

WorkSafeBC Workplace Orientation Program for Arabic-Speaking Newcomers

Overview: WorkSafeBC has created a workplace orientation program targeting Syrian, and other Arabic-speaking, newcomers that will help them understand their rights and responsibilities, workplace hazards, as well as provide them with information about British Columbia. This has been developed as a program to be delivered by a facilitator(s) using PowerPoint for groups of newcomers, although some of the activities/information might be of some value for individual workers. It is divided into a series of activities.

WorkSafeBC has already partnered with agencies in the Lower Mainland and Thompson Okanagan to deliver 10 successful orientation workshops to over 80 participants, and is reaching out to other community groups that are interested in and able to organize and deliver workshops to immigrant employers and to immigrant workers whose first language is Arabic.

Target participants: Arabic-speaking immigrants who are/will be looking for work and/or working. Another possible cohort is Arabic-speaking immigrants who intend to start a business or who have started a business.

Timeline:

WorkSafeBC would like the workshops to commence in November and conclude by the end of this year or at a date to be negotiated.

Role of the delivery partner:

- Invite participants (ideally between 12-15)
- Find a bilingual English/Arabic-speaking facilitator to deliver the 2.5 hour workshop
- Provide a venue for the workshop
- Deliver the workshop
- Provide a report/evaluation to WorkSafeBC within 60 days of completing the workshop

Role of WorkSafeBC:

- Provide all of the materials and curricula (including Arabic translations)
- Cover the costs of delivering such workshops (including costs for facilitator time, snacks for participants)
- Interested agencies may find that there are additional time/costs associated with conducting the participant evaluation after the session (including translating any comments in Arabic). Accordingly, WorkSafeBC would be happy to cover those costs once they are identified. Also, if facilitators find that they have to spend a bit more time completing their own evaluations or the course runs longer, please let us know; we'll cover that time/those costs as well.

If you are interested please contact Gordon Thorne at: thorneconsulting@shaw.ca