Hand with Reflecting Sphere (Self-Portrait in Spherical Mirror) M.C. Escher

Recognition of Learning for Newcomers; a Continuing Evolution

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[Project Name]
Reesha Siddiqui moves to Canada

• Excitement about living in Canada
• Desire to begin contributing to new home right away
• High Points were awarded
• Confused to discover that credentials and experience from Pakistan were not recognized
• Depression
• Sense of identity loss
Statistics and Effects

• Immigration is expected to account for virtually all of the net growth in the Canadian labour force by the year 2011.
• 3 in 4 recent immigrants to Canada now belong to visible minority groups.
• Employment is the primary settlement need for most newcomers, not least because it helps reduce other barriers to settlement.
• 67% of newly arrived immigrants have a post-secondary degree or higher.
EMCN history

• Began as a response to the Vietnamese migration of boat people
• Expanded year by year as newcomers to Edmonton began coming from different countries
• 10 years ago we began a bridging program that used PLAR as a means of determining eligibility
• Developed a competency-based test for entry into our accounting program
• A partnership between EMCN and the Halifax PLA Centre has resulted in Portfolios
• Applying PLAR principles with our career counselors and our settlement workers
What is Portfolio assisted PLAR?

Answers from the room

The Halifax PLA Centre’s Skills and Learning Portfolio

- Process is the essence
  - ten weeks
- 3/hrs ‘face-to-face’ group activity
- 6/hrs ‘personal’ reflection, collection, and projection
- facilitation and guidance with PLAR practitioner

This is a more holistic approach to learning which validates and recognizes that learning can occur everywhere.

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PRODUCT

• 3 ring binder
• Collection of file folders
• E-Portfolio (web page)

Show Reesha’s.

*using a template is never as comprehensive or effective as a facilitated process
Reesha’s Portfolio Process

Self-Recognition of Skills

Barrier identification

Understanding of what skills and knowledge are valued in Canada

Confidence to tackle the barriers as well as achieve goals
POWER OF PORTFOLIO

- Introspection
- Articulation
- Self-confidence
- Goal setting
- Job search

*Not a magic bullet
Recognition of Learning

Definition of Multiculturalism

Small group work
Larger group recap
Multiculturalism

- “Of, relating to, reflecting, or adapted to diverse cultures”.
- Immigrants must be willing to integrate to some extent into the mainstream of society.
- The mainstream must be welcoming and accepting.
- The ideal community, sociologically speaking is one made of a variety of cultures, religions and affluence. Let’s get to know one another!
Recognition of Learning

Definition of Citizenship

Small Group Work

Larger Group Recap
Citizenship

• “An inhabitant of a city or town; especially; one entitled to the rights and privileges of a freeperson”.
• “Membership in a community”.
• “Ownership”.
• “The quality of an individual’s response to membership in a community”.
How does PLAR/RL fit in?

PLAR for Newcomers asks for the one-way adaptation of immigrants but it could be so much more in terms of how it can allow people to question and demand a two-way exchange of openness and learning.

Let’s get rid of the river we must bridge
Questions and Answers

• Thank you for coming and please feel free to contact us at

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