

# EAST YORK WORKS

Connecting you to Cooperative Education at East York C.I.



Nadia I. at Providence Healthcare



Roberto D. at Champion Cycle



Nicki C. at HMV

## Essential Skills

Reading

Writing

Document Use

Numeracy

Computer Use

Thinking

Oral Communication

Working with Others

Continuous Learning

## A Flat World & Lifelong Learning

Mr. A.N. Persaud, OCT

Thomas L. Friedman, the Pulitzer Prize winning author, declared “The World Is Flat” in his 2005 book of the same name. What Friedman really means is that the competitive playing field is becoming more leveled by a multitude of forces. Today, we know that companies in one country have to compete with companies in other countries around the world not only for market share, but sometimes also just for survival. What we are increasingly becoming aware of is that people also have to compete for jobs not only with people from their own city, but with people from other cities, towns or villages, sometimes in different hemispheres of the globe. This is due in large part to incredible advances in information technology [including fast access to information available to anyone in the world with an Internet connection], outsourcing, offshoring and the “juicing up” of all of these factors with digitization and wirelessness [and the personalization and mobility these bring].

Meanwhile, on a recent Monday morning back at East York C.I., our Co-op students were engaging with the concept of Essential Skills. The federal government, along with national and international agencies, several years ago identified 9 key “Essential Skills” – those “used in nearly every job and throughout daily life in different ways and at varying levels of complexity.”

These Essential Skills are listed in the box at left. While using the gamut of skills, our students noted that, in their current roles, those of primary importance were Working with Others and Oral Communication. These were students in a variety of industries and roles, from the military and retail to automotive service, fire protection and motorcycle repair. And while “Continuous Learning” may seem like an odd “skill” on the list, its importance in a flat world cannot be underestimated. The job landscape is ever changing, where once strong industries now languish, and

## A Flat World

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where jobs are lost, via powerful technological tools and processes, to manufacturers in other countries or to internationally trained specialists. In this climate, continuous lifelong learning, and with it the ability to become versatile, adaptable, flexible and mobile, is key.

In a recent Maclean's Magazine article on the challenges for Canadian youth in entering the labour market, in part due to a lack of on-the-job training such as Co-op, Emad Rizkalla, CEO of a Canadian training solutions company, speaks of "an experience gap" in the soft skills – those same soft skills, such as Oral Communication and Working with Others, being cultivated by our co-op students while they train in industry specific skills.

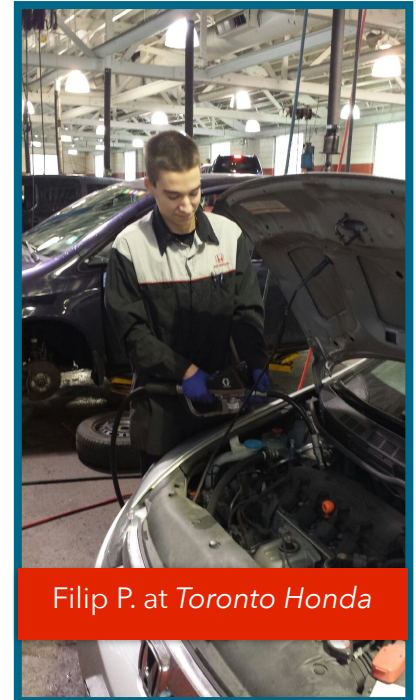
Employers prefer candidates who are more ready for the realities of the work world and they would "prefer to hire someone with the right soft skills and train them in the hard skills they're missing, rather than the other way around."

Co-op is a great way to start cultivating those soft skills in actual work environments and gain valuable resume experience while exploring possible future careers.

## From Co-op to Acura Honda Apprenticeship Program

Ms. F. Cesta, OCT

Toronto Honda Service Manager, Mr. Bryan Smith, has been very generous to our Co-op students over the years. Most recently, he accepted Filip P. for a full-day Cooperative Education placement as an Automotive Service Technician. Filip worked under the guidance and supervision of Mr. Ken Wong, Shop Foreman. This exposure and hands on experience proved invaluable to Filip, and cemented his aspirations to pursue a career in Automotive Service. His mentors recognized his passion and determination and offered him a paid position with Honda. Additionally, he was one of a small number of very lucky candidates who was chosen to attend the fully-funded, state of the art Acura Honda Apprenticeship Program (AHAP). Once trained and certified, Filip is immediately considered for a paid position as an Automotive Service Technician with Honda! Way to go Filip! Special thanks to Toronto Honda, and in particular Mr. Smith and Mr. Wong.



Filip P. at Toronto Honda

## Getting into Co-op

For more information on participating in East York's Co-op Program, please see a Guidance Counsellor or a teacher in the Co-op Department.

Check out [www.eyci.ca](http://www.eyci.ca) for more information or call us at 416-396-2355, extension 20101.



Katie F. at LouLou Magazine