

Canada-British Columbia Labour Market Development Agreement

- Under the new Canada-British Columbia (B.C.) Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA), the province assumes responsibility for the design and delivery of Employment Insurance-funded Employment Benefits and Support Measures. Over \$300 million per year will be provided from the Government of Canada for this purpose.
- The new agreement replaces the existing co-managed LMDA signed in 1997, under which the federal government retained responsibility for the design and delivery of EI-funded Employment Benefits and Support Measures.
- The Canada- B.C. LMDA supports funding for labour market programs and services for B.C. residents who are now collecting EI benefits or have received them in the last three years or for parents re-entering the labour force who have collected EI parental benefits in the last five years. Last year, more than 80,000 individual unemployed British Columbians benefited from EI-funded programs and services.
- The B.C. programs and services delivered under this agreement will be similar to the benefits and measures offered by the federal government under the previous agreement, including, Job Creation, Skills Development, Self-Employment Assistance, Employment Assistance Services and Wage Supplements.
- 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.
- The LMDA contains a robust accountability framework that includes financial management, performance measurement, regular public reporting on results, and ongoing review and evaluation.
- The Government of Canada retains responsibility for income support under Part I of the *Employment Insurance Act*. This agreement does not affect the delivery of benefits for EI eligible individuals.
- Under the agreement to have B.C. assume responsibility for delivering employment programs and services under the LMDA, federal employees currently delivering programs and services in B.C. will be offered a job with the provincial government. The details of the employee transfer will be worked out with B.C. in a subsequent agreement. As was the case in the eight other jurisdictions where similar transfer arrangements have been implemented over the years, there will be open communication with employees in the coming days and weeks on transition.
- The new LMDA will be fully implemented by February 2, 2009. Until then, the Government of Canada, through Service Canada, will continue to deliver EI-funded employment programming in B.C. The Province has also agreed to ensure continuity of service by continuing agreements with third party service providers for the next two years.