

A big smile goes a long way....

At VIRCS we are lucky to meet a number of wonderfully diverse and highly trained professionals from all over the world everyday. Every new Canadian faces an extensive set of challenges while tackling the process of settling in a new country and finding a new career to support themselves and their families. What is especially amazing to see is the number of them who do it with a big smile on their face!



We first had the pleasure of meeting Zachy and his family in September 2007. Zachy and his wife had just arrived in Canada the day with their two young children. In Nigeria, Zachy had a successful career as a Senior IT professional and his wife a career in law. They had decided to start a new life in Victoria, and had about 10 days to find a place to live and get settled before Zachy had to return to Nigeria to tidy up a few loose ends at work. It was a whirlwind trip, and one can only imagine the pressure the family felt during those 10 days. Zachy faced all these challenges with a huge smile on his face.

A few months later, Zachy returned to his family in Victoria to find the kids were settled in daycare, and his wife, after much hard work and persistence, working again in the field of law. It was time for Zachy to start his next challenge – finding a position in the IT field in Victoria. Zachy arrived at our office with his usual big smile, and a very lengthy and impressive resume. Zachy's background in IT is extensive, ranging from Network Administration to Systems Analysis, Project Management and IT governance, among others. It was clear from the beginning that with the combination of his impressive experience, his endless positive energy, and his contagious smile, Zachy would quickly be on the right track to reaching his employment goal in Canada.

With the assistance of his case manager, Sarah, Zachy began to refine his resume and started attending the job search workshops at VIRCS. There he learned about our local labour market, hiring practices, resume and cover letter writing skills, and how to perform well in an interview. Soon after this, he was introduced to IMMPowerBC, a Skills Connect program. Since Zachy already had strong job search skills, his case manager, Annie, assisted him with networking. Zachy was introduced to professionals in the IT field, and attended networking events. The program also helped offset costs for association memberships, which further widened his professional circle.

In mid-June, Zachy paid VIRCS a special visit. He went to every staff member with a thank-you card in hand and – of course – a big smile on his face. Just three months after returning to Canada, he landed a position with the Ministry of Health as a Senior Business Consultant for the E-Health Project. Thanks to his positive attitude, exceptional skills, and determination, and some assistance from the IMMPowerBC program, Zachy was able to find a job commensurate with his education and experience, and put a smile on everyone's face at VIRCS.