

Employees eager to hire

VANCOUVER, BC—While British Columbia's employment numbers have resembled a roller coaster in recent months, one community agency is finding that employers are struggling to find good employees. MOSAIC has scheduled a job fair for April 18th and employers are lining up to recruit new workers.

MOSAIC is building on the success of the job fair they hosted last summer where more than 30 employers were present and approximately 2,000 job seekers walked through the doors.

Being billed as the 2nd Annual Vancouver Job Fair, organizers have scheduled it for Thursday April 18th at the Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive. A number of high profile employers have already signed on including the Fairmont Resorts and Hotels, Great Canadian Casinos, Fortinet Technologies, Purdys and Vancouver Coastal Health.

According to Larry Chan, Employment Programs Manager with MOSAIC, "a lot of employers were eager to join us again after the success we had with the Summer Job Fair. They

see this as a great opportunity to meet hundreds of potential employees face-to-face."

When asked why employer interest in this job fair seems to run contrary to the employment numbers Chan said, "employers often tell us that they enjoy a format like this as it allows them to identify workers with a strong customer service ethic and a genuine commitment to their employer. It's not that employers have stopped hiring, they just want to hire people they know and trust. A job fair is a great way to get to know people beyond just what's on their resume."

The Job Fair is open all job seekers in Metro Vancouver. It's taking place in the area served by MOSAIC's new WorkBC Employment Service Centre at #312—2555 Commercial Drive (across from the Broadway Skytrain Station).

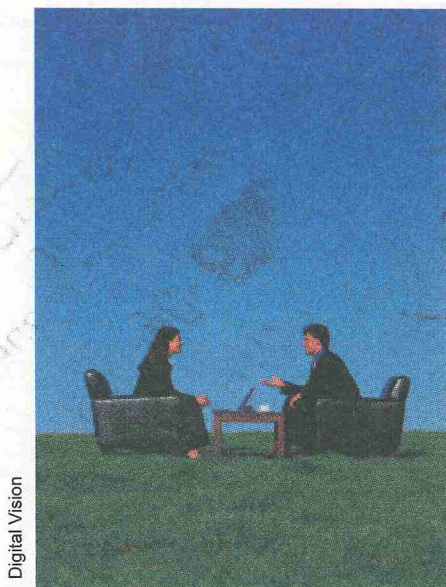
MOSAIC is one of British Columbia's largest non-profit societies with a broad array of immigrant serving programs including employment and settlement services, family programs, free English language instruction and translation and interpretation services. While

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MOSAIC offers a number of innovative employment programs for immigrants such as Job Options, an employment program for very recent immigrants, and Skills Connect, a program for skilled

immigrants who've immigrated within the past five years, its new Commercial Drive Employment Service Centre serves all job seekers.

While recent job numbers may be inconsistent, according to the latest employment data, British Columbia is expecting to create a million job openings in the next decade and due to shifting age demographics, only a fraction of that number are expected to graduate from schools and training programs. With fewer workers available, savvy employers will continue to seek out innovative solutions to find the people they need.

The 2nd Annual Vancouver Job Fair will take place on Thursday April 18th from 10am to 4pm. The Croatian Cultural Centre at 3250 Commercial Drive is just a few blocks from the Broadway Skytrain Station.

Attendance is free. ■