

Media Release  
For immediate release

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**\$1 MILLION IN LOANS HELP IMMIGRANTS FIND WORK**

[Calgary, December 10, 2008] The Immigrant Access Fund (IAF) announces that to date it has approved \$1 million in micro loans to help immigrants get the accreditation and training they need to work in their field in Alberta.

“This is good news in bleak financial times,” says Dianne Fehr, executive director, IAF. “The current economy makes it more difficult for everyone, but immigrants always face barriers.”

IAF is hosting a seminar in Calgary and Edmonton entitled *Closed Doors & Sticky Floors, Immigrants In the Workplace: strategies for success*. The Alberta-based not-for-profit organization provides micro loans to internationally trained immigrants for accreditation and training.

“Immigrants really are faced with closed doors in that they can’t get a job in their field because they don’t have Canadian experience, and sticky floors in that they are often over qualified for the jobs they do get, but find it difficult to move into positions better suited to their experience and credentials,” Fehr explains.

The seminar’s guest speaker Nick Noorani, publisher of *Canadian Immigrant* magazine, co-author of *Arrival Survival Canada*, and radio host, will speak about how employers can tap into the opportunities immigrants bring.

Government representatives will present the Foreign Qualification Recognition Plan for Alberta, the province’s newly released plan to improve recognition of immigrants’ foreign-earned qualifications, training and experience.

Nick Noorani, Dianne Fehr, internationally educated professionals and representatives of Alberta Employment and Immigration are available for interviews.

*Closed Doors & Sticky Floors, Immigrants In the Workplace: strategies for success* takes place:

Calgary: Tuesday, December 16, 7:30 a.m. to noon at the Rotary House on the Stampede Grounds.

Edmonton: Wednesday, December 17, 7:30 a.m. to noon at the Wild Rose Room, Lister Conference Centre, University of Alberta.

**IAF website: [www.iafcanada.org](http://www.iafcanada.org)**

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