**Newcomer Entrepreneurship for Export Development Forum
USING CANADA's DIVERSITY FOR TRADE DIVERSIFICATION**

**December 2nd, 2019 – 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**WoodGreen Community Services, 815 Danforth Ave., Toronto ON**

The Intergovernmental Committee for Economic and Labour Force Development in Toronto (ICE) and WoodGreen Community Services are delighted to invite entrepreneurs, services providers in international trade development, policy makers from all levels of government, and chambers of commerce/diaspora networks to a discussion on leveraging newcomer networks for international trade diversification.

Over a fifth of Canada's population are immigrants, the largest proportion in the OECD, and the country's economic prosperity depends on international trade. Yet, Canada's economic activity does not reflect this diversity, with 74% of exports going to the United States.

Toronto is the heart of Canada's diversity, and its commercial engine. Newcomers to the city and to Canada, many of whom carry with them international networks and market intelligence, often experience economic challenges compared to Canadian-born workers and entrepreneurs.

How might Toronto, Ontario, and Canada leverage a culturally diverse population for diversifying exports and creating more economic opportunities for newcomers? What are the success stories, barriers and potential policy interventions?

**Forum objectives:**

* Discuss and identify the opportunities and challenges/barriers with newcomers’ participation in export of products/services
* Identify potential policy levers for municipal, provincial and federal government to grow and diversify international trade through newcomer networks
* Provide relevant real-life information and sources for existing and potential newcomer entrepreneurs
* Provide feedback to service providers based on forum’s discussion and suggestions.

There is no cost to participate in this event. A continental breakfast will be served at 9:15 a.m. with the discussion to follow. Opportunities for networking following the discussion will allow participants to compare experiences, identify common challenges, and discuss best practices.

I look forward to seeing you on **December 2, 2019** at 9:00 a.m. Seating capacity is limited so **please RSVP to https://www.eventbrite.ca/** by no later than November 28, 2019.,

Yours sincerely,

Judy Morgan, Chair, ICE Committee

**Event Series**

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**8:30 – 9:15** **Registration and networking**

**9:15 – 9:20 Introduction & Land Acknowledgement:** Judy Morgan, Nour Albaaour

**9:20 – 9:25 Introductory Remarks:** Mohan Doss, WoodGreen Community Services

**9:25 – 9:40 Opening keynote:** Dr. Mohamed Fakih, CEO, Paramount Foods

**9:40 – 10:40** **Diaspora Nation – Opportunities and barriers for using diversity to grow international trade**

Facilitator: Sunil Johal, Director of Business Growth Services, City of Toronto

Panelists:

Viktoria Palfi, Global Affairs Canada Trade Commissioner Service

Wendy Cukier, Ryerson University Diversity Institute

Katy Baker, Magnet Export Business Portal

Jacques Ndoutoumve, Canada-Africa Chamber of Business

**10:40 – 11:00 Networking break and information booths**

Materials presented by government programs, settlement agencies, export development services, and entrepreneurship services

**11:00 – 12:15 Roundtables: Addressing barriers and opportunities**

Market Information and Opportunities

Regulation and Compliance

Access to Finance

Support Services and Networking

Research and Policy

**12:15 – 12:30 Closing remarks**