

Peel Immigration Labour Market Survey Findings.

First Peel-specific report shows immigrants lagging behind in accessing the job market

The Peel Immigration Labour Market Survey is the first study ever conducted that provides local data on the labour market in Peel, and more specifically, how immigrants are faring in finding employment. The short answer: not as well as their Canadian-born counterparts.

In general, respondents are positive about their places of work. They reported, positive co-worker relations, felt treated fairly by managers, fair advancement processes and reported high commitment to their jobs. For immigrant respondents the study shows a significant occupational change from managerial and professional positions into sales and service and manual/trades jobs after arrival.

In the sample of 1,425 immigrants and Canadian-born Peel residents surveyed:

- Of the immigrant respondents who have international work experience, only one third was successful in obtaining their desired employment.
- Lack of Canadian work experience was reported as the barrier faced most often for immigrants and correspondingly, lack of work experience was reported most often by Canadian-born individuals.
- Networking was a serious barrier for both immigrants and Canadian-born individuals but more significant for immigrants.
- One in four immigrants accessed some government-funded employment services, and just under one-third obtained more education in Canada.
- Both immigrants and Canadian-born individuals report underutilization of their skills in their current job.

The key findings outlined in the final report suggest that there is a lot of talent going to waste in the Peel community among various groups of workers, especially immigrants. The recommendations identify several areas where action can be taken by Community Organizations, Private and Public Sector Employers and all levels of Government to help improve the situation.

The study was funded by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and conducted in collaboration with Ryerson's Diversity Institute in Management and Technology. The complete report of survey findings and recommendations is available at

www.peelregion.ca/labourmarketsurvey. For more information contact Laureen Rennie, Project Manager Peel Immigration Labour Market Survey at Laureen.rennie@peelregion.ca or call 905 791-7800 ext 8032.