



City of Vancouver's Chief Engineer Recognized as Skilled Immigrant Mentor Receives IEC-BC Leadership Award

VANCOUVER, BC - Vancouver city's chief engineer Peter Judd and his team have been helping skilled immigrants get established in their engineering careers in Canada since 2011. To date, every one of the people Peter has mentored through IEC-BC's MentorConnect program has landed a job in their field.

IEC-BC recognized Judd's commitment to immigrant employment and integration with a Leadership Recognition Award at its inaugural awards event on April 9, 2015.

"Mentoring immigrants is important to the economic future of the city," said Judd, who retires this month from a 33-year career with the city. Each of the people mentored by he and his staff are engineers, qualified and successful in their country of origin. But once in Canada, they face hurdles they may not have anticipated, such as how to get a resume to the top of the pile.

Judd has mentored three new Canadians and tells of a recent mentee who was highly qualified, but his resume was so low-key and subtle, it would likely be weeded out at an early stage of recruitment. He worked with him on building a resume that would be noticed and help get his foot in the door for an interview.

"The people I see are very accomplished in their field, but they haven't figured out the work culture and the nature of such things as a resume, a cover letter and how to conduct yourself in an interview here," he said. Judd is also a participant in IEC-BC's Connector program and has made introductions that helped qualified job-ready immigrants make important connections in their field and occupation.

For new Canadian Stivan Ircal, Judd's mentoring provided confidence and connection. Ircal was a successful project manager of large-scale developments in Dubai when the world economy crumbled in 2009. As work dried up, he and his family moved to Canada but, once here, he found he needed Canadian qualifications in order to work, and even with those, he wasn't getting work that matched his level of expertise. Judd connected him with a Vancouver developer who advised him on how to present himself to his ideal employer. Ircal got a job with his corporation of choice and now, two years later, he's managing a team and has had three promotions.

"I needed support and encouragement and Peter was always there, supporting and teaching me," said Ircal.

For Judd, mentoring skilled immigrants has its own rewards.



“People who are generally very accomplished just need a way into an organization and we’re giving them the tools,” he said. “Mentoring has opened my eyes. I’m not so quick to judge when a resume is poorly written and doesn’t hit the mark. I know now, it doesn’t mean they’re not the person for the job. It makes you realize what people go through when they move to a new country and rebuild their lives.”

Funded by the Government of Canada, Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Province of BC, IEC-BC is a provincial non-government organization that stimulates the integration of skilled immigrant talent into the province’s workforce by fostering solutions, building connections and being a champion to help employers attract and retain skilled immigrant talent.

To learn more about the IEC-BC Leadership Recognition awards visit <http://iecbc.ca/2015-leadership-awards>