



Shell's \$1.8 Million Helps Immigrants find Employment

June 30th, 2010 – Calgary, Alberta – Shell has partnered with United Way and other community agencies to help create meaningful employment for new immigrants in Calgary. By generously investing \$1.8 million, Shell is working to provide newcomers to Calgary with strong, positive work opportunities that will help them become adjusted in a new city.

“We know that approximately 50 per cent of new immigrants in Calgary are not working in the profession that they are trained in,” says Lorraine Mitchelmore, Shell Canada Country Chair.

“In 2007, there were more than 20,000 new immigrants that came to Calgary. We at Shell believe it is important for newcomers to find jobs that match their skill set, education and experience because it also helps fill the employment gaps in the city.”

The \$1.8 million investment supports initiatives such as today's “Networking for Success;” an event that builds relationships between foreign trained professionals and Calgary employers. Seven “Networking for Success” events have been held since September 2009. From those events 40 skilled immigrants have found full-time or part-time employment; many have found employment in their specialized areas of work.

“This is an incredible initiative by Shell,” says Ruth Ramsden-Wood, President of United Way of Calgary and Area.

“We know most immigrants who come to Canada face challenges; they must learn a new culture, possibly learn a new language, and find a job. Helping immigrants overcome these challenges is a big part of our work at United Way, and with Shell's support we feel we can really make a difference in the community.”

Rosa Martinez came to Calgary in March 2009. She left her home country of Peru because she knew Canada would provide better education for her 10 year old daughter. She had done her research before coming, but did not expect finding a job to be so difficult. Through her own efforts Rosa found the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society who invited her to “Networking for Success.” Rosa knows integration is more than just learning a new language, it is learning a new culture. She attended the event to grow her Canadian network and ended up finding a job.

“Finding a job was critical for me to stay in Canada. I needed to support myself and my daughter. The event was an incredible opportunity to meet Canadian employers and learn more about Canadian culture,” Rosa says.

To learn more about United Way's Adult Immigrant Strategy visit www.calgaryunitedway.org

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