



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**New Certificate Helps Immigrants Integrate into the Canadian Labour Market by Offering Courses Relevant to Industry**

February 8, 2007, Victoria – The Canadian Centre for Environmental Education (CCEE) has taken the next step in ensuring that its Certificate Program in Environmental Practice will help immigrants integrate into the Canadian environmental work force by offering courses that are closely aligned with the needs of Canada’s environmental employers.

The program is a partnership between ECO Canada and Royal Roads University, but the unique collaborative venture sees more than 30 universities and colleges from across Canada stepping up to offer the most up-to-date and relevant online courses that can be used by participants to fulfill the requirements of the certificate.

“Greater cooperation between the various institutions across Canada has allowed the CCEE to gather quality courses that can be offered to potential immigrants, newcomers, and as professional development for current environmental practitioners. The certificate is a great example of how the academic community is coming together to offer education that will meet the current needs of the environment sector,” says Grant Trump, President and CEO of ECO Canada.

To ensure that courses being offered are linked to the needs of today’s environment sector, four program advisory committees of academic and industry experts were formed to evaluate the relevance of the courses according to the National Occupational Standards for Environmental Employment (NOS). The NOS are standards that were created to define the skills and knowledge that are needed to do environmental work in Canada.

“The NOS were validated by more than 1,000 environmental practitioners and employers from across Canada—with representation from all areas of environmental employment,” says Trump. “Using these standards as a basis for the certificate’s course offerings creates the link to industry and makes it more likely that the program’s graduates will find meaningful long-term environmental employment.”

For more information, see [www.ccee.ca](http://www.ccee.ca)



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## **Background**

ECO Canada 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.

Based in Victoria B.C., Royal Roads University 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.

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