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## Four local employers honoured for hiring, integrating immigrant workers

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**Four local employers were honoured Wednesday for their leadership in hiring and integrating skilled immigrants into their workforce.**



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*Employer Excellence Awards were presented on Wednesday at the 2015 Employer Council of Champions Summit at the National Arts Centre.*

The Business Development Bank of Canada, Epocal, the Ottawa Catholic School Board and the Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre received Employer Excellence Awards at the 2015 Employer Council of Champions Summit at the National Arts Centre.

Working with local agencies and bridging programs, the BDC has hired 28 new Canadians since 2010.

Epocal recognizes international academic, professional and work experience qualifications at face value, and its current staff will take new hires with the same cultural experiences under their wing to help them fit with the company's culture.

Sixty-two per cent of the OCSB's English as a Second Language instructors are immigrants from a wide range of faiths and cultures.

At the PQCHC, 39 per cent of staff represent its diverse population, almost half of which consist of immigrants.

The awards, which were presented by the Employer Council of Champions and Hire Immigrants Ottawa, are designed to connect employers with immigrant agencies and

stakeholders to make it easier to access the pool of skilled immigrant workers available in Ottawa.

“The four award winners today provide concrete examples of the actions and policies employers can undertake to create diverse and inclusive workplaces, and we thank them for sharing their success stories,” ECC co-chair Gaye Moffet said in a statement.

The summit attracts more than 100 senior executives and HR professionals each year to discuss the importance of integrating immigrants into the Ontario workforce.

In his keynote address, former senior vice-president and chief economist for TD Bank, Don Drummond said hiring immigrants is good for the overall economy.