



Call for Applications: ACTION-RESEARCH Methodologist
Project: *Developing a National Framework for Essential Skills: Seeking Harmony while Respecting Diversity*

JULY 22, 2010

The Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) is seeking an ACTION-RESEARCH METHODOLOGIST for its *National Framework for Essential Skills* project. This \$4.8 million project funded by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) began in February 2010 and will end in February 2013.

The project will develop a National Framework for Essential Skills (ES) to be used by trainers and educational advisors as well as employment counsellors working with Aboriginals, new immigrants to Canada, unskilled workers and the unemployed. The ultimate goal of the project is to increase the level of employability of these client groups.

The National Framework comprises two complementary components: an integrated process and an ES resource repository, along with a guideline for its application. Once developed, the Framework will be tested through pilot projects conducted by colleges with various community partners. The Framework will then be adjusted before being disseminated to a larger community of practitioners working with the project's target client groups.

Role of the Action-Research Methodologist

As action-research is the preferred approach for the project, the methodologist will be a key player. During the various project stages, he/she will invite others involved in the project to serve as co-researchers and to function in an iterative manner.

The methodologist will guide the Framework development process in order to identify its principal elements. He/she will be responsible for the project's progression on developing the Framework, and will be required to produce progress reports. Pilot projects will be used to verify the validity of the Framework. The methodologist will participate in the analysis of pilot project results and identify necessary adjustments.

The methodologist will work closely with the ES Intervention Design Specialist, and the Framework Monitoring and Evaluation specialist. The other key players in the project are the Communication and Information Technology Specialist, as well as members of the project's working group comprised of college ES practitioners / experts, and representatives from the target client groups and from industry.

Most of the work will be carried out remotely (telework). Meetings with various project stakeholders will be held at different steps of the project. The first meeting is scheduled to take place in Ottawa at the end of September.

The selected candidate will be hired to work for a maximum of 120 days from September 2010 to June 2012. The professional honorarium will be \$750 per day. Travel and other expenses will be reimbursed based on activities authorized by ACCC's Manager of ES and subject to ACCC policy.

Mandate

- To establish a thorough action-research approach to develop the Framework
- To present the approach to the project working group members and ensure their participation as co-researchers
- To establish quality control parameters for the Framework (coherence, relevance and consistency) in collaboration with the ES Intervention Design Specialist and the Framework Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist
- To ensure throughout the project that the Framework development activities conform to the primary action-research principles
- To present progress reports on research results as well as a final report

Required Qualifications

- Post-graduate studies in education or social sciences
- In-depth knowledge of action-research methodology in the field of education or social sciences
- Demonstrated ability to write research reports
- In-depth knowledge of ES concepts, related tools, practices and applications with target client groups
- Awareness of employment issues of target client groups at the regional and provincial/territorial levels
- Ability to work in a team environment
- Knowledge of the Canadian college network
- Bilingualism (English and French)

Please e-mail your application by August 20, 2010, to:
Emmanuelle Arnould-Lalonde: earnould-lalonde@acc.ca

Candidates must outline their expertise based on the required qualifications (maximum two pages). A CV must accompany the outline.