



Directions for Immigrants in
Trades and Professional Careers

**Study Groups
Start Dates**

Clear Communication
for Business
September 22

Clear Communication
for Health Professionals
September 19

Canadian Registered
Nurses Exam (CRNE)
October 14 and 18

APEGGA National
Professional Practice
Exam **October 19 and
22**

Pharmacy Examining
Board of Canada
(PEBC) Evaluation
Exam **January 14 and
25, 2012**

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Issue 12

September 2011

Nurses scored a 90% rate of success on accreditation exam

90% of the Internationally educated nurses who completed the last Canadian Registered Nurse Examination (CRNE) study group at Directions for Immigrants passed the June CRNE. The CRNE Study Group consists of 14 3-hour sessions dedicated to go over the learning materials developed by the facilitators Nabeela Azeem and Joumana Tasse, Career Coaches, and Linda Shorting, Registered Nurse (RN). "We provide our clients with weekly quizzes and effective tools to take the 4-hour test," says Nabeela.

The CRNE is offered by the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) 3 times a year. It measures 148 necessary competencies for safe and effective nursing practice. As the CNA website reads, the competencies are organized into a framework that reflects a primary healthcare model in 4 categories: Professional Practice, Nurse-Client Partnership, Health and Wellness and Changes in Health.

The participants focus their efforts on the critical thinking required by the exam. "I found two challenges: learning the ethics in Canada and coming up with the rationale of the questions," says Dyna Riza Bau, one of the applicants who passed the test in June. Dyna

is an internationally educated nurse with 2 years of experience in a hospital in the Philippines and 3 years in a clinic in Saudi Arabia. She is currently working at a care centre in Calgary and is excited to be licensed as a Registered Nurse in Alberta.

Passing the CRNE will allow the participants to obtain licensure and apply for RN positions to better their career. Directions assists them to gain the RN accreditation through the delivery of the CRNE Study Group, access to a library with specialized books and materials and one-on-one career coaching.

In fact, many of the other clients who took the test are working in different fields such as working with older adults,

Maternal-Newborn, Emergency, General Medicine or Surgical, affirms Nabeela.

The findings of the Alberta Short-Term Employment Forecast released by the Ministry of Employment and Immigration indicate the Registered Nurse Occupation is one of the top 10 that will be in demand in 2012 and 2013. "What is unique about the Alberta labour Market is that there are two main urban centres and many rural areas, where there is a high need for Registered Nurses willing to relocate," Linda indicates.

The next CRNE Study Group will be offered on Tuesdays starting from October 18 until January 24, 2012. Contact (403) 297-2555 for more information.



Joumana Tasse, Linda Shorting and Nabeela Azeem, CRNE Study Group facilitators, share the good news with participants



Directions for Immigrants is on TWITTER. Follow us at @bvcdirections

CARNA has new English level requirements

Effective July 1, 2011 the minimum scores accepted by the [College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta](#) (CARNA) on the English language tests will change. Applicants who take the [Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses](#) (CELBAN) test will be required to obtain a listening score of 10, instead of 9 as it was previously. For the [International English Language Testing System](#) (IELTS) test, the new overall score required will be 7.0 instead of 6.5. For details please visit the CARNA website.

Directions has served 655 clients since January

The first seven months of 2011 have been very active at Directions for Immigrants. This government funded career centre has supported 655 internationally educated and experienced professionals work toward securing employment in their profession and gaining accreditation from January to July.

Clients have utilized the centre's resources, met with a career coach; and attended the workshops offered by the centre.

Out of those 655 clients, 260 of them have developed an action plan with their career coach setting realistic and informed employment goals. If a client has an action plan they are able to get personal help with their job search from a coach who knows the most effective ways to get hired. As Karen Jenkins, Directions' Business Leader,

explains: "The action plan has proven to be an effective strategy to re-start a career in Canada."

Since January, Directions has provided 67 workshops to learn effective techniques to target employers and build networks such as: How to Network, Orientation and Job Search Strategies, Information Interviewing in your Labour Market Sector and Industry Networking Sessions.

One of the unique services Directions offers is the Professional Exam Study Groups for Engineers, Pharmacists, Nurses, International Medical Graduates and Medical Laboratory Technologists as well as the Job Success Study Groups for participants in non-regulated professions.

So far this year, 19 Study Groups have been completed.

Jan—Jul 2011

- » 655 clients
- » 260 action plans
- » 67 workshops
- » 19 Study Groups

Considering that each group runs 14 3-hour sessions a week for approximately 14 weeks, the facilitators and clients have invested a total of almost 800 hours preparing clients to take the accreditation exams.

The Directions team welcomes professional newcomers to visit our offices and receive our services.

Directions offered first Speed Mentoring Event



Directions offered the first Speed Mentoring Event last June 23 when representatives from Nexen, Hatch Canada, Worley Parsons, Tri-Ocean Engineering, Weatherford, and EllisDon Construction volunteered their time to meet one-on-one with 8 job seekers for 10 minutes each to offer assistance with their work search and provide information about their industry. The participants, mostly engineers from various disciplines, gained first-hand insights into the local job market.



Directions had their traditional Stampede Lunch on July 13th where clients, community groups, agencies and Bow Valley College staff shared a delicious menu that included beef on a bun, salad, and vegetarian chilli. "It has been a tradition for the last 3 years. We had the biggest turnout we've ever had as we hosted around 90 people," explains Karen Jenkins, Business Leader.

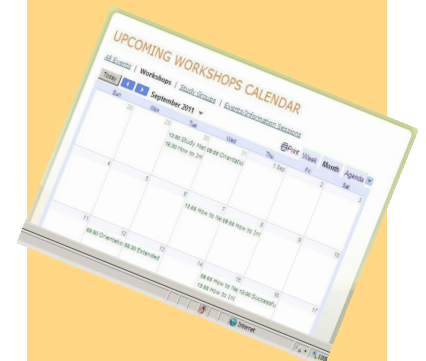
"The event offered great opportunity for professional associations to meet with

internationally-trained professionals and gain knowledge of their unique needs," says Cindy Jing Fang from the Alberta College of Social Workers. "The Calgary Stampede is the only event that brings together Calgarians from every neighborhood, cultural background, age and interest" expressed Roberta Kuzyk-Burton from the Calgary Public Library.

Directions has already marked the Stampede lunch in the event calendar for the next year and is looking forward to see you all again.

Check out our calendar!

Directions for Immigrants posts the upcoming workshops on its calendar. Click [here](#).



Interview tips:

What's your salary expectation?

When preparing for an interview, make sure you have a well-thought answer when you are asked the question: "What's your salary expectation?" According to the website www.job-interview.com, you should consider these 5 factors prior to setting your number:

1. The salary you earned in your last position
2. The salary standards in the industry
3. The current market situation
4. Your work experience and qualifications /credentials
5. The salary you aim for

alis.alberta.ca/wageinfo/ is a helpful resource where you can find out the average salary a professional earns. The site gives the option to search by keyword, region, National Occupation Classification Code, among others. Once you select the occupation, it will display the low, average and high rates based on 2009 Alberta Wage and Salary data.

Contact your career coach at Directions if you would like to include a mock interview in your career action plan.



Directions for Immigrants in Trades and Professional Careers

Helping Immigrant Professionals restart their careers in Alberta

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Directions for Immigrants in Trades and Professional Careers support internationally trained and experienced professionals towards securing employment in their profession and gaining accreditation.

- Career Coaching
- Study Groups for Licensing Exams
- Workplace Communication
- Industry Networking Sessions

Our location:

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