



Highlights of the Canada/PEI Labour Market Development Agreement



Fundamental Elements

Under the agreement, the governments of Canada and Prince Edward Island work together to design and tailor labour market employment programs to meet the specific needs of communities, employers and the unemployed on the Island, and to complement provincial economic development strategies. The province has identified five priority sectors as having the potential to generate significant employment including tourism, aerospace, small business, information technology, as well as primary industries.

Residents of Prince Edward Island have access to a wide variety of programs and services funded through the EI Account to help them achieve self-reliance and get back into

the workforce. These programs and services could include: targeted wage subsidies; skills, loans and grants; self-employment assistance; job creation partnerships; labour market partnerships; research and innovation; and employment assistance services.

Funding

During the initial five years of the agreement, the Government of Canada will spend over \$107 million to help unemployed Islanders return to work. The allocations are as follows:

1997-1998	\$17,787,000
1998-1999	\$20,985,000
1999-2000	\$22,636,000*
2000-2001	\$22,636,000*
2001-2002	\$22,636,000*

* projections

Programs and Services

The EI Act provides for a range of active employment benefits and support measures so that people can get back to work as quickly and efficiently as possible including:

Employment Benefits

Targeted Wage Subsidies (TWS)
Individuals who have been unemployed for a long time and are having difficulty finding work can benefit from on-the-job training experience made possible through TWS. Temporary wage subsidies are available to employers who then benefit from more staff and provide valuable new skills and experience to unemployed individuals.

Skills, Loans and Grants
Assistance can be provided to unemployed workers to help them obtain skills for employment, ranging from basic to advanced skills.

Self-Employment (SE)
Provides eligible individuals with financial assistance for a fixed period while they start up a new business.

Job Creation Partnerships (JCP)
Assistance provided to employers to create opportunities for unemployed workers, and allow them to gain work experience that will improve their long-term employment prospects.

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Support Measures

Local Labour Market Partnerships (LLMP)

Assistance provided to employers, employees and employer associations, community groups and communities to improve their capacity for dealing with human resource requirements and implementing labour force adjustment.

Employment Assistance Services (EAS)

Assistance provided through agreements with sponsors, organizations or community groups to help unemployed individuals become employed.

Research and Innovation

Assistance provided to support activities that identify better ways of helping people prepare for, return to, or keep employment and be productive participants in the labour force.

Projects

Atlantic Store Decor (ASD)

A retail store fixture manufacturing plant, ASD will hire approximately 100 new workers for the Pooles Corner facility over the next two years. Currently the company's focus is on the store fixture business and the Thomas Henry line of furniture. As the business expands, additional employees will be required to produce other product lines. Since May 1997, the company has received Targeted Wage Subsidy (TWS) assistance under the Labour Market Development Agreement to provide 23 individuals with sustainable employment.

For more information contact:
Rob Taylor, 838-5555

Aerospace Training

A key priority sector for developing skilled labour is the aerospace industry. Through the LMDA, several Island companies have been able to leverage community college training and curriculum development as well as wage subsidies in an on-going bid to remain competitive. It is highly specialized, highly skilled work that keeps this relatively new Island industry in a growth mode. In order to develop the talent pool to perform aerospace work, companies have had to create some in-house training to complement external programs. The LMDA was there with TWS support. While company owners appreciate assistance with on-the-job training, they look forward to a time in the not too distant future when aerospace industries on Prince Edward Island will have ready access to the labour pool they need for continued growth. Until then programs like LMDA are providing the industry with a much needed leg-up and sustainable employment opportunities for many.

La région Évangéline

Skills upgrading and training for the francophone community is what La Société éducative de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard is all about. Through the LMDA, Collège de l'Acadie and La Société éducative were provided with the funding necessary to support academic and skills upgrading through distance education. Access to the Internet will continue to bring lifelong learning opportunities to the Island's French speaking employment seekers.

For more information contact:
Shirley Pierce, 432-6809

Extended Tourism Season Pilot Project

Labour force training, shoulder season marketing and incentives to increase the length of employment are the three principal components

of a one-year pilot designed to extend the shoulder season for tourist operators. Attractions, food service, theatre, retail, parks, museums and festivals and events are able to receive assistance.

For more information contact:
Tyson MacInnis, 566-5008

Pilot Project in Souris HRC Enterprise PEI (EPEI) and HRDC have joined forces to provide one-stop shopping service to clients in eastern and southern Kings. Working side by side with the staff in the Souris HRC office, the new EPEI Project Development Officer will be administering HRDC programs to youth, small business and community economic development.

For more information contact:
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Training, Working, Learning
2000 & Beyond

A Knowledge Economy Conference
Charlottetown, PEI

July 8-10, 1998

Come exchange ideas with leaders in government, education and the private sector.

For information, call: 1 800 465 9670

<http://www.beyond2000.hollandc.pe.ca>

Year two business plan available
May 1998

For more information on Labour
Market Development visit the
following websites:

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/edt/labourmarket>

<http://www.pe.hrhc-drhc.gc.ca>

Canada

