



ARE THINGS IMPROVING FOR SKILLED AND PROFESSIONAL IMMIGRANTS?

By Tim Matharu

Toronto- As I sip my coffee; I glance at the screen. Finally the words “Shashi Vohora is typing a message” appear on the screen. Her reply to a simple question [what should new immigrants do to be successful in Canada] blows me away and sets the tone for our discussion on the difficulties immigrants face when moving to Canada.

“In my opinion, the technical skills are there but engineers develop self-doubt. Emphasis has to be on soft skills like confidence building; familiarization with engineering interaction and day to day dealings as they vary in all cultures and countries.”

Similar to others before her; despite Vohora’s impressive credentials and work experience she did not immediately land a job commensurate with her skills and qualifications in Canada.

“I had chosen Canada for family reasons and for its demand for engineering and management. I had assumed engineering would be similar to New Zealand and the UK where I had previously worked” says Vohora.

After one year of searching; Vohora met Dr. Gurmeet Bambrah; chief consultant to the “Council for Access to the Profession of Engineering.” (CAPE)

It was at that pivotal turning point that Vohora realized that she had a chance to make it in Canada. Under Bambrah’s guidance and tutelage; Vohora developed core skills and experience that would augment an already formidable skill set.

“I learned a lot at CAPE. For the first time in my life I experienced what happens to highly qualified and skilled people when they are struggling to find a job. I found out how people lose their confidence and self-esteem. I was lucky to be given the opportunity to work with intelligent and motivating people where I was encouraged to learn and acquire new skills. I consider myself lucky to have worked under the direction of someone so passionate about her work like Gurmeet. I am indebted to her for all the encouragement and confidence she gave me” says Vohora.

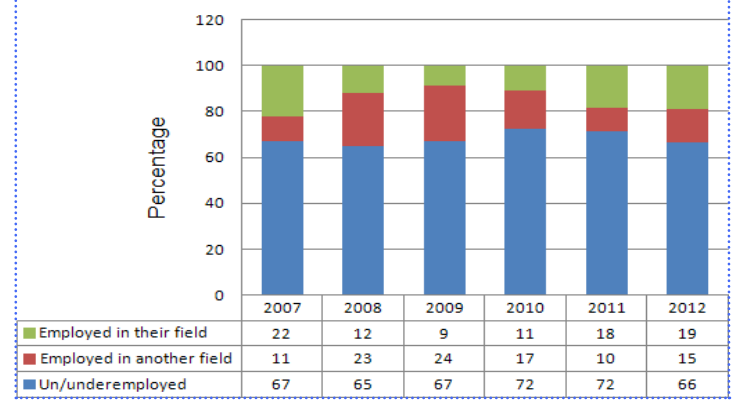
Vohora’s persistence has served her well and has landed her a job

offer for a Product Developer and Technical Coordinator of Wood and Resin based materials in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

“If there’s one piece of advice I can offer to immigrants it’s to have belief in themselves and be persistent. Don’t give up” quips Vohora.

Vohora is looking forward to the new journey ahead with one small caveat. “I love new challenges and look forward to applying what I have learned at CAPE. However; I am not looking forward to the winter and cold weather” she says with a laugh.

Employment Statistics - CAPE Membership



- In 2007, 22% of CAPE members were working in their designated fields as Engineers. At the height of the recession and leading until the end of 2010; this number dropped to a low of 11%
- In 2010, 17% of CAPE members were working in fields that did not relate to engineering. In 2012, this rate dropped to 15%
- In 2010, the Un/Underemployment rate was approximately 72%. In 2012 this rate dropped to 66%

CAPE news, benefits and STEM updates

Please visit the CAPE website to access our new Career and Job Board.

CAPE and Zylog have embarked on a new and exciting partnership that benefits all Job Seekers and Employers. Read the Zylog press release about the CAPE dedicated career site.

CAPE is starting a new Mentoring360 initiative in March to link its members with employers using a unique Mentorship model. More in updates.

Please check out Job postings on the CAPE and Zylog Career Board.

CAPE Career Board is now providing job seekers with access to numerous benefits, such as;

- Access to industry specific jobs
- Access to job boards
- Set up Alert feature to be directly alerted of Matching jobs
- Flexible privacy features for confidential job application
- Save jobs for future reference, and more

CAPE will be transitioning to a STEM approach in the near future. Stay tuned to find out more on the possibilities this presents to Engineers, ICT professionals and new immigrants.

CAPE is sponsored by Rai Grant Insurance

CAPE members get preferred rates and discounts on their home, auto and business insurance. Our insurance provider is Vikas Ramrakha of Rai Grant Insurance Broker. They offer a range of competitive insurance solutions, professional advice and personal service providing you with protection for your assets and valuables.

Reach Vikas by phone at 416-558-3061 or by email at

vramrakha@raigrantinsurance.com.

When you call, be sure to mention you are a member of CAPE to receive your exclusive rates!

If you have recently moved or any of your contact details have changed, please update your information online or by calling us at 416-955-0563 or send us an email at tim.matharu@capeinfo.ca



Want to join CAPE?

Interested in becoming a mentee (student) or mentor (teacher) in the Mentoring360 program? please contact Tim at tim.matharu@capeinfo.ca

Questions? Contact us at tim.matharu@capeinfo.ca.

Visit www.capeinfo.ca for more information