

ICTC ANNOUNCES PATH TO RECOGNITION PHASE II

The Information and Communications Technology Council has been awarded a three year project by Human Resources Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) for their initiative, Path to Recognition Phase II (PTR II). This project is directed at the design and development of a model that will allow for recognition and certification of knowledge, skills and abilities for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) workers.

The Path to Recognition Phase I, undertaken in 2007, developed a model for certification/recognition based loosely on the occupational clusters identified in the early stages of the Impacting the Learning Systems (ITLS) Initiative. This work included developing models that will recognize both business and technical competencies and the professional experiences of ICT workers in a way that can be relied upon by employers. As part of this initiative, ICTC is proposing a "soft" certification system geared towards standardizing credentials and recognizing the competencies of ICT workers in Canada. Such a standardized recognition system would help employers understand what they are getting in a worker and what they are or should be paying for. It would also help employers recognize the competencies that ICT workers have, and will help workers better understand the competencies they need to develop in order to progress in their careers, thereby providing them with a roadmap for life-long learning and professional development. This system would also help educators produce curricula geared toward the right mix of technical, business and interpersonal skills required by the ICT industry.

Thus the objective of Phase II is to promote the model developed in Phase I, and allow for gradual adoption of the concepts and standards inherent in the model. Through the accreditation and professional development planning processes, ICTC will be able to connect individuals to the development they require.

Since December 2008, a Project Manager and a Project Coordinator have been hired for delivering the project. Work is ongoing to refine and finalize the articulated standards and to develop learning outcomes for each designation. Research has also begun to study policies related to certification, and how this process can be applied to the model that will be developed for this project.

To further guide the project, a high level steering committee, and multiple working groups for each cluster will be appointed with expertise in the ICT sector with both, technical and business competencies. Partnerships are also being built with industry and other vendor certifications. To keep the members informed, communications material related to the above and other field activities will be developed and disseminated at regular intervals.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Meenakshi Gupta, Project Manager at m.gupta@ictc-ctic.ca or 613-237-8551 ext 132 or Gesine Freund, Project Coordinator at g.freund@ictc-ctic.ca or 613-237-8551 ext 131.

Information and Communications Technology Council (ICTC), is a not-for-profit sector council, that strives to create a diverse, prepared and highly educated Canadian ICT industry and workforce. We forge partnerships that will help develop the quantity and quality of ICT professionals needed to maintain and improve Canada's position as a leader in the global marketplace. www.ictc-ctic.ca