

Helping New Canadians through Alberta Global Talent

Oleksandr Horbuchko arrived in Red Deer about one year ago after surgery prevented him from continuing his work in the oilfield.

"It was a tough time for me," said Oleksandr. "I went to the immigration centre and I met with Brian Ennis. He was really helpful. I also offered to help other newcomers who spoke Ukrainian. He told me about a possible employer and set up a meeting."

United Way Central Alberta provides funding for Central Alberta Refugee Effort's Employee Engagement Program, now called [Alberta Global Talent](#). It provides supports to employers to help them with the attraction, hiring, onboarding, and retention of immigrant employees. "We have been working with immigrants who are aspiring entrepreneurs and future employers. We provide them with the resources and connections to employers in the community who have been generous in providing support," said Program Coordinator Brian Ennis.

Dragan Jovanovic owns and manages Divine Flooring in Red Deer. He moved to Canada 20 years ago after losing everything in the war in Bosnia. He was prepared to give Oleksandr a chance. "He started as a helper, and worked his way up to an installer," said Dragan. "He has a family and needed security, I tried to provide that. He's a responsible, honest, capable man and he is not afraid of working hard. It's always give and take. When we need something, he is there for us, and when he needs something we are there for him. That's how it is."

"I tried hard, the best I could and it worked out for us," said Oleksandr. "Dragan is one of the best employers I have ever worked for, so far. He has been really patient explaining everything. The program really worked for me and I am sure it is helping others. It's working."

C.A.R.E.'s Employee Engagement Program helped dozens of people like Oleksandr last year. Alberta Global Talent features a website and new training tools including workshops, web tools and other employer resources to help Central Alberta businesses and employers.