



Renewal of Canada-Quebec Labour Market Agreement

The Minister of Employment and Social Development Jason Kenney announced that an agreement to renew the Canada-Quebec Labour Market Agreement has been finalized. The agreement reflects the views of the Quebec government and labour organizations who met with Minister Kenney during extensive consultations across the province. Through these consultations, it became clear that Quebec already has a long-standing, well-functioning system that puts employers at its centre and requires them to invest in training.

The highly structured system includes:

- A formal collaboration body, the Commission des partenaires du marché du travail, which provides a central role in training decisions and labour market training investments for key labour market stakeholders, including business, education and labour, to help match skills training with labour market needs;
- Legislation that requires employers to invest on training; and
- The Workforce Skills Development and Recognition Fund, a dedicated training fund sourced from employer contributions and managed by employers and other labour market partners to support employer-based training with focus on small and medium-sized enterprises.

Canada's 2014 Economic Action Plan proposes several measures to ensure that the training of their workforce reflects the needs of the labour market. Canadians having the skills will be able to take advantage of the jobs and opportunities available to them, such as the Canada Apprentice Loan, which could provide up to \$4,000 interest-free loans for apprentices in their first Red Seal trade.

The government of Canada is presently working with the provinces and territories on the creation of the Canada Job Grant which will ensure that employers participate meaningfully in skills training and lead to guaranteed jobs.

Source: POLO-Toronto
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