

Regional Forum on Rural Newcomer Integration NOV 29th & 30th

Speaker One-Pager – Quick Sheet

NAME: Oliver Pryce

ORGANIZATION: Newcomer Centre of Peel, Mississauga

TITLE: Rural Employment Initiative (REI)

HIGHLIGHTS:

- i. REI assisted more than 400 newcomers who are actively seeking employment opportunities in rural Ontario by educating clients on rural Ontario communities, providing employment support, and connecting them with local employers.
- ii. Virtual diversity training for Superior North CFDC staff and board members.
- iii. REI clients accepted jobs in rural areas and some have relocated to communities such as Thunder Bay, Timmins, Woodstock, Kitchener, St Thomas, Windsor, and Exeter.
- iv. Rural Ontario Job Fairs: These events allow rural communities to be marketed to job seekers in the GTA; and employers meet face-to-face with job seekers.

LOCAL EXAMPLES:

- i. Blyth Conference: R2R 2016 Panel: *IMMIGRANTS? Are we welcoming? Are we friendly?*
- ii. Diversity awareness Training in Huron County 2017
- iii. Huron County Employer Roundtable held in Exeter: 2017
- iv. Webinar *Outside of the Big City: Grey County* (April 2017) – a virtual meeting of economic development team with 24 job seekers;
- v. Employment Focused Bus Tour (February 2018) – 30 newcomer professionals visited Grey County and met with more than 80 local employers and community partners;
- vi. Business development bus tour (October, 2018) – 23 newcomers interested in investing or purchasing a business. Participants visited businesses for sale in Mount Forest, Minto, Hanover & Palmerston.
- vii. Supporting rural communities: Arabic Event (April 2018) – 60 clients have attend English & Arabic sessions conducted by representatives from Grey Country who have successfully settled in the area.

ACTION ITEMS: Connect to employers with professional jobs

WEBSITE LINKS: <https://www.jobfair.ncpeel.ca/>; <http://www.ncpeel.ca/>