
For Immediate Release

City of Cambridge Picks Up Employer Recognition Award

Cambridge, Ontario. Oct 31, 2008... The City of Cambridge was recently applauded for its programs to support employment opportunities for newcomers and immigrants in our community. Staff picked up the "Employer Recognition Award" at the annual breakfast hosted by the Employment Facilitation Network of Cambridge and North Dumfries.

The network represents a group of agencies focused on area employment initiatives. The group hosts an Employer Recognition Breakfast each year to acknowledge local businesses that provide support and employment opportunities to individuals in our community.

"We are honoured to be recognized in areas that support the growth and opportunity of people in our community," says George Vandermey, Director of Human Resources Services with the City. "Every business knows the importance of the people in the organization and it's a priority for our municipality to continue to enhance opportunities for workforce development."

YMCA Cross Cultural & Immigrant Services nominated for the City of Cambridge to receive recognition for outstanding contribution toward providing opportunities to newcomers and immigrants. In their submission they write, "The Corporation of the City of Cambridge provides mentorship to internationally trained newcomers. The collaboration between mentor and mentee, gives opportunity for the participants to learn about the necessary skills required for employment in their specific occupation, labour market opportunities and requirements, industry trends and developments. These learning and networking opportunities lessen the isolation of newcomers, and help to reduce employment barriers preventing newcomers/ immigrants from facing undue and necessary hardship. We want to thank the Corporation of the City of Cambridge for [their] continued support of our clients and programs."

Established approximately four years ago, the employment facilitation network came together with assistance of the Waterloo Wellington Training and Adjustment Board (WWTAB) and the Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries.

"I congratulate the City on their award. It is so important to see corporations like Cambridge showing leadership to the rest of the community in providing opportunities for people who are looking to enter the workforce and may have faced barriers to employment," says Carol Simpson, Executive Director WWTAB. She notes the community initiative is available for employment service providers in Cambridge and North Dumfries to network and support each other in assisting a variety of people including those with disabilities, new Canadians, youth and older workers re-entering the workforce.

The City of Cambridge is a growing and vibrant area of some 125,000 people. According to Census Canada data released in 2006, there are 25,225 people who are foreign-born living in the municipality, many of them immigrated to Canada more than two decades ago.

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The City of Cambridge is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. It is strategically located astride highway 401 in Southwestern Ontario, part of Canada's Technology Triangle. In 2008, the population reached over 125,000 people. With a multicultural mix and a strong foundation of support services, Cambridge has a diverse economic base with leading industries in manufacturing, automotive, high technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a work environment that offers the opportunity to provide service to the community through creativity and innovation, and with opportunities for career growth and advancement. Based on the 2007 BMA Management Consulting Inc Municipal Study, the City of Cambridge is one of only four municipalities in the province that is debt free.

For more information on the area or the corporation visit www.cambridge.ca
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feganl@cambridge.ca