



CANADIAN CENTRE FOR
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LE CENTRE CANADIEN POUR L'ÉDUCATION EN ENVIRONNEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Online Resource Centre to Help Immigrants Enter Environmental Sector

September 4, 2007, Victoria, B.C. – The Canadian Centre for Environmental Education is launching an online resource centre to help immigrants and potential immigrants enter the environmental labour market in Canada.

Resources provided by the new online resource centre include a database of environmental job postings, up-to-date research on industry trends, and a network of over 2,000 employers.

“The employer network is perhaps the most important resource because recent labour market studies we have conducted show that 37 per cent of immigrants lack social networks to assist them in finding employment,” said Grant Trump, president and CEO of ECO Canada (Environmental Careers Organization). The new online resource centre will not only address that challenge but also offer immigrants and new Canadians the necessary information to prepare a resume, to make contacts with employers and to be generally ‘job-ready’.

ECO Canada and Royal Roads University jointly sponsor the Canadian Centre for Environmental Education. The federally funded initiative aims to offer education, training, professional development and accreditation for members of the environmental professions – whose sector is the fastest growing in Canada.

“I think it’s an excellent idea to set up an online resource for newcomers to Canada,” says Michelle de Cordova, who recently immigrated to Canada from the Netherlands. “There is a lot of helpful information about what newcomers can do to overcome barriers to employment.”

De Cordova is herself a student in the centre’s certificate in environmental practice program. The program, which is open to Canadians and non-Canadians alike, addresses a major challenge facing immigrants to Canada: the lack of foreign credentials recognition. The program offers up to 50 per cent credit to individuals with relevant training and/or work experience, allowing newcomers to enter the workforce sooner.

The certificate program’s concentrations are based on standards set by the industry to ensure that training matches the needs of employers. It is delivered via the Internet, providing flexibility to those working full-time or who have other commitments. Its distance-based format allows potential immigrants to complete the program from abroad,



preparing them to begin a meaningful environmental career immediately upon entering Canada.

For more information about the services offered by The Canadian Centre for Environmental Education, visit www.ccee.ca or contact the centre at info@ccee.ca.

Background

Based in Victoria B.C., [Royal Roads University](http://www.royalroads.ca) is designed to meet the needs of learners and the requirements of the global marketplace by offering a combination of highly focused professional programs and an accessible learning model that specializes in innovative, Internet-based program delivery.

[ECO Canada](http://www.eco.ca) is a national, not-for-profit organization that helps to strengthen the Canadian economy by providing a critical link between industry's need for qualified environmental practitioners and those looking for career and skills development in the environment professions.

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