

***TO: Hotel Association Members in Greater Victoria***

***FROM: Tourism Victoria, Camosun College, Vancouver Island Refugee Response Team, Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS).***

***REGARDING: Industry-Education- Refugee Response Team Partnership to Employ Syrian Refugees in Hospitality and Tourism.***

***DATE: January 23, 2017***

Over 450 Syrian Refugees have arrived in Greater Victoria since December, 2016 in response to the current widespread humanitarian crisis in Syria. For the first time in a quarter of a century, the Federal government has designated Vancouver Island as a destination for the most vulnerable United Nations High Commission on Refugees.

Highly motivated young and experienced Syrian newcomers are selecting Tourism/ Hospitality/ Culinary Service in Greater Victoria for employment.

#### **INDUSTRY GAINS**

For your consideration: Meet labour market needs by hiring refugees from Syria. Gain committed, loyal employees who have:

- A demonstrated, pronounced interest and passion for Tourism and Hospitality;
- Graduated from a Camosun College Industry Skills Training Program which includes: Industry Orientation, Certifications and Training through Award Winning Tourism and Hospitality, Culinary, and School of Access Programs;
- *Relevant Industry Specific English Language Development* training(Camosun).
- Access to Employer Incentives: The Canada BC Jobs Grant “Refugee Fund” is available until March 31<sup>st</sup> to support this hiring initiative.

#### **ASSURANCES FOR EMPLOYERS**

- orientation on employee responsibilities in Canadian workplaces, including safety, service and protecting the employer assets.
- Cultural differences are navigated through inter-culturally trained Camosun College Faculty and Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society Staff.



## PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYERS

The Refugee Response Team stakeholders are committed to providing public recognition through Hospitality and Tourism Employers who have stepped forward to create employment opportunities for refugees through:

- Websites, Facebook, Twitter of Settlement organizations

## STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT WITH REFUGEE RESPONSE

The Capital Regional District, (CRD)	The Anglican Diocese	Tourism Victoria
Landlord BC	The Urban Planning Institute	Camosun College
Municipal Mayors	The Intercultural Association of Greater Victoria	University of Victoria
Municipal Counsellors	BC Housing	Parker Johnston Industries
Members of the Provincial Legislative Assembly	Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society	Cold Star Transportation and Freight
Members of Parliament	Vancity	Vancouver Island Health Authority
School Districts	The Greater Victoria Public Library	Provincial Trades and Employer Associations

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