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New online resource helps employers and human resources professionals understand foreign-earned education

Edmonton... A new tool will help employers and human resources professionals better understand academic credentials earned abroad. The online tool will improve the attraction and retention of newcomers which is an important part of addressing the province's future labour shortage.

"There are qualified candidates available for many open positions in this province," said Thomas Lukaszuk, Minister of Employment and Immigration. "These new education guides will assist employers in understanding the foreign-earned education credentials of newcomers, and help to fill these vacant positions with qualified immigrants."

The Education Overview Guides were showcased by Lukaszuk at the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce's "Connections for Business" meeting. The guides currently provide 10 different country profiles. Each guide provides information on specific credentials such as prerequisites, length of study and what the credential compares to in Alberta.

The Education Overview Guides are one of many resources to better integrate newcomers into life in Alberta by getting them into careers which reflect their education and experience. Other resources include:

- International Education Guides - in-depth guides to education systems in nine different countries at www.employment.alberta.ca/IQAS-IEG;
- Occupational Licensing Fact Sheets - 66 fact sheets that outline the process for getting qualifications recognized at www.albertacanada.com/regulated-trades and www.albertacanada.com/regulated-professions; and,
- International Qualifications Assessment Service - the service assesses foreign-earned education and compares it to credentials in Canada at www.employment.alberta.ca/IQAS

To view the Education Overview Guides, visit www.employment.alberta.ca/educationguides. For more information on Foreign Qualification Recognition and to see other resources, visit www.employment.alberta.ca/fqr or call 780-427-2655 (toll-free by calling 310-0000).

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Note to editors: High-resolution photos, videos and audio clips will be made available on request.

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