



**MEDIA Release
For Immediate Release
December 12, 2018**

40+ Immigrant Women Graduate from Pilot Food Service Worker Certificate Program

Markham, Ontario – More than 40 newcomer women graduated from Job Skills' Food Service Worker Program with the skills, certification and confidence needed to help them find work in Canada's food service industry.

Family, friends and community partners attended the Graduation Ceremony at the Markham North Welcome Centre on December 12.

The pilot program was developed by Job Skills, based on research and client input, in partnership with the York Catholic District School Board and Centennial College.

The existing College program was enhanced by making the Program task-based, combining technical training with opportunities to "learn by doing" and plenty of practice, while at the same time providing occupation-specific language skills and soft skills training to increase confidence.

The 14-week Program was delivered in two sessions in May and September, and included 10 weeks of soft skills training and occupation-specific English language classes, 45 hours of in-class lab courses at Centennial College, and two weeks of work experience placement.

"We know that it is really hard, and at time impossible, for some immigrant women to access traditional vocational training programs and get industry certification... With our community partners, we designed a Food Service Worker Program that would be innovative and would meet both local labour market needs and the specific needs of our clients," said Nella Iasci, Job Skills' Executive Director.

The Food Service Worker Program received funding from the provincial government, through the former Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration.

Job Skills is a non-profit, charitable community-based Employment Service Provider, celebrating 30 years of delivering a wide range of employment and business programs and services across York and Peel Regions.

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