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Month by month, associations of internationally trained professionals are growing and working more effectively together, in BC and throughout Canada.

Media training, web development, and better social and professional connections are all strengthening the ITP network. The results are being noticed by government, regulatory agencies and the public.

BC Roundtable Now Capacity BC

The BC Roundtable on Access to Professions for ITPs has decided to change its name to Capacity BC. The new name demonstrates a link to Capacity Canada as a national leadership council, and to other provincial roundtables now forming, such as Capacity Alberta and Capacity Nova Scotia.

Over the summer Capacity BC will focus on researching position papers, developing its website, and building stronger connections in and among its associations.

The next meeting of Capacity BC is scheduled for September 17. Representatives of all interested ITP associations are welcome to attend. For information contact Priti Shah at 604-945-5836.

Capacity Canada Leaders Meet

The Leadership Council of Capacity Canada held its first meeting in Vancouver on June 4 and 5, with delegates of provincial ITP roundtables from Nova Scotia, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. The Leadership Council consists of internationally trained professionals, provincial coordinators and project management staff.

The BC International Professionals Roundtable was represented by J.P. Sandhu of the SPEAT BC (Society of Punjabi Engineers and Technologists of BC) and by Dr. Sujit Varma of AIMD BC (Association of International Medical Doctors).

Dr. Varma said, "This is a very exciting development. Internationally trained professionals from across the country are coming together for the first time to plan and to work together for positive change on behalf of all immigrant professionals in Canada."

BCITP Website Getting a Facelift

The website at www.bcitp.net is being re-developed with feedback from Capacity BC. Plans for new features include a list of Capacity BC's member organizations and partners, a calendar of events and an online discussion forum.

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ITPs are also providing advice and feedback to help develop the Immigrant Employment Resource Guide section of the EASI/Looking Ahead web site. This website will offer employment information and advice for immigrants before and after arriving in BC.

AIMD BC Hits Media Targets

During the run-up to the recent BC election the Association of International Medical Doctors of BC energetically campaigned to raise public awareness of the issues they face.

AIMD members spoke to a number of public organizations. The opposition New Democratic Party invited them to help the party understand the issues. Members also spoke on CBC radio, CKNW, BCTV, and Channel M, and received coverage in the Vancouver Sun, Victoria Times-Colonist and Metro newspapers.

Since the election AIMD BC representatives have attended meetings with all healthcare stakeholders, and look forward to meeting Hon. George Abbott, the new Minister of Health. They are also working with other associations of international medical doctors from across the country, to address common issues from a national perspective.

News of BCITP Associations

Central Vancouver Island – Membership in the Central Island chapter is growing rapidly, with new members from as far as Shawnigan Lake in the south and Campbell River in the north. A local newspaper recently featured the stories of two members, who described their experiences with the hope of raising community awareness.

An inspiring Toastmasters presentation led BCITP members to request a Speechcraft seminar in the fall. June's speaker, Pradeep Menon, is Division Governor for Toastmasters' Central Vancouver Island region. Mr Menon talked about how to build confidence and make effective presentations.

Hon. Leonard Krog, the newly-elected MLA for Nanaimo, also attended the June meeting. Members introduced themselves to Mr Krog, and described their experiences in coming to Canada and looking for work in their field. Mr. Krog expressed interest and offered suggestions about how to lobby effectively for change.

During the summer the Central Island chapter will revise its database to better serve its members' needs. It will also explore mutual issues with BCITP Net in Victoria.

Okanagan – The Okanagan chapter has begun to discuss how to secure funding for its long-term future. At its June meeting members agreed that BCITP Net-Okanagan will consider becoming a society so as to be eligible for funding after the March 31, 2006 project deadline.

*Do you have news for BCITP Net?
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