



# Empowering Employment

A publication of EARS: Employment Assistance Resource Services

www.winnipegtransitioncentre.com

204.338.3899

January 2009

## Winnipeg Transition Centre Newsletter... *Winter Edition*

### Who we are:

The Winnipeg Transition Centre is a non-profit organization committed to empowering unemployed individuals who are 18 and over, with the skills to find work effectively.

In addition to the **FREE** Employment Assistance Resource Services, WTC also offers Professional Development courses in Winnipeg and across Canada in the areas of Career and Employment Coaching, Facilitation and Learning to Live on Higher Ground.

### What we do:

The EARS program provides **FREE** assistance to unemployed individuals in the following areas:

- Resume Development
- Interview Preparation
- Accessing the Hidden Job Market
- Self-Marketing Techniques
- Internet Access for Job Searching
- Resume Photocopies
- Free Local Faxing
- Clerical Support

FUNDING PROVIDED BY:  
Government of Canada  
Employment Insurance Account  
Province of Manitoba

### Our next Orientations:

January 27th, 2009  
February 17th, 2009  
March 10th, 2009

To register for an orientation call:  
(204) 338-3899

## What's Happening with the EARS Program at the WTC

2008 was a banner year for the EARS Program at the WTC! More than 500 people attended our Orientation/Intake sessions and almost 600 potential clients were assessed for the program. Out of those assessed, 491 were registered into our job search sessions. With ongoing support from staff and their own hard efforts, 252 participants found employment! Our resource area has also been extremely busy with over 1300 visits from the public to use our computers, fax and photocopier services.

In our Winter 2008 Newsletter, we told you about a new initiative started in the Fall of 2007 called Orientation/Assessment. The concept was to provide more individualized service by combining an orientation and assessment for those clients referred by our ad in the paper, our largest source of referrals, in order to increase participation in our workshops. At the end of the year, our team met with 157 of these individuals and registered 123: a 78% success rate!

In February 2008, the EARS Program began an advertising campaign in the Free Press that included a new ad to attract the "experienced worker" (40 plus) in addition to other clients we service. To date, 67% of our participants are over 40 years of age.

## Welcome... to our new additions!

The EARS program would like to welcome Shelley Wilson and Stephanie Choy, as our 2 new Employment Counsellors/Facilitators. Shelley has taken over Maria Stapleton's position, as Maria will be a stay at home Mom. Maria and her husband welcomed a baby girl into their family in October 2008!

Stephanie is on a 1-year Maternity Leave position replacing Lisa Sullivan, who welcomed her 2nd child - a baby boy - into her family in November 2008!

We would also like to welcome and thank our Volunteer, David Koroluk. David has been assisting us with reception and administrative duties. He has shown generosity in spirit, as well as being giving of his time! Our many thanks to David!



In Tree: Ron Bartlette; Middle Row: Tracey Ediger, Kim Boss, Shelley Wilson, Stephanie Choy; Bottom Row: David Koroluk and Ross Young

## Web Links:

*We launched our new web site in December 2008! Visit us at:*

[www.winnipegtransitioncentre.com](http://www.winnipegtransitioncentre.com)

*We participated in a Globe and Mail article on December 22nd, 2008  
View that archived article at:*

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20081222.wlbummer22/BNStory/lifeWork/home>

*Watch the web for upcoming information on our 20th Anniversary celebrations!*



## Ask the Counsellor... we're all EARS!

Dear EARS Counsellor:

Can I contact the company after I have submitted a resume?

What if they state "no phone calls please, only qualified applicants will be contacted?"

- E.H.

Dear E.H.:

The number one rule of follow-up: Follow any instructions given by the employer in the ad. If they request no phone calls, don't call.

However, if the employer doesn't make any comments about phone calls, we highly recom-

mend a follow up call after sending your resume for a few reasons.

1. **To make sure the employer received your resume.** Sometimes things get misplaced or emails aren't received. If the employer can't find it, you can easily resubmit it.

2. **To get to the front of the line.** When the employer searches through the resume pile to make sure they have your resume in particular, they will often take it out and then return it to the top of the pile. A good place to be!

3. **To make a good impression.**

The call, in combination with an effective resume, will help you stand out from the pack. It shows you are taking your job search and this opening seriously. You may have the opportunity during the call to discuss the opening and your qualifications. The employer will be more likely to remember you when it comes time to set up interviews.

*If you have a question for the EARS Counsellor, e-mail:*

*ears@winnipegtransitioncentre.com*

### Job Retention

**You have just been hired!**

**What will you do over the next 30-90 days to fit in?**

**We can help!**  
**(204) 338-3899**  
or  
Email:  
ears@winnipegtransitioncentre.com

### Quick Tips:

#### WORK PROPOSALS

- Create new work opportunities
- Eliminate or greatly reduce the competition
- Answer the following questions:
  - What is the proposed work?
  - Why is it needed?
  - Who will be doing it?
  - When, how and where will it be done?
  - What will it cost?

*"To achieve greater success in the self-marketing process we don't need more resources, abilities, or better qualifications. What we need is to use what we have. There is more opportunity within our grasp right now than we can possibly take full advantage of in a lifetime." - Denise Bissonnette*

## What our participants say about us...

"My journey began by replying to a clever newspaper ad, that spoke to employability.

The ensuing workshop, I must say, exceeded all my expectations by literally transforming - "a person who is able to work and available to be hired" - into a *Juggernaut*... outfitted with all the tools to swing wide-open the doors of job opportunities!

With the exceptional excellent tutorial of Ross & Shelley, the concept of shining one's light into the abyss of the job market was absolutely enlightening.

The course dove-tailed powerful learning styles of reinforcement, stress release, role playing, intensive interaction, creative participation, seasoned with a healthy pinch of playfulness.

This workshop enabled a vibrant interactive learning experience and proved to be nourishment for the mind and soul.

I now find myself more confident, at ease and empowered to surmount, with self-assurance, the myriad of challenges in my quest for employment. Thank you for this most valuable experience!" - **R.G.**

## Women as Career Mentors Event

The Winnipeg Transition Centre is pleased to once again be hosting the Women as Career Mentors event, taking place on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2009 at the Delta Hotel. Plans are already underway to make some changes to how the event is run this year based on feedback from last years participants. Further details will be posted on our website, so stay tuned!

## Inspiration!

"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." - *Sir Winston Churchill*

"In the business world, the rearview mirror is always clearer than the windshield." -*Warren Buffett*

**PILIPINO Express**  
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