

## HOST: HEMLOCK PRINTERS AND THE BURNABY BOARD OF TRADE WORKFORCE INTEGRATION FOR BURNABY'S IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY

OCTOBER 10, 2008

### LEADERS:

**Dick Kouwenhoven**, President & CEO, Hemlock Printers

**Darlene Gering**, CEO, Burnaby Board of Trade

### DELEGATES:

**Dirk Odenwald**, CFO, ABC Recycling Ltd

**Bill Bullis**, President & CEO, BCAA

**Don Wright**, President, BCIT

**Brad Alden**, Publisher, Burnaby NOW

**Justin Stubbs**, Vice President - Commercial Mortgages - Ontario Region, Citizens Bank of Canada

**Sav Dhaliwal**, Councilor, City of Burnaby

**Len Kluft**, Director of Human Resources, Electronic Arts

**Robert Meggy**, President & CEO, Great Little Box Company

**Ed Jaskula**, General Manager, Hilton Vancouver Metrotown Hotel

**Bala Naidoo**, Regional Director, Investors Group

**Tom Babbs**, Centre Manager -Lougheed Town Centre, 20 Vic Management Inc.

**Leza Muir**, Senior Vice President, Pacific Blue Cross

**Dave Wood**, Managing Partner, Sheldon Wood Creative Associates

*Burnaby is one of the most ethnically diverse municipalities in Canada with visible minorities making up over 50 percent of its population. Sadly, employment rates between Canadian citizens and immigrants differ by up to 16 percent. Integrating the immigrant population into the workforce is a challenge that local community organizations are addressing through job-readiness support, skills training, mentorship, and job placements.*

Delegates convened at **Burnaby Family Life Association**, an agency offering family life education, emotional and practical support, and clinical treatment. Here, immigrant women told their stories of workplace integration through the Women of the World mentorship program and the Moving On program for employment readiness.

The tour continued to **S.U.C.C.E.S.S.**, a multi-service provider that helps new Canadians overcome language and cultural barriers and engage in their local community. At S.U.C.C.E.S.S., tour delegates discussed the challenges and needs required for integration into the Canadian workforce with participants and employers of the Youth Employment and Mentorship programs.

Lastly, delegates met clients at **Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia**, an organization that provides programs to immigrants and refugees through partnerships with non-profits, families, and businesses in the Greater Vancouver area. The organization offers language courses, skills training and pre-employment programs and directs individuals towards employment opportunities to help them integrate into the Canadian workforce.



*A delegate speaks with a youth engaged in an employment and skills training program.*

CBSR recognizes Coast Capital Savings and Vancouver Foundation for their contribution to the Seeing is Believing program.