

## New Beginnings Online Helps Newcomers “Hit the Ground Running!”

**Mark Larson, NBO Facilitator**

During the winter of 2007/08, 13 CIIP candidates from China, the Philippines and India participated in an online distance education program called New Beginnings Online (NBO). Developed by the Metropolitan Immigrant Settlement Association of Halifax, Nova Scotia, the program was delivered in close partnership with CIIP and with Skills International.

The aim of the highly interactive NBO program is to assist skilled professionals to become fully prepared to effectively search for work in Canada. Over a four-month period, three NBO workshops were delivered to a group of participants who had been approved to immigrate to Canada through the Federal Skilled Worker Program. Workshop topics included The Job Search, Interview Skills, and Working in Canada.

In the Job Search Workshop, participants learned about targeting resumes and cover letters, methods of job search, identifying and researching potential employers, marketing themselves and researching their own occupation in Canada. They compiled lists of potential employers in their particular province of destination.

During the Interview Skills Workshop, participants learned how to prepare for Canadian job interviews. They learned what to expect at the interview, what kinds of questions they might be asked and what is important to Canadian employers.

The Working in Canada Workshop covered basic employment issues such as employment contracts, taxes, organizational culture, workplace culture and success in the workplace. It was designed to help participants feel more comfortable and confident working in the Canadian workplace.

*“I think New Beginnings was able to collate in one series of seminars all the relevant information and labour market considerations newcomers need to be acquainted with when they get to Canada. It has definitely helped me particularly in giving me a good checklist of things I have to consider, from searching for jobs, submitting applications, interviewing and working. I feel that things would be less of a surprise for me when I do get to Canada.”*

Michael Zapata

*“NBO workshop had a lot of useful information which I was able to use in my job search process. During the first month of my arrival in Canada at least four companies contacted me for a preliminary interview based on my resume. During my second month of stay, I was being seriously considered by three companies (of the three companies at least one had already done reference checks). Then before I ended my third month I got an offer from one company and I am truly grateful to all those who have assisted me to transition well here in Canada.”*

Leonard O. Escanlar

One participant from the Philippines took advantage of the online program while carrying out his duties as an IT Manager on a cruise ship. He progressed through all three workshops while traveling the Atlantic and the Pacific and provided regular location updates with his assignment and group discussion contributions. He successfully found a job in his field within less than two months of landing in Canada.

*"I have just happily landed a job in the IT sector 1-3/4 months from the time we landed in Canada."*

Buddy de Leon

For a comprehensive report on the online program visit:

[http://www.misa.ns.ca/documents/NBO\\_Pre\\_LandingReportJuly2008final.pdf](http://www.misa.ns.ca/documents/NBO_Pre_LandingReportJuly2008final.pdf)