



NORTH SASKATCHEWAN CHAPTER

Volunteer Spotlight



September, 2019

As a new immigrant in town, it is expected that you get busy hunting for a job to pay your bills and it might seem foolish to give your time to an unpaid volunteer role. Shouldn't you spend every moment working on resumes and cover letters while conserving your savings?

For me, even though I had always wanted to participate more in the affairs of my local PMI chapter in Nigeria, I realized it was more pertinent for me to do so as quickly as I could upon my arrival in Saskatoon. I will gladly present three main points responsible for this.

1. Skill Development:

I believe that there's no better way to hone my skills as a project manager than by rubbing minds with professionals in the same field. This will also enable me learn first-hand how people interact in Canadian society and the general work culture.

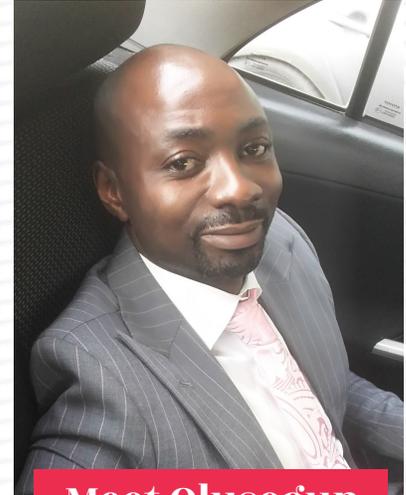
2. The quest for local experience:

It is not news that most employers want applicants to have Canadian work experience and volunteering is one way to get it. Upon arrival in Saskatoon, I applied for a few jobs in my areas of expertise either as a business analyst or IT project manager and it became clear that most of the roles desirable to me required me to possess some level of Canadian experience. Volunteering came to mind as a way to gain this experience as the traditional means of getting a fitting job often winds up in the chicken and egg scenario.

3. Networking:

When settling into a new location and job hunting, it is helpful to build a network of people who will not only provide a shoulder of support to lean on but can also attest to one's qualities. I am hoping that the people I meet in the course of volunteering can act as references to confirm my character and talent to potential employers. Perhaps, I will also build good and lasting friendships in the process.

Ultimately, finding the right volunteer role plays an intricate part in my integration into the Canadian society not only from a professional point of view but also from a social one. It serves as a platform for building meaningful and lasting relationships and contributing to humanity and its advancement in my own little way.



Meet Olusegun

Olusegun Ahmed (PMP)



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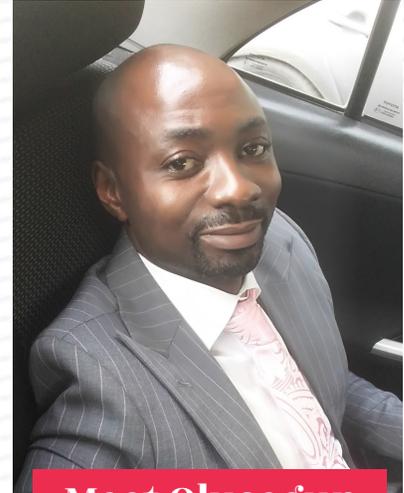
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