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For immediate distribution – September 8, 2008

## NEWS RELEASE

### *Immigrants struggling to succeed in Toronto*

#### ***Study shows city's integration problems are known but not resolved***

**Montreal** – The programs and services available to help integrate newcomers into Toronto's labour market are in urgent need of evaluation, according to a new study from the Institute for Research on Public Policy.

The study, "Breaking Down Barriers to Labour Market Integration of Newcomers in Toronto," found that while general awareness of the barriers has increased greatly in the past few years, little is known about how effective and efficient government, community agency and educational programs are in helping immigrants overcome these barriers.

"Canada is now competing globally for highly skilled immigrants who are unwilling to waste their human capital," says the study's author Nan Weiner. "If Canada is seen as a place where it is difficult to use one's skills, not only will immigrants choose not to come to Canada, but newcomers already in the country will leave."

Many of the steps needed to improve labour market integration have already been identified, and now they have to be implemented, according to Weiner. The steps include creating partnerships between credential assessment organizations and governments, improving the Web sites available to newcomers, and getting more employers and professional associations involved in mentoring, internship and bridging programs.

"Canada, and particularly Toronto, must commit to integrating newcomers into the labour force by the most effective and efficient means possible," says Weiner. "And program evaluation is a critical element of that strategy."

"Breaking Down Barriers to Labour Market Integration of Newcomers in Toronto," by Nan Weiner, can be downloaded free of charge from [www.irpp.org](http://www.irpp.org).

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