

Facilitating Networking Opportunities for your Mentee

Networking is an important component of the mentoring relationship. TRIEC Mentoring Partnership recommends that Mentors facilitate at least **five introductions** for their mentee.

This document suggests ways you can help your mentee prepare for networking, as well as tips on who they could meet to expand their network.

Create a networking plan with your mentee using some of the ideas below:

- Help your mentee **develop and practice a 30-second ‘elevator’ speech** that gives a concise summary of their background and the type of employment they are looking for.
- Brainstorm a list of **networking events** they can attend (i.e. associations, seminars, conferences, job fairs, etc.).
- Explore how to use **social media for networking**. Review your mentees’ profile, identify groups for them to join and where to search for jobs and build online connections.
- **Refer your mentee to Professional Immigrant Networks** (www.networksforimmigrants.ca) to meet immigrants in the same profession and/or cultural community, build social support and expand their network.

Expand your mentee’s network by facilitating some introductions. Your mentee will have a chance to practice his or her elevator speech and it will provide both of you with feedback from other perspectives.

People in your Network	How they can help your mentee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A colleague you feel comfortable with 	<p>Give mentee an opportunity to practice networking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get feedback on elevator speech and networking style • Prepare mentee for meeting your larger network
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current and past colleagues • Contacts from professional associations 	<p>To conduct an occupation-related information interview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get information about sector and occupation in Canada • Get information about professional development, networking events or job sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HR department • A hiring manager you know • Current and past colleagues 	<p>To conduct a mock interview or review résumé</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice interview skills • Have résumé /cover letter critiqued
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A recent immigrant who works in their occupation • Your personal network 	<p>To provide inspiration/motivation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find new ideas for job search and networking • Receive social support/settlement tips
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your personal network • Colleagues • Someone in a similar role but not in the same occupation/sector 	<p>To help with skill development (technical, social media, etc):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New ideas/approaches for job search • Focus on skill development while job searching • Effectively use social media for job search
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employees of companies the mentee is targeting for work 	<p>Mentee cold calling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule an information interview • Learn more about the company hiring process • Identify networking and/or job search opportunities