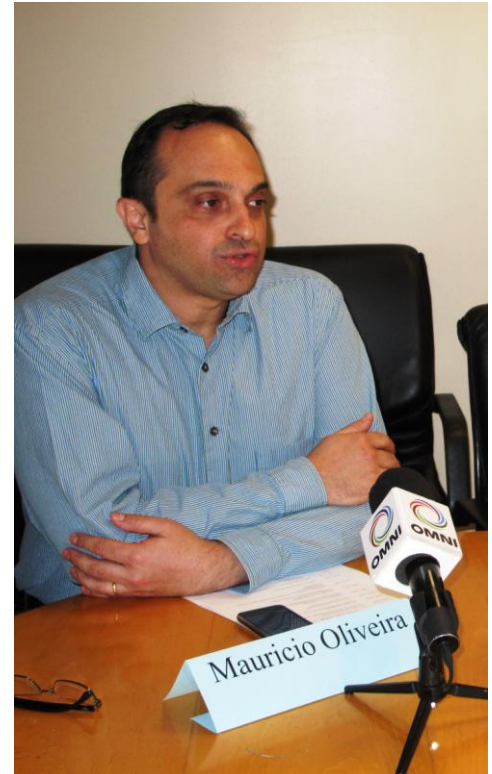


## **New Country, New Family, New Job. How the IWES pilot project gives hope to international professionals moving to Canada seeking employment in their field.**

Mauricio Pereira de Oliveira arrived in Vancouver from Brazil with his wife of 12 years and a baby on the way thinking he would soon find work in his profession and live happily ever after. However as months passed Mauricio was still unemployed and his wife was to give birth any day. With an Engineering degree and Master's degree in Computer Science, Mauricio thought it would be relatively easy to land a job in the growing technology industry in Vancouver that is also experiencing a workforce shortage. However after months of sending resume after resume, no one was calling. He began searching for assistance and found agencies that provided lessons in basic resume writing and job searches but this was still not enough for Mauricio to get hired. Being a new resident in Vancouver, Mauricio often read Canadian Immigrant Magazine where he noticed an article for a pilot project called Integrated Work Experience Strategy or IWES in partnership between S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and the Information and Communications Technology Council. The IWES program prepares internationally educated professionals (IEP) for employment in Canada's information and communications technology (ICT) sector through a six-week intensive training session, including full-time classroom training and interactive workshops, followed by a



minimum three-month guided work experience practicum. IWES was piloted in Vancouver in partnership with S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and originally developed under the Internationally Educated Professionals (IEP) Integration Initiative of the Information and Communication Technology Council (ICTC). The pilot in Vancouver was funded by the Government of Canada's Foreign Credential Recognition Program.

Mauricio interviewed for the pilot project and was selected to take part. After his in-class training he began his contract with Atimi Software, an ICT company involved in the IWES project. Mauricio said "at first it was overwhelming but at the same time exciting and challenging." Mauricio currently works in the Project Support Office at Atimi Software. Mauricio said the best part about the project was "connecting us with the employers who were very receptive to immigrants who had the skills to assist in the success of their business." Not only was he thankful for the project but appreciated the follow-up from S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and ICTC program developers and supporters.

With the success of the IWES pilot project, ICTC and S.U.C.C.E.S.S. hope that funding will continue to help more skilled internationally educated professionals find a career in their profession and help Canada's ICT industry become a top global competitor.

For more information visit: [www.success.bc.ca](http://www.success.bc.ca) or contact Eileen Lao at [elieen.lao@success.bc.ca](mailto:elieen.lao@success.bc.ca) and For more information visit: [www.success.bc.ca](http://www.success.bc.ca) or [www.ictc-ctic.ca](http://www.ictc-ctic.ca)