

Backgrounder

The signature of these two labour market agreements fulfill commitments made in the Government of Canada's economic plan, *Advantage Canada*, and the 2007 federal budget to create the best educated, most skilled, and most flexible work force in the world.

Canada-British Columbia Labour Market Agreement

- Under the new Labour Market Agreements (LMA), the Government of Canada will invest \$500 million annually over the next six fiscal years to increase the quantity and enhance the quality of Canada's labour force. These resources will be allocated to the provinces and territories on an equal per capita basis.
- The new Canada-B.C. LMA will inject approximately \$396 million over the next six years into the British Columbian labour market – based on current population estimates – beginning with an investment of \$66 million in 2008–2009.
- The new investments will focus on assisting the following individuals who are not in the labour market and therefore not eligible for Employment Insurance (EI), as well as under-represented groups:
 - Aboriginal people, immigrants, persons with disabilities, youth, women, older workers and other under-represented groups within the labour market; and
 - individuals entering and re-entering into the workforce.
- Under these arrangements, the new resources will also help to provide training for employed individuals who are low-skilled and do not have a high school diploma or a recognized credential, or have low levels of literacy and lack essential skills.
- These investments will support the following activities:
 - skills training, ranging from training in basic skills to advanced skills training;
 - on-the-job training and workplace-based skills upgrading;
 - group interventions and job readiness assistance;
 - financial supports and benefits such as loans, grants and living allowances;
 - employment counselling and services; and
 - labour market connections that promote and enhance labour market efficiency.
- The LMAs contain a robust accountability framework that includes commitments related to the following:
 - the development of annual plans and the engagement of stakeholders;
 - the stewardship of financial resources provided under the agreement;
 - the measurement of the outcomes and benefits of investments in three areas – participants, service delivery and participant impacts;
 - regular public reporting of results achieved; and
 - regular review and evaluation of activities.
- These new arrangements also contain a commitment to ensure that the new federal investments do not displace normal provincial expenditures within the labour market.
- In developing and delivering their eligible programs and services, B.C. agrees to take into account the needs of the official language minority communities within the province and to deliver, where there is significant demand, services in either official language.