

A successful co-op experience

By Dipti Amin

New immigrants to Canada with successful professional experience from their home countries often meet many barriers trying to find a job in Canada. The following is a first person account of what happened to one of those people.

I landed in Canada on June 23, 2005, from India. I have a Bachelor of Commerce degree with a major in accounting. In India I worked in one of the most reputable banks for 25 years, the majority of the time in the loans department.

When I came here, I began to search for a job and soon ran into a big barrier: the resume. I didn't know anything about a resume and I felt so upset. Then I came to know that the government has a lot of support for newcomers. I went to the HRDC office in Rexdale and attended different workshops on how to make a resume, write a cover letter and prepare for the interview. I also attended Microskills workshops where they trained me for the interview. I was ready to start my Job search.

I applied to about 30 places and out of that only three or four offers of an interview came. At every interview, I was asked for my Canadian experience, which I didn't have. I felt so frustrated. I spent the next three months looking for a job with no luck, so I decided to return home to India. I felt there was no value in my education and work experience in Canada.

Throughout this whole experience, my husband gave me lots of support and encouragement. Eventually, my brother-in-law told me about Emery Adult Learning Centre. I registered at Emery in co-op in September and was placed in the Bank of Nova Scotia for four months. On January 27, 2006, the Bank of Nova Scotia hired me on a casual basis, a good start.

I got the job because of the co-op program at Emery Adult Learning Centre. I want to thank the co-op teaches and the counsellors, but especially my co-op teacher Sally Noval for her support and encouragement. She helped me to regain my confidence.

I also want to thank my family for all their support: my husband, my mother-in-law, my brother-in-law, my children and my friend Jyoti.

Thanks again to Emery and all its staff members. I appreciate all the support, guidance, and assistance and help I received from all of you.

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