

Toronto Career Centre helps employees face challenges

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(Editor's Note: This article is the second in a series on the transition to the new consolidated Eastern region. Last month, we featured an article on the Moncton Career Center, while this month we focus on the Toronto Career Centre.)

The Toronto Career Centre helps employees face the difficult challenge of finding new employment and a new career.

Every day employees meet one-on-one with transition service consultants from Becky Jones and Associates. The consultants offer a variety of services that help employees build job search strategies and prepare their resumes. They also provide guidance for those employees who have been off the job-market for some time.

Change is a part of today's economy and should not be viewed as negative, explains Mary Frances Fox, Senior Counselor at Becky Jones and Associates, a Career and Life Management firm in Toronto. "Regulatory requirements, actions by the competition, or shifts in company objectives are some typical needs that may lead a company to hire additional people. Change is often the cause, and there's always more of it coming along!" To date the service has been popular with employees.

Becky Jones and Associates also provide seminars on career transition by asking employees to evaluate their skills and applying them to other careers.

According to Fox, your skills and experience make you a "solution on two legs". "For example, in speaking to an air traffic controller, we identified his analytical and concentration skills as tools he could offer to a variety of sectors which would find that kind of thinking valuable. A retiring chief engineer from manufacturing knew how to solve problems of consistency. He could help start-up firms establish efficient production methods."

The transition seminars allow you to evaluate and explore your skills, and point out new areas, which may be of interest. For example, a career counselor giving a job search seminar at the University of Ottawa had his class describe skills for an alligator trainer. This person was labeled as hardworking, with no fear of challenging tasks!

The same can be said of most employees: they have a whole set of existing skills that make them attractive to potential employers they just don't realize it. For employees in Ontario region, seminars such as this one allow them to explore possibilities they might not have considered, as well as help them lead a successful job search.

The moral of this article is that we all have skills. What makes the difference is how you present them and your attitude. Job openings often come to those who are prepared.

Mary-Frances Fox is president of Work Creatively Career Advisors Inc. She can be reached at (416) 922-4476, (888) 315-0003 or mffox@workcreatively.ca.