globe and Mail, Ed will discuss the role that skilled immigrants can play in helping to secure Canada's place in the global knowledge economy, and how employers and governments might more effectively leverage this diverse global talent to strengthen entrepreneurialism, innovation, and competitiveness among Canadian businesses.

Day One - March 18, 2014

Learning Exchange and Networking Reception

12:00noon – 6:30 p.m.

Venue: National Arts Centre (Panorama Room) 53 Elgin Street, Ottawa

Day Two - March 19, 2014

Breakfast of Champions and Employer & Awards

8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

For inquiries about the summit, contact us at events@hireimmigrantsottawa.ca or 613 683 3370.