



2017

# AUTUMN

EDITION



ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT & INTEGRATION PROJECT

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NEWSLETTER

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## AEIP BEIJING SERVICE CENTRE CELEBRATES 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY

On August 25, 2017, AEIP Beijing Service Centre opened its doors to clients and partners in celebration of its two year anniversary in Beijing.

CEO of S.U.C.C.E.S.S., Queenie Choo, and Director of AEIP Programs, Johnny Cheng, took the time to fly from Vancouver to Beijing to show their support. It was all hands on deck for the team at AEIP Beijing Service Centre to bring this event to life. Clients also attended the celebration to show their appreciation of AEIP services. Mr. Wang, a client from a nearby province, arrived at the event before doors even opened, having taken the first train to Beijing early in the morning. Mr. Wang is an active client of AEIP Beijing and believes its services can provide enormous benefits for clients preparing to land in Canada. He attends each event to connect with others preparing for their immigration.

Head of the Immigration Section of the Embassy of Canada to China, Mark Eichhorst, also attended the event. Representatives from British Columbia Trade and Investment office in Beijing, the Canada China Business Council, partners from Canadian and Chinese banks, law firms and representatives from medical examination centers for immigrants all came together to share in celebration the achievements and accomplishments of the AEIP Beijing Service Center in the past two years.

The celebration kicked off at 10A.M. with a Farewell Meeting organized by Maya, a Settlement Practitioner at the AEIP Beijing office. Clients preparing for the landing process spoke with our settlement practitioners and clients who have already been through part of the process. Clients were able to share their comments, expectations and concerns. This Farewell meeting

provided an opportunity for sharing and networking between clients who are trying to navigate their way through the settlement process.

Our distinguished guests and friends of the AEIP Beijing Service Centre exchanged greetings with one another and with the staff to learn more about our work and possible partnerships. After the conclusion of the Farewell Meeting, Queenie Choo and Mark Eichhorst, expressed their hopes and expectations for the future of the project as well as wishing the clients their best through settlement process.

To celebrate AEIP Beijing's accomplishments, the team at the Beijing office prepared a video summarizing the events and successes over the past two years. Since its establishment in 2015, AEIP Beijing has served more than 2,000 new immigrants, mostly looking to settle Quebec, Saskatchewan, and Ontario. With clients spanning all across China, the Beijing team has traveled to over 9 cities hosting more than 20 events to meet their clients face-to-face to bring workshops, one-on-one consultations and exchanges of conversation between clients.

Our guest Mark Eichhorst along with our youngest client at the celebration joined in hand for the cake cutting ceremony to bring the celebration to an end.

*Written by: Maya Sun*

*Settlement Practitioner, AEIP Beijing Service Centre*

## AEIP SEOUL – 2017 FALL EMIGRATION FAIR

On September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, Seoul COEX hosted the 2017 Fall Emigration Fair. With over 20 years of history, this reputable emigration fair was a great success with many exhibitors and attendees. Local and international education companies, schools, embassies, provincial governments, cultural agencies, emigration consulting agencies and tourism agencies from various countries participated in this fair and provided useful information on emigration and studying abroad.

Currently the AEIP Seoul Centre participates in the Emigration Fair biannually, in spring and fall. As observed in previous immigration fairs, promotion was determined to be the foremost important task for potential applicants, whose goals are to become permanent residents in Canada. As a bridge to Canada in Korea, AEIP Social media channels are promoted to potential clientele.

This fair was a great opportunity for the AEIP Seoul Centre to promote its services. Many people were not aware that the AEIP services are supported by the Canadian Government as a pre-departure program and that the AEIP services are free to all AEIP clients.

*Written by: Liddy Hur*

*Program Assistant, AEIP SEOUL Service Centre*



## ONB CONNECTS

### PROVINCIAL CONNECTOR PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH POST-SECONDARY TRAINING, EDUCATION AND LABOUR (PETL)

#### WHAT IS A CONNECTOR PROGRAM?

The Connector concept is a simple yet formalized referral process that engages community and business leaders (Connectors) in helping newcomers & local and International graduates (Connectees) build professional networks and connect to the local labour market.

#### HOW DOES THE CONNECTOR PROGRAM WORK?

**MATCH:** Newcomers and recent local and International graduates, pre-qualified as Connectees, are matched with local employers and community leaders who volunteer as Connectors. They are matched based on industry experience, professional backgrounds, or the Connectee's interest in a specific sector.

**CONNECT:** Connector and Connectee meet face to face for 30 minutes to discuss topics like:

- Professional backgrounds
- Skills and areas of expertise
- Sector related news
- Labour market

**REFER:** Connector refers the Connectee to a minimum of three people in their network, and then each of these people are asked to refer the Connectee to three additional Connectors.

#### BENEFITS FOR THE CONNECTOR:

- Provides a sense of achievement and leads to greater community engagement
- Increases awareness about your organization and industry
- Adds value to your network by connecting people who could benefit from knowing each other
- Offers access to newcomers and new graduate talent

#### BENEFITS FOR THE CONNECTEE:

- Provides insights into the local job market
- Builds your professional network
- Establishes connections to improve the likelihood of finding employment
- Gain valuable feedback about your job search strategy and career path

*Written by: Sungmi Song,  
Multicultural Association of Fredericton*



## MY IMMIGRATION JOURNEY

The idea of immigration occurred to me by chance. I then began preparing the immigration applications of my family step by step. However, when our immigrant visas were finally granted, I felt so lost in the face of uncertainty. A person's biggest fear often stems from the unknown. At the time, I had no idea of what changes we would face after giving up what we had and starting a whole new life in another country; I was not sure whether I had made the right choice.

In the following days, haunted by a sense of anxiety, I began collecting various resources I need for our immigration. I have a proactive personality, and only actions could help me address the anxiety. I chose to do some research on the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) website, the proven most direct way to gather immigration-related information, where I happened to find a pre-departure service provider for new immigrants – AEIP. After becoming a registered member of AEIP, I soon received the one-on-one consultation service provided by Vivi, a Settlement Practitioner at the AEIP Beijing office. Her professional explanations and advice gave me a good first impression. She also proposed to me a guidance manual tailored for my family, which included all the pre-arrival preparations and various urgent formalities to be done after landing. Moreover, she offered me extensive important information on various issues such as industries, career guidance, community resources and guidance for children's enrollment, and helped me contact with AEIP's service centers in Canada. It was not until the moment I got these materials that I started to feel reassured, because a clearer vision of the upcoming life in Canada erased all the doubts and guesses in my mind.

At first, AEIP Beijing's team impressed me as a group of young and energetic professionals. Later on, I found that the structure of the team was well justified, with each team member having his or her own role to play. At AEIP Beijing, every Settlement Practitioner has a long-time experience in studying, working or living in Canada, boasting rich experience in the country. In addition, everyone is highly specialized in a specific area. For instance, Maya received higher education in Canada, and has a very deep understanding of the country's education system. Kind and amiable, she answered all my questions with great patience, even though she was not my designated Settlement Practitioner. Amy is a Canadian born Chinese speaking fluent Mandarin. She shared with me the authentic Canadian life from a native perspective. Taylor is a brilliant lecturer with a good sense of humor. I liked all her workshops although I never had the chance to meet her in person. Rick is a Canadian Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and knows only too well the country's taxation system. As a newcomer to the so-called "Country of Thousand Taxes," I bet tax filing is an essential skill. They also have Michael, Tehya, Ao and other outstanding team members. Every Settlement Practitioner is so nice and helpful.

I benefited a lot from each workshop held by AEIP Beijing, which covered almost every aspect of the life in Canada, including the history and culture, rules and regulations, overviews of each province or territory, the social welfare system, employment, education and healthcare. I wrote down every piece of information that I found useful and always filled my notebook after each workshop. With the notebooks full of helpful

## MY IMMIGRATION JOURNEY

information in my hand, I felt more and more confident. More importantly, I was no longer confused about my future life, because I believed that I had made thorough preparations for whatever situations that may occur, and that everything would go on according to my plan or at least under my control. In addition, I was lucky enough to participate in AEIP Beijing's two-month-long training on employment in Canada. The training covered various topics and arranged dedicated supervising teachers to review and correct your homework, and provide all-round coaching, including listening, speaking, reading and writing. Amazingly, all these services were free! You may never believe there is such thing as even free lunch in this world, but thanks to AEIP, new immigrants to Canada can have this unbelievable opportunity to enjoy the first bonus even before departure! No pre-arrival service agencies, except AEIP committed to serve newcomers to Canada, and provide such valuable services for free.

In May 2017, we picked a special day – our 8<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary – to land in Canada, becoming permanent residents of the country. When arriving at the Vancouver International Airport, my family was so exhausted, waiting to meet the immigration officer. Again, we received thoughtful services from AEIP. They came to us and delivered the first warm greeting we heard after setting foot on the land where our new

home would be – “Welcome to Canada!” At that moment, we were so moved and grateful. It was with AEIP's help that we successfully landed in Canada. It was because of AEIP's services and those warm words that I have fallen in love with this caring country. We are so grateful for all these things, and we will strive to make contributions to Canada in return and help those friends who are as lost as we were before.

Life is not just about what we have now, but also about what we dream for in the future. Although Canada is hundreds of thousands of miles away from my hometown, AEIP's selfless and careful help has made me feel that it is not as far away as it sounds, so are our freedom and happiness. **Thanks a million!**

*Written by:*

*Client from AEIP Beijing Service Centre*



## SHARING MY IMMIGRATION EXPERIENCE IN TORONTO

I am a new permanent resident of Canada originally hailing from Hong Kong. Before I went to Canada, I participated in a forum held in Hong Kong by AEIP, from which I gained a lot of useful information. I would like to share my experience upon first arriving in Canada.

I chose to settle in Toronto. While at the immigration counter at the Toronto Pearson International Airport, I showed my COPR and passport to a customs officer. The officer led me to the nearby Service Canada counter. Actually, it only took me several minutes to get my SIN and some pamphlets for newcomers. After around half an hour, I left the airport.

I arrived in Canada alone and have lived in one place from the first day that I arrived. Over the past few months, I have met a lot of friends. Some people who have lived here for a while wanted to help me find an apartment and provided suggestions. However, I am satisfied with my current residence, so I haven't moved. If you can make more friends and pay more attention, you will know which areas require less money to live. You will also know which areas are safer and more prosperous. There are a lot of Chinese people in Markham and Scarborough. There are more job opportunities and shopping areas downtown and in the suburbs. But if you want to find IKEA or certain stores, you still have to rely on an online search engine to find them. In addition, since the development of public transportation in Toronto is far behind that of Hong Kong, driving a car is much more convenient. This is something you need to be especially aware of.

In terms of looking for a job, AEIP helped me much in getting in touch with local immigrant serving agencies like COSTI and YMCA in Toronto. The YMCA in Toronto provides employment services, including notifying clients of job opportunities, employment fairs, or on-site job interviews. Their practitioners also follow up on new immigrant job search. With the help of some new immigrants who came to Toronto before me, I am now waiting for a job referral while gathering employment information. As I've said before, the YMCA really provided a lot of support.

Among all the services they provide, I personally think job referrals and information sessions were the most useful. Newcomers should tap these resources for employment services provided at the YMCA, and should go often to search for employment information. If you plan to find the same job as you did before moving to Toronto but feel you lack certain skills, I advise that you get career counseling at a local employment service agencies to assess what you are currently capable of, or you can enroll in training programs or attend employment fairs. As I am a translator by profession, when I found out that there were translation programs in Toronto, I decided to enroll in the program. I have taken language assessment at the YMCA, and am currently taking a free French language training program provided by the government. I hope to have more translation and related job opportunities in the future.

I gained a lot of useful information from AEIP and, thanks to them I was able to get in touch with local organizations. I hope that AEIP can hold forums in Hong Kong more frequently to provide information necessary for people who want to immigrate. This is especially true for those who have not visited Canada beforehand, it can lead them to the information they need. Service institutions for immigrants can provide information about living as well as jobs and education. In addition, I strongly suggest that newcomers make more friends. Since there are a lot of immigrants in big cities in Canada, immigrants usually need to provide each other with help and information. Because of this, newcomers regard building relationships with others as an important matter. Therefore, recommending job positions or providing advice on buying cars, living, and shopping are a common sight in Canada, while it is seldom the case in Hong Kong. Immigrants should actively collect needed information and be sure to take advantage of every opportunity.

*Written by: Chung-On Tse,  
a client who received services from AEIP Hong Kong*

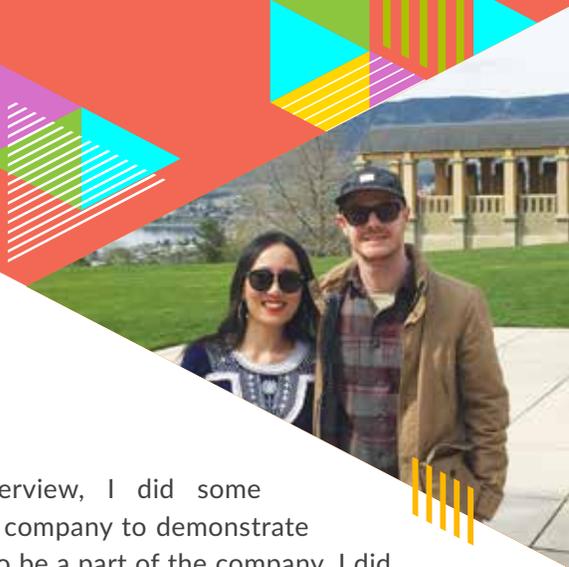


## “WORRIED, EXCITED AND HAPPY!”

My name is Suji Kwon. I landed in Edmonton, AB, in August 2016 through the spousal sponsorship program. It feels like yesterday when I left Korea with excitement and anxiety but it already has been one year since I arrived in Edmonton. My husband is Canadian and had been living in Korea for a long time but he wanted to go back to Canada to build a family. I was also very exhausted from my work as I had to work nights and weekends. We thought our futures would be bright in Canada.

Before landing in Canada, I planned to get a job in animation and graphic design. From day one, my husband and I tried hard to get a job in Edmonton. I customized my resume and cover letter and made my portfolio again. My husband got a job Mark Eichhorst, within three months through a local network, but it was not as easy for me. There seemed to be no jobs in my area of expertise, animation. Graphic design, which is related occupation, had more opportunities. Despite applying for many jobs, I did not get any interviews. I had come to think that it would be difficult for me since I am a foreigner who has no education or experience in Canada. I decided to go to college to build my career. I did not think about getting a job for a while and I spent several months studying English. One day, by chance I browsed a job search site and I saw a job posting for an animator and applied. I was fortunate enough to have an interview and successfully received a job offer.

During my job search, I attended AEIP employment seminars and prepared my resume in advance of my departure. I went through mock interviews during the 1 day Job Search Program. This definitely helped me to be more comfortable during my actual interview.



Before my interview, I did some research on the company to demonstrate my motivation to be a part of the company. I did not have any experience in Canada, but my employer highly valued my work experience in Korea and asked many questions on my previous experience.

And the most important thing is English in my opinion. Canadians seem to welcome foreigners with an open heart, but everything seems possible when the language barrier is not too high. Even though I got a job, I still struggle with English and I am working hard to minimize the language barrier.

There were times when I was depressed about my future as I was unemployed and looking for schools. I once went abroad for a brief period of time for language training, but living overseas as an immigrant is a totally different story. Although you give up many things when immigrating to another country, it does not guarantee a better future. So everyone tends to be afraid and nervous. But I also think life is something we do not know unless we face it. I did not think I would be like this when I was preparing for my immigration. Now I am very happy with the company that I am working with and I actually get happiness from my new job. I hope you find my letter helpful and encouraging. I wish you all the best in your adventure in Canada.

*Written by: Suji Kwon,  
AEIP Seoul Centre client*





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ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT & INTEGRATION PROJECT

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