

READY TO WORK GRADUATE

She believes that *Ready-to-Work* is “a great start for a newcomer attempting to integrate in the Canadian workplace.”



Sharon Bailey

Even though Sharon Bailey's résumé outlined a successful work history and extensive credentials, she was repeatedly asked about her Canadian work experience during job interviews. Frustrated, she asked friends and associates, “How can I be expected to get Canadian work experience without an opportunity to gain Canadian work experience?” Thankfully, one person seemed to have the answer: “visit ACCES Employment in Mississauga for occupational counselling”. After reviewing Sharon's application, ACCES staff recommended that she sign up for Ontario Tourism Education Corporation's (OTEC) *Ready-to-Work: Tourism Careers for Internationally Trained Individuals*.

Sharon's participation in *Ready-to-Work* was an excellent starting point for making connections with people. She used the program as a stepping stone, leading to serving as a volunteer with Lindsay Cowell at Tourism Toronto for various events. Her initiative and abilities led from volunteer work to paid employment, first with Tourism Toronto and now with the MicroSkills Community Development Centre, where she applies her communications and event coordination skills as a full time Business Development Specialist. She also took advantage of the opportunity (through *Ready-to-Work*) to secure her National *emerit* Event Coordinator Knowledge Certificate.

Sharon is a strong advocate for *Ready-to-Work*. She has great regard for the course and has recommended it to other newcomers. She has found that employers in Ontario's tourism industry know and have great respect for OTEC and its programs.

Graduate Profile

Name:

Sharon Bailey

Country of origin:

Jamaica

Arrived in Canada:

January, 2010

Current Employment:

Business Development
Specialist at MicroSkills
Community Development
Centre



Ready-to-Work
Emplois clés en main

OTEC Head Office & Training Centre

21 Four Seasons Place, Suite 300, Toronto, ON, M9B 6J8 (416) 622-1975 (800) 557-6832

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