

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

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Note: Some HRSDC Programs are run through the department of Labour.

Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/employment/aboriginal_employment/index.shtml

Using an integrated approach, ASETS will link your training needs to labour market demands, providing you with training or skill upgrading and with help finding a job.

To find out what's available, start by finding an Aboriginal Agreement Holder in your area. Aboriginal Agreement holders deliver ASETS through an extensive network of service points across Canada.

Note: ASETS is the successor program to the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy (AHRDS), which expired in March 2010.

If you are between the ages of 15 and 30, you may also wish to check out our information on youth programs: [Aboriginal Youth Initiatives](#).

Got kids? Many Aboriginal Agreement holders also offer child care services while you work and learn: [First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative](#).

Do you need special assistance? If so, you may find useful information to help you find work: [Services for Aboriginal People with Disabilities](#).

If you are looking for work, the [Aboriginal Employment](#) page on the Aboriginal Canada Portal links potential employees to employers.

Looking for your first job or returning to the workforce? Find out the latest tips and tricks on [Looking for a Job](#).

You may also want to visit Service Canada's [Services for Aboriginal Canadians](#) and various job search sites and career planning tools to help you assess your skills, create a résumé, find a job or choose a career. Check out the job opportunities listed on the Government of Canada's [Job Bank](#) as well.

Aboriginal Youth Initiatives

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/employment/aboriginal_employment/youth/index.shtml

Aboriginal youth between the ages of 15 and 30 are the fastest growing population segment in Canada. They play a very important role in filling jobs left vacant when older workers retire.

The Government of Canada, in partnership with Aboriginal communities, is providing the resources necessary for Aboriginal youth to succeed in the job market so they can build better futures for themselves and their families.

Under the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS), Aboriginal Agreement holders determine the type of youth programs to deliver based on the needs of Aboriginal youth served. They may design, develop, and deliver unique partnership-based and demand-driven youth programs while supporting Human Resources and Skills Development Canada objectives.

To find out more, contact your Aboriginal Agreement Holder directly.

Note: ASETS is the successor program to the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy, which expired in March 2010.

The Government of Canada has other programs and services available to Aboriginal youth. Information on opportunities to gain work experience, knowledge and skills are available at Youth.gc.ca.

The First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy has programs for First Nations and Inuit youth living on reserves or in recognized communities.

First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/employment/aboriginal_employment/childcare/index.shtml

The First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative (FNICCI) provides access to quality child care services for First Nations and Inuit children whose parents are starting a new job or participating in a training program. The FNICCI is a component of the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS).

The FNICCI is a \$50-million program that has supported over 8 500 child care spaces in 486 First Nations and Inuit communities across Canada. These spaces are available through your local Aboriginal Agreement Holder. Each Aboriginal Agreement Holder creates a program to best meet its clients' needs. In most cases, this will mean pre-school spaces; some Aboriginal Agreement holders also have after-school programs.

To find out if child care through this program is right for you, contact your local Aboriginal Agreement Holder.

Health Canada also offers an early childhood development program through Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve.

Services for Aboriginal People with Disabilities

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/employment/aboriginal_employment/disabilities/index.shtml

Under the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS), Aboriginal Agreement holders have the flexibility to enhance skills and employment services for people with disabilities.

To find out more about training under the Strategy, contact your Aboriginal Agreement Holder.

You may also access any general training programs for people with disabilities available through Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC).

Apprenticeship Completion Grant

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/trades_apprenticeship/acg/index.shtml

The Apprenticeship Completion Grant (ACG) is a taxable cash grant of \$2,000 maximum per registered apprentice after they successfully complete their apprenticeship training and obtain journeyman certification in a designated Red Seal trade, on or after January 1, 2009.

The ACG enhances the Apprenticeship Incentive Grant (AIG) and the objectives are to:

- Increase access to apprenticeship in the Red Seal trades by helping apprentices cover expenses such as the purchase of tools and other materials required for learning on-the-job and travel expenses associated with classroom training;
- Encourage the apprentice's progression through the technical and on-the-job training requirements in the early years of their apprenticeship program, building momentum towards certification;
- Promote interprovincial mobility by increasing the number of apprentices who remain in the Red Seal trades and get their journeyman certification.

Through the AIG and the ACG, completing apprentices who receive their journeyman certification in a designated Red Seal trade could be eligible to receive a maximum of \$4,000.

Eligibility

Eligible apprentices must complete their apprenticeship program in a trade that is designated as a Red Seal trade in the province or territory where they become certified. Apprentices must also successfully complete their training in a designated Red Seal trade and receive their journeyman certification, on or after January 1, 2009.

To be eligible for the ACG, you must be:

1. A Canadian citizen, permanent resident* or protected person*;
2. Out of high school;
3. Able to show you have completed an apprenticeship program as a registered apprentice in a designated Red Seal trade;
4. Able to provide proof that you have received your journeyman certification in a designated Red Seal trade, on or after January 1, 2009.

You are not eligible for the ACG if you obtained your journeyperson certification in one of the designated Red Seal trades without completing an apprenticeship program in that trade.

*Permanent residents and protected persons must include a copy of their status document from Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Refer to:

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/trades_apprenticeship/ACG/eligibility.shtml

Apprenticeship Incentive Grant (AIG)

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/trades_apprenticeship/aig/index.shtm
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The Apprenticeship Incentive Grant (AIG) is a taxable cash grant of \$1,000 per year, to a maximum of \$2,000 per person. The grant is available to registered apprentices once they have successfully completed their first or second year/level (or equivalent) of an apprenticeship program in a Red Seal trade.

The AIG is meant to:

Increase access to apprenticeships in the Red Seal trades by helping apprentices cover expenses such as the purchase of tools and other materials required for learning on-the-job and travel expenses associated with classroom training;

Encourage the apprentices **progression** through the technical and on-the-job training requirements in the early years of their apprenticeship program, building momentum towards certification;

Promote interprovincial mobility by increasing the number of apprentices who remain in the Red Seal trades and get their Red Seal.

Who is Eligible to Apply for the AIG

To be eligible for the AIG, you must be:

- Canadian citizen, permanent resident or protected person
- out of high school
- a registered apprentice with an employer, training trust fund, union training centre, joint apprenticeship training committee, or apprenticeship authority
- in a Red Seal trade program that is designated as such in the province or territory where you are registered as an apprentice
- able to show progress within an eligible apprenticeship program by proving that you have successfully completed either the first or second year/level (or equivalent), through supporting documents.

Eligible apprentices are able to apply for the AIG now.

You can apply for the grant if you have completed your in-school technical and on-the-job training for the first or second year/level (or equivalent) of your apprenticeship program on or after **January 1, 2007**.

You will have until June 30 of the subsequent calendar year to submit your application. For example, if you complete year/level 1 (or equivalent) in February 2009, you will have until June 30, 2010 to apply.

Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/whtsnw/pprntcshp-eng.html>

1. What is the Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit (AJCTC)?

The AJCTC is a non-refundable tax credit equal to 10% of the eligible salaries and wages payable to eligible apprentices in respect of employment after May 1, 2006. The maximum credit is \$2,000 per year for each eligible apprentice.

2. Who qualifies?

Any business that hires an "eligible apprentice".

3. Who is an "eligible apprentice"?

An "eligible apprentice" is someone who is working in a prescribed trade in the first two years of their apprenticeship contract. This contract must be registered with a federal, provincial or territorial government under an apprenticeship program designed to certify or license individuals in the trade.

4. What is a prescribed trade?

A prescribed trade includes the trades currently listed as Red Seal Trades. The Minister of Finance may, in consultation with the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, prescribe other trades.

5. What are "eligible salaries and wages"?

"Eligible salaries and wages" are those payable by the employer to an eligible apprentice for the apprentices' employment in Canada in the tax year and during the first 24 months of the apprenticeship. It does not include remuneration based on profits, bonuses, and taxable benefits including stock options, and certain unpaid remuneration.

6. How do I claim the AJCTC?

Employers will be able to claim the credit on their income tax returns, using either Form T2038(IND), *Investment Tax Credit (Individuals)* or Form T2SCH31, *Investment Tax Credit - Corporations*. Forms can be ordered on-line at www.cra.gc.ca/forms. You can also order forms and publications by calling us at 1-800-959-2221.

7. What if I don't have enough taxes payable to deduct the AJCTC in full?

Any unused credit may be carried back 3 years and carried forward 20 years.

8. What happens when two or more related employers employ the same apprentice?

Special rules apply to ensure that the \$2,000 limit is allocated to only one employer.

9. When does this tax measure take effect?

This tax measure applies to eligible salaries and wages payable to an eligible apprentice in respect of employment after May 1, 2006.

10. Where can I get more information about the AJCTC?

Additional information will be available in the 2006 versions of the *General Income Tax and Benefit Guide*, Form T2038(IND), Investment Tax Credit (Individuals), Guide T4012, *T2 Corporation - Income Tax Guide* and Form T2SCH31, *Investment Tax Credit - Corporations*. These forms and publications are available on the CRA Web site at www.cra.gc.ca/forms.

Business Enquiries line: 1-800-959-5525.

Call for Proposals for Employment Program

http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/epb/lmd/sc/call_for_proposal.shtml

Calls for Proposals for Employment Programs

Service Canada is committed to a fair, transparent, responsive and accountable process for awarding project funding.

A key element is the process for calls for proposals for all contribution projects valued at or above \$500,000 per annum. As part of this process, calls for proposals will be posted on this web site to facilitate access.

The Calls for Proposals Process

Through the call for proposals process, Service Canada invites interested and qualified applicants to develop a project proposal and to submit an application for funding to carry out activities that meet a community need identified by the Department and that will be funded through one of its contribution programs.

Once all of the applications have been received, they will be assessed and ranked by Service Canada against a predetermined set of criteria which will be clearly outlined in the Guide for Applicants. In determining the highest ranked applicant(s), Service Canada may also consider other factors.

Service Canada reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals and will notify all applicants of the outcome of the call for proposal assessment.

These process applies to contributions under the following programs:

- Employment Assistance Services
- Labour Market Partnerships (including Youth Awareness)
- Research and Innovation
- Self-Employment (agreements with organizations)
- Career Focus (agreements with organizations)
- Community Coordinators agreements (Skills Development, Targeted Wage Subsidies, Self-Employment)
- Skills Link (agreements with organizations)
- National Career Focus (Youth Employment Strategy)
- Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities - National Projects

To find out about Calls for Proposals and deadlines in your region, please visit:

http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/epb/lmd/sc/call_for_proposal.shtml

Canada Education Savings Program

<http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/hip/lld/cesg/publicsection/glossary.shtml>

The Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG)

<http://www.canlearn.ca/eng/saving/cesg/index.shtml>

By applying for the CESG, up to \$7,200 can be directly deposited by the Federal Government into your RESP. The Canada Education Savings Grant section offers information about eligibility requirements for the grant as well as how to use it when the beneficiary enrolls at a post-secondary institution.

Eligibility for the CESG

Who can get the grant?

- All children up to age 17 are eligible, as long as they are Canadian residents and an RESP has been opened for them.
- Special rules apply if your child is between the ages of 15 and 17.

Over 3 million children have already received this grant. Register your child today!

The Amount of the CESG

- On the first \$500 you save every year in your child's Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP), the Canada Education Savings Grant will give you:
 - up to \$200, if your net family income is \$39,065 or less
 - up to \$150, if your net family income is between \$39,065 and \$78,130, or
 - up to \$100, if your net family income is more than \$78,130.

Steps to Getting the CESG

To get the CESG, all you need to do is:

1. Get a Social Insurance Number (SIN) for yourself and your child. There's no fee. However, certain documents, such as a birth certificate, are required.
2. Open an RESP account and make a deposit in it. Your RESP provider will then apply for the [grant](#) on your behalf.

The grant will be deposited directly into your child's RESP.

Note: Apply to the Canada Revenue Agency for the Child Tax Benefit if you are setting up an RESP for your child and your family's after-tax income is \$77, 664

or less. You could be eligible for higher amounts of the Canada Education Savings Grant.

The Canada Learning Bond (CLB)

<http://www.canlearn.ca/eng/saving/clb/index.shtml>

- Money from the Government of Canada to help you start saving early for your child's education after high school.
- Your child could get \$500 **NOW** to help you start saving early for your child's education after high school, and an extra \$100 each year up to age 15. That's up to \$2,000 (plus interest) in bonds for your child's education. And you don't have to put any of your own money into the RESP to get this bond.
- An extra \$25 will be paid with the first \$500 bond to help cover the cost of opening an RESP.
- The bond can be used to pay for full- or part-time studies in an apprenticeship program, a CEGEP, trade school, college or university.

Eligibility for the CLB

Your child can get the \$500 Canada Learning Bond plus an extra \$100 per year up to age 15 if:

- your child was born after December 31, 2003, and
- you get the National Child Benefit Supplement as part of the Canada Child Tax Benefit, commonly known as "family allowance" or "baby bonus."

Steps to Getting the CLB

To get the CLB, all you need to do is to:

1. Get a Social Insurance Number (SIN) for yourself and your child. There's no fee. However, certain documents, such as a birth certificate, are required.
2. Open a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) account with an RESP Provider that offers the Canada Learning Bond.

You don't even have to put money into the RESP. Your RESP provider will apply for the bond, which will be deposited directly into your child's RESP account.

Continuing Education- Lifelong Learning

<http://www.canlearn.ca/eng/lifelong/index.shtml>

The Lifelong Learning Plan allows you to withdraw money from your Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) to pay for training or education. This money could also help pay for training or education for your spouse or common-law partner.

Under this plan, you can withdraw up to \$10,000 in a calendar year from your RRSPs. Your spouse or common-law partner can also withdraw up to \$10,000 from his/her RRSPs per calendar year, for a \$20,000 maximum withdrawal in a calendar year of both personal and spousal withdrawals.

More good news is that you don't have to include the withdrawn amounts in your income, and the RRSP issuer will not withhold tax on these amounts. You have up to 10 years to repay these withdrawals to your RRSPs. Any amount not repaid after the 10-year period will count as income for the year it is due.

ALL of the following conditions must apply:

- The student must be a full-time student (or a part-time student if he or she meets the disability conditions).
- You (the RRSP owner) have to be a resident of Canada.
- The student has to enrol in a qualifying educational program at a designated educational institution.
- The participation in the Lifelong Learning Plan (LLP) has to be done before the end of the year the student reaches the age of **71 years old**.

You are responsible for making sure that all LLP conditions are met. If a condition is not met while you are participating in the plan, your RRSP withdrawal will not be considered eligible. You will have to include the RRSP withdrawal as income on your income tax return for the year you received the funds.

If you meet the conditions for participating in the LLP when you make a withdrawal from your RRSP, you can do the following:

- Participate in the plan as many times as you wish over your lifetime. Starting the year after you bring your LLP balance to zero, you can participate in the plan.
- Participate in the LLP at the same time as your spouse or common-law partner. You can use the LLP for either or both of you.
- Participate in the LLP even if you have withdrawn amounts from your RRSP under the Home Buyers' Plan (HBP) that have not been fully repaid.

Canada Student Loans and Grants

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/learning/canada_student_loan/index.shtml

The Canada Student Loans Program and the Canada Student Grants Program help by providing student financial assistance in the form of loans and grants to Canadians attending post-secondary education in most provinces and territories.

Grants

The new Canada Student Grants Program (CSGP) consolidates federal student financial assistance grants into a single program that will provide more effective support for students and families and help them manage the cost of post-secondary education.

The new CSGP is expected to provide support to over 245,000 students starting in the 2009-2010 school year. The grants available under the new CSGP will be predictable, easy to apply for, and provided to students at the beginning and middle of the school year

Program Highlights:

- Canada Student Grant for Persons from Low-Income Families: Students from low-income families who qualify for a federal student loan and meet the specific grant eligibility requirements will receive \$250 per month of study. This grant is available for all years of an eligible university undergraduate, college, or trade school program.
- Canada Student Grant for Persons from Middle-Income Families: Students from middle-income families who qualify for a federal student loan and meet the specific grant eligibility requirements will receive \$100 per month of study. This grant is available for all years of an eligible university undergraduate, college or trade school program.
(Please note that the eligibility thresholds for the low- and middle-income grants will be adjusted to reflect the cost of living in each province and territory for different family sizes).
- Canada Student Grant for Persons with Permanent Disabilities: Under this grant, students with permanent disabilities may receive \$2,000 per academic year to help cover the costs of accommodation, tuition, and books.
- Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment for Persons with Permanent Disabilities: Under this grant, students with permanent disabilities who have exceptional education-related costs such as tutors, note-takers, interpreters, brailers or technical aids may receive up to \$8,000 per academic year.
- Canada Student Grant for Persons with Dependants: Under this grant, low-income students with children may receive \$200 in grant assistance per month of study for each child under 12 years of age.
- Canada Student Grant for Part-Time Students with Dependants: Under this grant, part-time students with up to two children under 12 years of age

- may be eligible for \$40 per week of study, and part-time students with three or more children may be eligible for \$60 per week of study.
- Canada Student Grant for Part-Time Studies: Under this grant, part-time students may be eligible for up to \$1,200 per school year.
 - Transition Grant: As of August 1, 2009, eligible recipients of a Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation (CMSF) Millennium bursary in 2008–2009 may receive a transition grant which does not need to be paid back, for up to three additional years of undergraduate study. The transition grant will equal the difference between the CMSF Millennium bursary received during the 2008-2009 school year and a Canada Student Grant for Persons from Low-Income Families or Canada Student Grant for Persons from Middle-Income Families.

Student Loans

The Government of Canada offers Canada Student Loans to full- and part-time post-secondary students who demonstrate financial need in most provinces and territories across Canada.

Through the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP) the Government of Canada works in partnership with most provinces and territories to deliver student financial assistance. The Government of Canada provides 60 percent of the assessed need, up to a maximum of \$210 in loans per week of study. The remaining 40 percent may be provided in the form of provincial or territorial student loans.

Government student loans	
Requirement of a <u>guarantor</u>	As a general rule, no (exception: in British Columbia, if you are under 19 you need a guarantor in order to receive your B.C. Student Loan)
Interest due while in school	Full-time students do not pay interest until they have left post secondary education (or reached the lifetime limit for assistance)
Start date of repayment	6 months after leaving post secondary education (interest will accrue as soon as you are out of school, however)
Repayment help	Forms of help, such as getting a temporary pass on paying principal and interest, are available

Refer to www.CanLearn.ca for more information

Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security

<http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/oas-cpp/index.shtml>

Almost all of today's seniors receive income from Canada's public pensions: the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and Old Age Security (OAS). Together, the CPP and OAS provide a modest base upon which Canadians can build their retirement income. Basic financial support is also available to survivors and to people who become too disabled to work and their children.

On behalf of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), Service Canada delivers over \$62 billion in benefits annually to millions of Canadians.

As the federal focal point for policy design and research related to Canada's public pensions, HRSDC:

- ensures the long-term sustainability and relevance of CPP and OAS;
- provides a balanced and flexible retirement income system, responding to the diverse and changing needs of Canadians; and
- partners with and engages third parties to increase awareness of CPP and OAS benefits.

HRSDC also negotiates international social security agreements, which help people qualify for benefits from Canada or abroad.

Old Age Security (OAS)

The OAS pension is available to most Canadians starting at the age of 65. OAS provides additional benefits to eligible low-income seniors:

Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) – for OAS pensioners

Allowance – for 60 to 64 year-old spouses or common-law partners of pensioners who receive GIS

Allowance for the survivor – for 60 to 64 year-old widowed spouses or common-law partners

Canada Pension Plan (CPP)

The Canada Pension Plan (CPP) provides contributors and their families with retirement, disability, survivor, death and children's benefits.

The CPP retirement pension is a monthly payment available to CPP contributors as early as 60 years of age.

The disability benefit is a monthly benefit available to qualified CPP contributors and their dependent children.

Survivor benefits are paid to a deceased contributor's estate, surviving spouse or common-law partner and dependent children. Benefits include:

The death benefit – a one-time payment to, or on behalf of, the estate of a deceased Canada Pension Plan contributor;

The survivor's pension – a monthly pension paid to the surviving spouse or common-law partner of a deceased contributor; and

The children's benefit – a monthly benefit for dependent children of a deceased contributor.

International benefits

If you have lived or worked in another country, or you are the surviving spouse or common-law partner of someone who has lived or worked in another country, you may be eligible for benefits from Canada or from the other country under a social security agreement.

Community Partnerships

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/hip/sd/999_CDPD.shtml

To help citizens, communities, the not-for-profit sector and other stakeholders move forward with their own solutions to social and economic challenges affecting vulnerable populations in Canada, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada undertakes policy development, research, knowledge mobilization and partnership development activities.

Strategic investments through programs such as the Social Development Partnerships Program and the New Horizons for Seniors Program help strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of communities and the not-for-profit sector to contribute to the wellbeing of children and families, seniors, and other vulnerable populations.

Community partnerships and development policies and programs are the responsibility of the **Community Development and Partnerships Directorate**:

Social Development Partnerships Program (SDPP)

- Children and Families
- Early Childhood Development in Official Language Minority Communities
- Disability

New Horizons for Seniors

- Community Participation and Leadership Funding
- Capital Assistance Funding
- Elder Abuse Awareness Funding

Understanding the Early Years

Intercountry Adoption in Canada

Thérèse Casgrain Volunteer Award

Intercountry Adoption Services (IAS)

Intercountry Adoption Services (IAS) represents Human Resources and Social Development Canada in its capacity as the lead federal department for intercountry adoption.

IAS works with foreign governments, other federal departments, provinces and territories. Provinces and territories have their own legislation governing adoptions, and under this legislation carry out case management of individual adoptions. For more information on intercountry adoption processes, please contact the appropriate provincial/territorial adoption authority.

IAS carries out three main functions:

- Issue resolution: IAS facilitates the development of a pan-Canadian response on issues between provincial/territorial jurisdictions and foreign countries, including matters such as child trafficking.
- Knowledge dissemination: IAS gathers and disseminates to the provinces and territories information about adoption legislation, policies and practices in foreign countries; current research; and data about intercountry adoptions.
- Facilitation of strong working relationships: IAS facilitates communications and strong working relationships among adoption officials in Canada at the federal, provincial and territorial levels.

Understanding the Early Years

Understanding the Early Years (UEY) is a national initiative that enables members of communities across Canada to better understand the needs of their young children and families so that they can determine the best programs and services to meet those needs.

The focus of UEY is community capacity building using local information on young children. The broad objectives of UEY are to:

- Strengthen the capacity of communities to use quality local information to help them make decisions to enhance children's lives; and
- Enable community members to work together to address the needs of children.

The Initiative provides members of participating communities with quality information on the readiness to learn of their kindergarten children; family and community factors that influence children's development; and the availability of local resources to support young children and their families. Parents, teachers, key decision-makers, and others interested in the well-being of children in each community can then work together to address issues identified by this information.

UEY aims to involve children from all backgrounds including Aboriginal children (which generally applies to First Nations, Inuit and Métis), children of new immigrants, children in official language minority communities and children in disadvantaged circumstances.

Thérèse Casgrain Volunteer Award

In 2001, the International Year of Volunteers, the Government of Canada launched the Thérèse Casgrain Volunteer Award. This award commemorates the work of Thérèse Casgrain and honours those who have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to volunteering.

The award is presented annually to two Canadians, one man and one woman. It recognizes volunteers from communities across Canada. Award recipients are individuals whose social commitment and persistent efforts have contributed significantly to the advancement of a social cause and the well-being of their fellow Canadians.

The award consists of a bronze medallion bearing the likeness of Thérèse Casgrain; a lapel pin; a certificate of recognition; and, \$5,000 to be awarded to a registered Canadian charity designated by the recipient.

The Committee seeks candidates who meet the following criteria:

- Candidates must be Canadian citizens, permanent residents or protected
- Persons within the meaning of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.
- Nominations of candidates should demonstrate that:
 - the spirit of volunteerism has become an important part of candidates' lives;
 - their volunteer efforts have improved the overall quality of life of their fellow Canadians;
 - they have demonstrated leadership, creativity, cooperation and hard work;
 - they have developed or supported an activity that enables Canadians to participate in their communities; and,
 - they have created effective partnerships with the private and not-for-profit sectors, local communities and/or governments.

Nomination Procedures

A candidate for the Thérèse Casgrain Volunteer Award may be sponsored by:

- a) an organization; or
- b) three individuals — a sponsor and two co-sponsors, none of whom are related to the candidate.

Nominations must be postmarked by **February 1** each year. Submit nominations to:

Thérèse Casgrain Volunteer Award Secretariat
Human Resources and Social Development Canada
Place Vanier, Tower A, 2nd Floor
333 North River Road
Ottawa ON K1A 0L1

Employment Programs Policy and Design

<http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/employment/ei/index.shtml>

The Employment Insurance (EI) program provides temporary income support to those who are between jobs; cannot work for reasons of sickness, childbirth, or parenting; or who are providing care or support to a family member who is gravely ill with a significant risk of death.

To apply for EI go to:

<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/en/subjects/employment/index.shtml>

Workers' Compensation

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/labour/workers_compensation/index.shtml

Workers' Compensation – Federal

Despite everyone's best efforts, accidents can happen in any workplace. Workers' Compensation programs protect employees from the financial hardships associated with work-related injuries and occupational diseases. While these programs are largely administered by provincial and territorial governments in Canada, the Labour Program is responsible for claims that involve federal government employees—both inside and outside of the country—who are injured on the job, become sick from an occupational disease or are slain while on duty. We also administer claims submitted by certain merchant seamen and federal penitentiary inmates.

Refer to the website for information regarding

- your compensation rights and responsibilities as [federal government employees and employers](#).
- [Locally engaged employees outside Canada](#), such as staff working in Canadian embassies overseas, are eligible for benefits like any other federal employees, and their employers are responsible for making sure that they receive this compensation when required.
- [Survivors of employees slain on duty](#) are entitled to a guaranteed income. These pages will answer your questions and guide you through the required application process.
- [Certain merchant seamen](#) injured or disabled because of their work are covered for benefits outlined in the *Merchant Seamen Compensation Act*. Are you entitled to these benefits? You can read the details in this section.
- Federal [penitentiary inmates](#) injured while taking part in a Correctional Service of Canada approved work or training program may be eligible for compensation. We have the facts about this benefit plan.
- Understand how the process works at the Labour Program by reading the [Operational Program Directives](#) that Labour Program inspectors need to follow.
- [Interpretation, Policy and Guideline](#) documents provide clarification or interpretation of specific aspects of the Program's directives.

Foreign Credential Recognition

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/credential_recognition/index.shtml

Foreign Credential Recognition

The FCR Program will improve the integration of internationally trained workers into the work force by working with key stakeholders to implement projects that will facilitate the assessment and recognition of qualifications acquired outside of Canada. It was created to develop fair, accessible, coherent, transparent and rigorous foreign credential assessment and recognition processes to enhance the labour market outcomes of foreign-trained individuals in targeted occupations and sectors.

Eligible Recipients

Sector councils, cross-sectoral councils, national consortia, not-for-profit organizations, professional associations, industry groups, unions, regulatory bodies, municipal governments, provincial and territorial governments, public health institutions, school boards, universities, colleges, CÉGEPs and ad hoc associations.

Eligible activities

Projects must focus on developing and implementing processes and tools to recognize the credentials of foreign-trained individuals. Activities may include:

- research and analysis, planning and process development;
- design and development of tools;
- activation of systems to assess credentials;
- development and dissemination of information; and
- partnership development and related implementation activities

Funding

Financial contributions will be provided to eligible recipients to cover eligible costs.

Maximum contribution and duration

The maximum amount payable to each recipient is \$2 million for any fiscal year, which may cover up to 100 percent of eligible project costs. The amount of the contribution will be determined based on the expected costs of the activities, the demonstrated need of the applicant and the applicant's ability to undertake the activities. In-kind and financial contributions by applicants are encouraged.

The maximum agreement duration is five years. Agreements may be renewed based on performance and results achieved.

How to apply

Funding applications will be assessed on an as-received basis.

Fire Prevention Grants

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/labour/fire_protection/grant_fpc.shtml

Grant to Fire Prevention Canada

To assist Fire Prevention Canada in its fire prevention education objectives of keeping the Canadian public informed and aware of the causes of fire and fire-related preventive measures and in promoting participation in research, publications and fire related media ventures.

Duration

Projects, on average, are for a period of 52 weeks.

Financial Parameters

Funding may not exceed \$7,000 per fiscal year.

Who can apply?

The program is specific to Fire Prevention Canada.

Grant to Fire Safety Organizations

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/labour/fire_protection/grant_fso.shtml

To support the promotion of national public awareness in the area of fire safety, to financially assist research, studies and surveys related to fire safety, to reduce losses of life and property from fire, and to advance the science and technology of fire protection in Canada.

Duration

Projects, on average, have been approved for a period of 52 weeks.

Financial Parameters

Funding may not exceed \$19,000 in any fiscal year, to be paid to one organization or in smaller amounts to several participating organizations.

Who can apply?

Fire safety organizations that endeavour to reduce the loss of life and property due to fire.

How do I apply?

Eligible organizations must submit their proposal and financial request to Fire Protection Services.

Homelessness Partnering Strategy

<http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/homelessness/index.shtml>

Addressing homelessness is a challenge in all regions across Canada. The Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) is a community-based program that relies on communities to determine their own needs and to develop appropriate projects.

The HPS works to prevent and reduce homelessness across Canada through:

- investments in transitional and supportive housing through a housing-first approach;
- support to community-based efforts to prevent and reduce homelessness;
- partnerships between the federal government, provinces, and territories; and
- collaboration with other federal departments and agencies.

The HPS has seven funding components:

- Designated Communities
- Outreach Communities
- Aboriginal Communities
- Federal Horizontal Pilot Projects
- Homelessness Knowledge Development
- Homelessness Individuals and Families Information System
- Surplus Federal Real Property for Homelessness Initiative

What we do

The HPS makes strategic investments in community priorities. It encourages cooperation between governments, agencies, and community-based organizations to find local solutions for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The HPS also partners with provinces and territories, communities, and the private and voluntary sectors to strengthen capacity and build sustainability. It carries out research to foster a better understanding of homelessness, and it collects and promotes best practices to help design the most effective responses.

The HPS recognizes that stable housing is a basic requirement for improving health, parenting, education, and employment. It emphasizes transitional and supportive housing to help individuals and families move to greater autonomy and self-sufficiency.

The Strategy supports 61 designated communities and some small, rural, northern, and Aboriginal communities to develop community-based measures that help homeless individuals and families. Official Language minority communities were also consulted to ensure that their needs are reflected in the development of our policies and programs, and the way we deliver services.

The challenges of Homelessness

There are many causes of homelessness, including insufficient affordable housing and housing supply, low income, the gap between income and affordability, mental health and/or substance abuse issues, family conflict, violence, job loss, breakdown, and inadequate discharge planning (ex-offenders, mentally ill persons, and persons leaving the care of the child welfare system).

An estimated 150,000 to 300,000 people are homeless in Canada, living in shelters or on the streets. On any given night, 40,000 people stay in homeless shelters. Single men are the largest segment of homeless people in most Canadian cities, but homelessness is rising among both single women and lone-parent families headed by women. Families with children living in poverty, street youth, Aboriginal persons, persons with mental illness, the working poor, and new immigrants are disproportionately reflected in the homeless population.

For more information about the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, to obtain a copy of a community plan, or to enquire about a Call for Proposal process in your own community, please contact the Homelessness Partnering Strategy Representative in your region:

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/homelessness/hps_representatives/index.shtml

International Academic Mobility Program

<http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/learning/exchanges/iam-program.shtml>

The International Academic Mobility Initiative (IAM) supports Canadian post secondary institutions in offering international learning opportunities to their students. This goal is achieved through IAM's support for student mobility and academic co-operation projects between Canadian post-secondary institutions and institutions in foreign partnering countries.

The International Academic Mobility Initiative is composed of two programs:

1. The Canada-European Community Program for Co-operation in Higher Education and Training

This program encourages joint academic projects among higher education institutions, training establishments and other organizations on both sides of the Atlantic.

2. Program for North American Mobility in Higher Education

This program encourages co-operation in higher education and training among the three North American Free Trade Agreement countries with a focus on student mobility. Since its inception, universities and colleges from all regions of Canada have participated in a wide range of trilateral projects with institutions in the United States and Mexico. The trilateral partnership activities include the innovative use of new learning technologies to maximize student participation.

Who is eligible to apply for funding?

The Program is open to all post-secondary higher education institutions in Canada. Each country supports its own participating institutions. Government funding is seed money and participating institutions also make financial contributions. Projects are supported on a multi-year basis with the understanding that the partnership and activities will become sustainable after that period. Maximum HRSDC support for each project is up to \$160,000 under the North American Program and up to \$200,000 under the Canada-EU TEP program and \$450,000 under the Canada-EU TDP program, which is shared among the Canadian partner institutions.

How are projects selected?

Participating countries issue guidelines and receive common proposals on an annual competitive basis. Following independent review processes which take place in each country, projects are selected from among those which are highly rated and recommended on all sides.

New Horizons for Seniors Program

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/community_partnerships/seniors/index.shtml

By providing funding to non-profit and other organizations, the New Horizons for Seniors Program helps to ensure that seniors can benefit from, and contribute to, the quality of life in their communities, through active living and participation in social activities.

The Program funds projects that help improve the quality of life for seniors and their communities – from enabling seniors to share their knowledge, wisdom and experiences with others, to improving facilities for seniors' programs and activities, to raising awareness of elder abuse.

There are three kinds of funding: [Community Participation and Leadership](#), [Capital Assistance](#), and [Elder Abuse Awareness](#).

For more information on the federal government's actions on seniors' issues, please visit [Seniors Canada](#).

Organizations are invited to apply for funding through Calls for Proposals.

Apply Now – Open Calls for Proposals

Community Participation and Leadership Funding

Grants of up to \$25,000 for community-based projects that encourage seniors to play an important role in their communities.

Deadline for all provinces and territories, except Quebec: April 16, 2010

Deadline in Quebec: anticipated for fall 2009: September 17, 2010

Capital Assistance Funding

Grants of up to \$25,000 for upgrading community facilities and equipment related to existing programs and activities for seniors.

Deadline for Quebec: September 17, 2010

The Call for the rest of Canada is expected to open in late summer 2010.

Elder Abuse Awareness Funding

For this Call, contribution funding up to \$100,000 is available for regional projects that raise awareness of the abuse of older adults in Canadian society.

Deadline: Last call closed in Spring 2009.

To learn more about the New Horizons for Seniors application process or to obtain an application form, visit our Web site at www.hrsdc.gc.ca or call 1-800-277-9914 and press "0" to speak to an agent.

Office of Literacy and Essential Skills (OLES)

<http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/hip/lld/nls/GC/pdesc.shtml>

The Office of Literacy and Essential Skills (OLES) is focused on improving the literacy and essential skills of adult Canadians. We provide expertise, funding for innovative and dynamic projects and a wide range of learning tools and other resources. We work through the following activities:

- **Programming:** grants and contributions;
- **Building knowledge and expertise:** research, analysis and results;
- **Tools:** development, adaptation and dissemination; and
- **Partnerships:** with other government departments, provincial and territorial governments, and non-profit organizations.

Through these activities, OLES aims to help Canadians have the skills they need to get a job, stay in the job market and contribute to their communities and families.

Mission

The Government of Canada created OLES with a mission to:

- become an acknowledged centre of expertise on “what works” in improving the literacy and essential skills of adult Canadians;
- integrate literacy and essential skills into existing training and upgrading efforts; and
- influence and leverage skills investments in Canada.

OLES complements the work of provincial and territorial governments in the areas of adult education, training and service delivery. However, it does not fund the direct delivery of literacy and essential skills training.

Understanding Literacy and Essential Skills

Literacy and Essential Skills are the skills needed for work, learning and life. They provide the foundation for learning all other skills and enable people to evolve with their jobs and adapt to workplace change.

Through extensive research, the Government of Canada and other national and international agencies have identified and validated nine literacy and essential skills. These skills are used in nearly every occupation and throughout daily life in different ways and at different [levels of complexity](#).

The nine literacy and essential skills are: reading text, document use, numeracy, writing, oral communication, working with others, continuous learning, thinking skills and computer use.

Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/epb/sid/cia/grants/of/desc_of.shtml

Objectives

The Opportunities Fund is a program designed to help people with disabilities prepare for and obtain employment or self-employment. It also assists people to develop the skills they need to keep a new job.

The Opportunities Fund supports a variety of activities, in partnership with organizations including with the private sector, to help people with disabilities overcome the barriers they may face as they enter the job market.

These activities may include:

- helping individuals start their own business;
- helping individuals to increase their job skills;
- helping individuals to integrate into the workplace through services that meet their special needs; and
- encouraging employers to provide individuals with work opportunities and experience.

Background

The Government of Canada looks to create new opportunities and choices for people with disabilities—choices such as returning to work, retraining or entering the job market. Incentives are in place to ensure that all Canadians can achieve their potential and have the choices they want, with the support they need.

Program details

Who can apply

The Opportunities Fund accepts applications from people with disabilities, and from sponsor organizations and employers that help people with disabilities to enter or return to the workforce.

To be eligible for assistance, an individual must:

- self identify as having a permanent physical or mental disability that limits daily activity;
- be unemployed (or working less than 20 hours per week);
- be legally entitled to work in Canada; and
- normally, must NOT be currently eligible for federal employment programs offered under Part II of the *Employment Insurance Act* (or similar provincial or territorial programs).

Individuals may also benefit from services available through a number of Opportunities Fund [National Projects](#) offered by sponsor organizations across the country and through other HRSDC programs.

Eligible sponsor organizations and employers include:

- Businesses, organizations, including public health and educational institutions, band or tribal councils, municipal governments, provincial or territorial government departments and agencies if specifically approved by the Minister, as well as individuals.

Agreements with third parties

Human Resources and Social Development Canada can also enter into an Opportunities Fund contribution agreement with an organization or employer, which can in turn enter into its own agreements with employers, sponsor organizations and/or individual clients.

Costs that may be covered

The Opportunities Fund may provide assistance to individuals to cover the following costs of participating in an eligible activity:

- all or part of their living expenses;
- all or part of the cost of participating in the activity, such as expenses related to specialized services, arrangements or equipment, dependant care, transportation and accommodation; and
- all or part of the cost of training or taking a course (may not be available in all provinces).

Funding may be provided to organizations and employers to cover costs such as:

- participant wages or related employer costs; and
- overhead costs related to planning, organizing, operating, delivering and evaluating approved activities, including staff wages and employment related costs.

Eligible expenses will be negotiated with program officials.

Duration

Projects may be approved for a period of up to 52 weeks; however, in some circumstances the period may be extended to a total of 78 weeks. The duration of assistance varies according to the action plan developed for each individual and is based on individual needs.

Labour Market Development Agreements and the Opportunities Fund

Agreements related to training and labour market development have been in place between the Government of Canada and all provinces and territories for the most part since 1997–98. In many provinces and territories, training is the responsibility of the provincial or territorial government.

For HRSDC to deliver training through the Opportunities Fund, permission must be obtained from the appropriate provincial or territorial ministry.

It is recommended that individuals check with their local Service Canada Centres to determine how training is funded in their province.

Funding for Organizations for National Projects - Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities

The Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities provides funding to organizations for projects involving employment services in three or more provinces or territories across Canada.

National projects aim to:

- increase the employability and financial independence of people with disabilities by helping them work towards getting a job or becoming self-employed;
- produce measurable results for participants in terms of employability or returning to school;
- deliver effective and continuously improving activities that assist people with disabilities in finding a job; and
- provide services to people with disabilities in rural or remote areas, or in instances where there are gaps in existing program services.

Service Canada invites organizations to apply for funding through an annual Call for Proposals.

The call for proposals is now closed. For an updated status, please visit:
http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/of/national_projects.shtml

Sector Council Program

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/sector_councils/index.shtml

Program Information

To compete in today's increasingly competitive global economy the Government of Canada recognizes that developing Canada's human capital is vital to maintaining Canada's knowledge advantage, and ensuring Canada has the best-educated, most-skilled and most flexible workforce in the world. Through the Sector Council Program, the Government of Canada is working with the private sector to enhance adult workers' skills through activities such as increasing employer investments in skills development and promoting workplace learning and training.

The Government of Canada supports sector councils in key sectors of the Canadian economy, including automotive, aviation, biotechnology, child care, environment, mining, petroleum, policing, and steel.

Sector councils are national partnership organizations that bring together business, labour and educational stakeholders. Operating at arms length from the Government of Canada, sector councils are a platform for stakeholders to share ideas, concerns and perspectives about human resources and skills issues, and, in a collective, collaborative and sustained manner, find solutions that benefit their sector.

Program Objectives

- Increased industry investment in skills development to promote a quality workforce;
- A learning system that is informed of, and more responsive to, the needs of industry;
- Reduced barriers to labour mobility, leading to a more efficient labour market; and
- Enhanced ability of industry to recruit and retain workers and to address human resources issues.

Activities

- Developing labour market information products to allow businesses to plan human resources and project investments;
- Developing national occupational standards to facilitate labour mobility (including apprenticeship), influence college curricula and promote health and safety in the workplace;
- Targeted recruitment and skills development initiatives to increase labour force participation and integration of under-represented groups such as aboriginals and immigrants;
- Efforts to ensure that curriculum meets industry needs;

- Skills development tools, including e-learning;
- Essential skills initiatives; and
- Tools and approaches to integrate foreign-trained workers

Social Development Partnerships Program

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/community_partnerships/sdpp/call/disability_component/page00.shtml

The Social Development Partnerships Program (SDPP) helps to improve the lives of children and families, people with disabilities and other vulnerable Canadians. It invests in organizations that support the well-being of Canadians – from developing a better understanding of the issues Canadians face, to providing greater access to information, programs and services. For example, organizations carry out projects to help families taking care of elderly parents while raising children; to help youth who are at-risk of dropping out of high school, and to increase participation, opportunities and accessibility for people with disabilities.

There are two funding components:

- Children and Families, and
- Disability

In addition, the SDPP provides funding for early childhood development in official language minority communities.

SDPP-Disability invites not-for-profit organizations to apply for funding through calls for proposals. Each call for proposals has specific eligibility criteria, funding priorities and funding levels.

Organizations may apply for funding only when a call for proposals is open.

Future calls for proposals (Last call closed February 2010)

Social Development Projects: Date to be announced

Contribution funding to non-profit organizations for projects that promote accessibility, or support seniors with disabilities and youth with disabilities.

Accommodation Projects: Date to be announced

Contribution funding to non-profit organizations for projects that enable people with disabilities to fully participate in events by ensuring accessibility.

Contact Information

The Social Development Partnerships Program – Disability is administered by the Office for Disability Issues

Toll free: 1 800 O-Canada (1 800-622-6232)

Targeted Initiative for Older Workers

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/employment/employment_measures/older_workers/index.shtml

On October 17th, 2006, it was announced that the Government of Canada will make available up to \$70 million for programming under the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers until March 31, 2009. In Budget 2008, it was announced that the initiative would be extended for three years - to March 31, 2012, and enhanced by \$90 million, and in Budget 2009 it was announced that it would be enhanced by a further \$60 million. This initiative will help unemployed older workers in communities experiencing ongoing high unemployment and/or with a high reliance on a single industry affected by downsizing. Projects will be designed to improve the employability of participants from 55 to 64 years of age, and may assist them through activities such as prior learning assessment, skills upgrading, and experience in new fields of work.

The Targeted Initiative for Older Workers is cost-shared between the Government of Canada and provinces and territories. Participating provinces and territories will be responsible for targeting programming and the funding of projects.

To find out whether the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers is available in a particular province or territory, and to obtain a contact for further information, visit the participating provinces and territories site:

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/employment/employment_measures/older_workers/pdptiow.shtml

British Columbia

Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development

Metro Vancouver residents: 604-660-2421

Greater Victoria residents: 250-387-6121

All other BC residents: 1-800-663-7867

Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TTY):

Metro Vancouver residents: 604-775-0303

All other residents: 1-800-661-8773

Web site: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/aved/>

Workplace Skills Program

<http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/ws/index.shtml>

Canada has one of the best standards of living in the world. But to sustain and advance our standard of living we cannot stand still.

Canada's success, and the success of individual Canadians, relies on our economic productivity. And our productivity, in turn, is increasingly dependent on skills and learning.

In response to these challenges, the Government of Canada is implementing a Workplace Skills Strategy (WSS), a key pillar of the government's overall economic strategy.

The WSS is the first element of the Government of Canada's five-point strategy to build a more globally competitive and sustainable economy. For more information, please refer to the October 2004 Speech from the Throne.

The WSS has three main goals:

- To help Canadians be the best trained, most highly skilled workers in the world
- To build a labour market that is flexible and efficient
- To respond to the needs of employers to make Canadian workplaces more productive and innovative

To continue to prosper as a nation, we must develop value-added activities that focus on innovation, research, and worker skills and qualifications. The Workplace Skills Strategy will do this by:

- Promoting workplace skills investment
- Promoting skills recognition and utilization
- Promoting partnerships, networks and information

Link to a list of Workplace Skills programs:

<http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/corporate/az/index.shtml>

Universal Child Care Benefit

http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/goc/universal_child_care.shtml

What is Canada's Universal Child Care Plan?

Canada's Universal Child Care Plan provides families with resources to help balance work and family as they see fit — regardless of where they live, whatever their circumstances or preferences. The Plan has two parts: direct support to families through the **Universal Child Care Benefit**; and transfers to provinces and territories and a new investment tax credit for businesses for the creation of **child care spaces**.

What is the Universal Child Care Benefit?

The Universal Child Care Benefit provides financial assistance to Canadian families with young children. Parents receive \$100 a month — up to \$1,200 a year — for each child under six.

Application forms are available on the Canada Revenue Agency Web site or by visiting a Canada Revenue Agency office or Service Canada Centre.

How will new child care spaces be created?

As per Budget 2007, we are transferring \$250M each year to provinces and territories to support their priorities for child care spaces — so they can continue to build their child care systems to meet the needs of their own citizens.

In addition, a 25 per cent investment tax credit is available to eligible businesses that create new child care spaces in the workplace, to a maximum of \$10,000 per space created. This will allow employers to respond to their business needs and the needs of their employees.

For more information:

For more information on how to receive the Universal Child Care Benefit, visit the Canada Revenue Agency Web site or call 1 800 387-1193 or TTY 1 800 665-0354.

For **general information** on Canada's Universal Child Care Plan, visit www.universalchildcare.ca or call 1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232) or TTY 1 800 926-9105.

The Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Education

<http://www.pma-ppm.ca/eic/site/pmaece-ppmepe.nsf/eng/home>

The Prime Minister's Awards (PMAs) for Excellence in Early Childhood Education honour outstanding and innovative early childhood educators who excel at fostering the early development and socialization of the children in their care, and at helping build the foundation children need to meet life's challenges.

Awards

- Up to 10 Certificates of Excellence (national level), each including a financial award of \$5,000.
- Up to 15 Certificates of Achievement (regional level), each including a financial award of \$1,000.

Certificates of Excellence are awarded to the 10 top-ranked nominees, with at least one award designated for each of the following regions: British Columbia; Prairies; the North (Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut); Ontario; Quebec; and Atlantic Canada and at least one of the Certificates of Excellence is designated for the top-ranked Aboriginal early childhood educator.

The next top-ranked nominees (up to a maximum of 15) each receive a Certificate of Achievement. At least one of the Certificates of Achievement is awarded annually to an Aboriginal early childhood educator.

Financial awards are provided to recipients and may be used for professional development, equipment, resource materials or other tools to improve developmental programming and children's experiences related to the educator's work.

Eligibility

Upon submission of the nomination, all nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Nominees must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents.
- Nominees must work a minimum of 2.5 days a week providing direct education and care to young children in a licensed early childhood education setting (as defined by provincial or territorial government regulations). This requirement is waived for nominees who work in Aboriginal Head Start sites on and off reserve or in early childhood education settings on reserve where there is no applicable provincial or territorial government licensing. Full-time centre administrators are not eligible for this award.
- Nominees must have successfully completed training in early childhood education and care as follows (copy of training certification must be provided with nomination):

- degree, diploma or certificate in early childhood education and care;
- official certification as an early childhood educator in the province or territory where the nominee is working; or
- successfully completed a training program in family child care.
- Nominees must have worked in a licensed Canadian early childhood education setting for at least three years and still be gainfully employed in an ECE setting at the time of the nomination deadline (April 20, 2009).

Posthumous nominations are not accepted.

Educators who are not eligible for this award may be eligible for the Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence. Nomination guidelines are available at www.pma.gc.ca, by sending an email to pmate-ppmee@gc.ca or by calling 613-946-0651.

Nominators

Nominators may be any person or group with direct knowledge of the nominee's contribution (i.e. parent of child in care, co-worker, supervisor, fellow educator, etc.). However, self-nominations or nominations received from a nominee's direct family member will not be accepted.

Selection Criteria

Award recipients are selected based on their innovative approaches and outstanding ability to engage and support the development of the children in their care, and on their overall commitment to the development of children and the early childhood education and care profession. While an exemplary project or practice may form part of a nomination, nominees are judged on their overall merits as educators.

In selecting award recipients, the committee looks for **clear evidence** that nominees have excelled in **all four** areas described below:

1. Support of child development
2. Innovation
3. Involvement with parents, families and the community
4. Commitment and leadership in the field

Nomination Deadline

New competition to be launched in the Fall of 2010.

For more information, please send an e-mail to pmaece-ppmepe@gc.ca or call 613-946-0651.

The Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence program

http://pma-ppm.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/pmate-ppmee.nsf/eng/h_wz00008.html

Looking back, we can all remember a special teacher who played a critical role in our lives. This teacher encouraged you to think outside the box, helped you feel good about yourself and encouraged you to continuously strive to do better.

The Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence program is Canada's way of recognizing our best teachers, promote what they have achieved and share their innovative and successful teaching practices.

To date, over 1,000 outstanding teachers have been recognized with considerable benefits to their schools, their students and themselves.

Awards

The Awards, offered at the **Certificate of Excellence (national)** and **Certificate of Achievement (regional)** levels, carry cash prizes of \$5,000 and \$1,000 respectively. Financial awards are issued to the recipient's school to be spent under the recipient's direction.

Certificates of Excellence are awarded to the 15 top-ranked nominees, with at least one award designated for each of the following regions: British Columbia; Prairies; Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut; Ontario; Quebec; and Atlantic Canada.

The next 50 top-ranked nominees each receive a **Certificate of Achievement**.

Recipients receive letters and certificates, signed by the Prime Minister, as well as program pins and letterhead.

Selection Committee

Regional and national committees of education stakeholders from across Canada select award recipients in two stages.

Contact Us

For more information about the program and our next competition, call us at (613) 946-0651 or e-mail us at (pmate-ppmee@ic.gc.ca).