



Go Beyond the Small Talk

Joan's tips on how to start good conversations

How do you like this weather? What do you do for a living? These are typical small talk questions people ask at professional networking events, but do they really help you get to know the person? Not really, says Joan Matsusaki, career coach at Directions for Immigrants.

In our most recent Networking Session, Joan challenged our internationally educated professionals to go beyond the small talk and truly connect with people.

"You have to be willing to ask questions at a deeper level and be able to take the risk when meeting someone new. If you show real interest, they will most likely respond positively," says Joan. For example, following the question "Where are you from?" you could ask "What was it like to grow up in that town?" or "If I were to visit, what places would you recommend?" The answers will tell you so much more about that person than just a spot on the map.

Joan suggested to think about questions that cover safe topics such as the ones mentioned in the video "[How to engage in better small talk](#)" by radio host Malcolm Azania.

If you truly engage in someone's story they will reciprocate rather than thinking that you are just trying to get a contact in the industry. "In today's economy with many people out of work it is better to ask the questions "What is your profession? And why did you choose that career?" rather than "What do you do for a living," suggests Joan.

If you are an internationally educated professional and would like to practice your networking skills, join our networking sessions at Directions for Immigrants. The upcoming session is on May 25. Call us to book an appointment to determine your eligibility 403-770-5155.

Occupations A to Z

Social Worker



We help internationally educated professionals in any occupation in any industry. For this edition of the newsletter we are highlighting the occupation of Social Worker. Social workers help individuals, families, groups, and communities to enhance their individual and collective well-being. They help them develop the skills and use their own resources to resolve problems. In Alberta, social workers must be registered with the Alberta College of Social Workers (ACSW) to practice this profession. Internationally educated social workers need to apply for an assessment from the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) to have their credentials evaluated. According to the CASW 2016 Annual Report, "CASW completed 102 individual assessments of applicants from 33 different countries seeking equivalency of their internationally obtained social work education to Canadian standards." Visit the Directions for Immigrants website to learn about the registration process for internationally educated social workers.

HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS



Career Coaching

Learn how your career coach can help you

Check out our latest [video](#) to learn how a career coach at Directions for Immigrants can help you achieve your goals. Career development professionals advise, coach, provide information and support people who are looking for work and needing help with their careers. Basically, career coaches help job seekers in the same way that soccer coaches help players improve their skills.



Success Story

Congratulations to Diarmuid

Congratulations to Diarmuid! He is an internationally educated professional from Ireland who became permanent resident in 2016 and landed a job as an employment counsellor with a Calgary based health clinic. "I attended two valuable workshops at Directions for Immigrants, How to Information Interview and Power of Positive Attitude. Also my career coach Marina shared practical

knowledge on job applications and employment events. As a job seeker the key is to get practical information and resources to help you secure a position. This was available to me at Directions for Immigrants," says Diarmuid.



NCLEX-RN

Janice's story

Janice one of our Registered Nurse facilitators for our NCLEX-RN exam prep study group speaks on this [video](#) about her own journey and how much she enjoys seeing our internationally educated nurse clients succeed. If you are an internationally educated nurse planning to write the exam in 2017 join our no cost [NCLEX-RN exam prep study group](#). Saturdays, May 6 to August 26, 2017. Call 403-770-5155 to book an appointment to determine eligibility.

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