



TRIEC

Toronto Region Immigrant
Employment Council

New Realities. New Opportunities.

FACT SHEET

Background

TRIEC launched the Professional Immigrant Networks project to develop a stronger, collaborative relationship with these groups, and to help build their collective capacity to deliver services and activities that are more effective in connecting their skilled immigrant members to employment

Definition

TRIEC defines professional immigrant networks as: organized, volunteer-run groups created by and for internationally-educated and experienced professionals who seek to:

- create a forum to contribute to and enrich their respective communities;
- cultivate social capital;
- self-identify;
- self-brand;
- find meaningful employment, primarily in their areas of professional practice;
- sharpen their skills-set, and;
- keep abreast with current trends and changes in their respective sectors.

Directory and Settlement.Org Partnership

TRIEC created a directory of immigrant networks and partnered with Settlement.Org to position the tool for maximum accessibility online. The directory is available for download both by sector, and ethno-specific networks, as well as in its full format at Settlement.Org.

Who Would Benefit from the Directory?

- Employers seeking un-conventional methods to recruit top talent
- Immigrant-serving agencies that want to connect their clients with established sector and ethno-specific networks
- Recent, established, and prospective skilled immigrants trying to cultivate professional connections within their fields of practice
- Professional associations currently engaging new individual and organizational members
- Government agencies seeking to communicate with immigrants directly

Learning Network

TRIEC is helping networks to build an online and offline learning network to foster strategic alliances and promote labour market integration of the skilled immigrants they serve.

Key Statistics

- 72 active networks found during TRIEC's environmental scan
- Collectively the networks have a reach of over 30,00 immigrants
- Over 90% have formal structures with board or an executive arm
- 42% are incorporated, non-profit organizations
- 100% deliver organized activities for their members
- 77% groups are ethno-specific
- Over 76% are sector-specific
- Groups span at least 11 sectors: engineering, accounting, social work, architecture, IT, law, healthcare, business management, food service, natural sciences, and academics
- Engineering groups have the strongest presence with a reach of over 16,000
- Legal networks are the most recent groups and more ethnically diverse
- Organization patterns of networks reflect Canada's changing immigration models.