



# Empowering Employment

A publication of EARS: Employment Assistance Resource Services

www.winnipegtransitioncentre.com 204.338.3899

May 2009 Newsletter

Winnipeg Transition Centre Newsletter...

Spring / Summer Edition

## Who we are:

The Winnipeg Transition Centre is a non-profit organization committed to empowering unemployed individuals with the skills to find work effectively. In addition to the **FREE** Employment Assistance Resource Services, the 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:  
The Government of Canada  
The Manitoba Government

## Our next Orientations:

June 3, 23  
July 14  
August 4

**Call (204) 338-3899 to register!**

## You are invited! ...to the Winnipeg Transition Centre's 20th Anniversary Celebration!

Thursday, August 27, 2009

1:00 - 7:00 pm

**Activities include:** BBQ, Games, Childrens' Activity Centre & Silent Auction for Charity

**Meet & Greet with:** Past Participants, Staff, Service Providers, Local Business Owners, Employment Agencies and Educational Institutions

### RSVP

www.winnipegtransitioncentre.com (204) 338-3899 ears@winnipegtransitioncentre.com

## Women As Career Mentors Event 2009

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Women as Career Mentors event was held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Delta Hotel with approximately 200 professional and young women in attendance. Terri Apostle from Breakfast Television was fabulous as our Emcee for the evening. A number of special Guest Speakers also gave heartfelt testimonials regarding their own career journey, providing inspiration for everyone, Mentors and Mentees alike.

Each table was comprised of 3 Mentees and 3 Mentors, with the goal of matching the occupational interests of the Mentees with the Mentors, making the discussions more relevant. A Table Facilitator was also present to ensure everyone participated and to lead the icebreaker Candy Confessions activity and the Pig Personality game later in the evening. The activities were fun and enjoyed by all!



Building on the success of the last 2 events, the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Women as Career Mentors will once again be held at the Delta Hotel on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010. We hope that those who joined us this year will be able to attend in 2010, and look forward to welcoming new guests as well!. See you then!

## Welcome!

The WTC would like to welcome Wade Slater, our new Training Specialist, to the Professional Development team. Also, Geri Wyrzykowski has joined us as our PD Administrative Coordinator.

We look forward to their contributions that will help us continue to grow as an organization!

## Our Gratitude!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank one of our volunteers, Jackie Lundberg. Jackie has been a participant in our workshops and has graciously offered to help us with numerous tasks. She even brings along treats!

Thank you, Jackie for all that you do.

Another special thank you goes out to two participants, Susan Piller and Claudette Wilson-Card, who volunteered their time to help for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Women As Career Mentors Event held in March 2009!



**Tracey Ediger,**  
WTC Office Manager /  
E.A.R.S. Program Coordinator  
on Breakfast Television

### In the Spotlight:

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009, CBC Television visited the WTC office and interviewed Ross Young concerning the impact of the economic downturn on those who are unemployed. The interview was later aired on the 6:00 news. Ross was also interviewed on the CBC Radio Road Show at 4:15 p.m. about our services and current labour market statistics. We have a celebrity in our midst! Congratulations Ross on the fine job you did representing the program!

Not to be outdone, CitiTV contacted Tracey Ediger, who was interviewed by Terri Apostle on the Breakfast Television Show regarding the Women as Career Mentors event. On the night of the event at the Delta Hotel, CKND also spoke to Tracey to talk about the attendees, the purpose of the event and our plans for the future. This interview was taped and aired on the 10:00 news that same evening. What great exposure for the WTC and this event!

### Quick Tips:

**CALLING CARD** uses:

- An expanded business card or reduced resume
- A substitute application form
- A networking tool, to tell people your job goal & qualifications
- A summary of your skills for your references
- A quick skills review

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

### Dear EARS Counsellor:

During an interview, how do I address the question of being "over-qualified" for the position? - Fred

### Dear Fred:

It is important to know why the question or statement is being posed. First of all, it does not mean your interview is about to go down in flames. The employer is simply trying to judge your long-term commitment to the job, if you will stay motivated, and whether your salary expectations will be prohibitive.

Be Direct: focus on what the job can give you, like opportunities to learn and grow.

Use the opportunity to explain why this particular job is the right fit for you and the employer.

Emphasize the extra benefits that your experience gives the employer (e.g. immediate impact, reduced training costs, mentoring and transferable skills).

**If you have a question for the EARS Counsellor, email:**  
[ears@winnipegtransitioncentre.com](mailto:ears@winnipegtransitioncentre.com)

### Inspiration!

Aim for success, not perfection. Never give up your right to be wrong, because then you will lose the ability to learn new things and move forward with your life.

- Dr. David M. Burns

If your success is not on your own terms, if it looks good to the world but does not feel good in your heart, it is not success at all.

- Anna Quindlen

## Employer Profile: City of Winnipeg



### Overview:

The City of Winnipeg is committed to a dynamic and diverse workforce of highly skilled people working together to deliver excellent service to the community of Winnipeg.

### How vacancies are advertised:

- Access 123 Job line: phone 984-4636
- [www.winnipeg.ca/hr](http://www.winnipeg.ca/hr)
- Bulletin board at City Hall - 510 Main St.
- Only *some* jobs are advertised in newspaper

### Resume and Application Tips:

- Check weekly for vacancies
- Research the position and the Department
- Clearly describe your qualifications, let us know how your skills match the job
- Tailor resume to position.
- Don't send in the same cover letter and resume for every job you apply to.
- Include all information requested
- Follow all directions
- Submit no more than a 3 page resume.

## What our participants say about us...



**Karen:** (left) "I am now the master at job interviews! I dare you - ask me anything! All the hard work has paid off. Starting next Tuesday I am officially the Communications Manager for Habitat for Humanity!

"I am very excited about the new opportunity and can't wait to start! Thanks again to all the staff at the Transition Centre for your ongoing support!"

**Janice:** (right) "To now get paid for a job that I just love very much (caring for children) is hard to believe and I would still be miserable in a work field I was not totally happy with, had it not been for your facility who helped me to be a better me.

"I say that what you guys do here is worth a mint! Keep up the good work!"

