



Backgrounder

Under the new Labour Market Agreements, 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 Canada-Saskatchewan Labour Market Agreement helps fulfill the commitment 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.

The main elements of the Canada-Saskatchewan agreement are as follows:

- The new Canada-Saskatchewan Labour Market Agreement will inject approximately \$90 million over the next six years into Saskatchewan's labour market—based on current population estimates—beginning with an investment of \$15 million in 2008–2009. It comes into effect on April 1, 2008.
- The new investments will focus on supporting skills development for unemployed individuals who are not eligible for training assistance under the EI program, including groups who are under-represented in the labour market, such as
 - 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 work force.
- 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.
- The new agreement supports and complements key provincial labour market initiatives such as *Enterprise Saskatchewan*.
- Funding under the Canada-Saskatchewan Labour Market Agreement will flow through Saskatchewan's programs and services. These investments will support activities such as
 - developing Foundational Skills;
 - increasing Access to Skills Training; and
 - responding to Labour Market Needs.
- The Labour Market Agreements contain a robust accountability framework that includes commitments related to
 - 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 its eligible programs and services, Saskatchewan 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.