

# Canada – British Columbia LMA / LMDA

The Labour Market Agreement (LMA) and the Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA) represent an investment of more than \$2 billion over the next six years in the BC labour market to meet the labour needs of employers, and to help British Columbians improve their skills and employability.

These agreements were negotiated as part of a new federal approach to labour market programming that includes the transfer of responsibility for a range of labour market programs and services to provinces and territories, recognizing that they are best placed to design and deliver labour market training.

## The Labour Market Agreement

- The LMA is aimed at increasing access to training for unemployed individuals who are underrepresented in the labour market and who currently do not qualify for Employment Insurance (EI). It will also fund training for employed individuals who are low-skilled and require essential skills, or require recognized credentials to reach their full potential in the current marketplace.
  - LMA clients include youth, immigrants, persons with disabilities, Aboriginal people, older workers, and women.
  - LMA programming will be targeted to key labour market priorities with a focus on filling program and service delivery gaps as identified in the WorkBC action plan. It will also respond to the needs of BC employers by increasing the participation of under-represented groups in the provincial labour market.
  - Programming will be delivered through a variety of ministries and government organizations.
- Federal LMA funding represents approximately \$66 million per year over six years for a total of approximately \$396 million.
- The LMA implementation will begin on April 1, 2008.
- The Ministry of Economic Development is the provincial ministry responsible for the LMA.



For more information:

### Labour Market Agreement

Website: [www.workbc.ca/WorkBC/LMA+LMDA/](http://www.workbc.ca/WorkBC/LMA+LMDA/)

### Labour Market Development Agreement

Website: [www.labourmarketservices.gov.bc.ca](http://www.labourmarketservices.gov.bc.ca)

## The Labour Market Development Agreement



- LMDA programs are aimed at helping EI clients and the unemployed general public to prepare for and obtain employment. Activities include sector specific initiatives to assist employers in meeting their human resource needs.
  - LMDA clients include employers, unemployed persons, EI clients, income assistance recipients and the underemployed.
- The transfer of the LMDA program from Canada to BC includes:
  - annual federal funding of \$20.5 million for administration costs and \$280 million for program delivery;
  - the transfer of approximately 250 federal government employees in over 30 Service Canada offices to the BC Public Service; and
  - the transfer of a broad range of contracted services across all regions of the province.
- The LMDA transfer will take effect on February 2, 2009.
- The Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance is the provincial ministry responsible for the LMDA.

## WorkBC

Addressing labour market shortages is the top competitiveness challenge for BC. BC is facing an estimated shortfall of 350,000 workers over the next decade. The province has been actively working to address this challenge through WorkBC – a cross-government action plan for addressing BC’s critical skill shortages.



WorkBC focuses on five strategic action areas:

- Keep the workforce we have;
- Develop the skills of the existing workforce;
- Increase Aboriginal participation and labour market success;
- Find and attract more workers to B.C.; and
- Address regional skills shortages.

The new LMA and the transferred LMDA are two additional tools that will support WorkBC, and will provide BC with the opportunity to better target our investments in employment programming and skills development / training across the province.

Together, the LMA and LMDA investments will result in improvements in labour productivity, an increase in the province’s gross domestic product or GDP, and better wages for lower income British Columbians.