

Canadian Coalition
of Community-Based
Employability Training

Canada's Voice for the
Employment and Training Sector



Coalition canadienne
des organismes communautaires
en développement de l'employabilité

La voix de l'employabilité
au Canada

PRESS RELEASE

October 2, 2013

CCCBET Position Paper on the Canada Jobs Grant

The Canadian Coalition of Community-Based Employability Training (CCCBET) is a national, non-profit association whose membership is comprised of representatives from provincial employment and training organizations. CCCBET provides a voice for non-governmental organizations developing, delivering or interested in effective labour market programs. Our focus at present: employability programs which assist vulnerable and unemployed Canadians are threatened due to the federal government's planned Canada Job Grant and the diversion of Provincial, Territorial, and Federal Labour Market Agreement funds to pay for the grant.

CCCBET recognizes the need for labour market programs to continuously improve, respond to changing economic challenges and spend public funds as effectively, efficiently and fairly as possible. We share the government's goal of seeking to engage the private sector more deeply in the training and development of skilled workers where skills gaps and labour market challenges exist. We want government to put our expert, practical knowledge and experience on employment and training programs to use to help them improve labour market programs and implement new approaches that will work.

CCCBET key objectives:

- To achieve greater recognition of the success of the current Labour Market Agreements' and acknowledge the continuing critical role of the federal government in reducing employment barriers and expanding opportunities for people. Many of those we currently serve are under-represented populations in local labour markets. These individuals include: Aboriginal peoples; immigrants; older workers; persons with disabilities; persons with low literacy levels; women, and; youth. It is these same groups that have been highlighted by governments as vital new sources of labour;
- To provide positive policy and program options, grounded in the experience of our participating organizations, for improving labour market programs in Canada, especially for those persons currently served by the Labour Market Agreements; and
- To participate in current discussions and consultations with both the federal and provincial governments about the continuation of the Labour Market Agreements and possible implementation of a Canada Job Grant.

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CCCBET key messages:

The message	Examples of our 'talking points'
Labour Market Agreement programs are presently working and working well throughout Canada. They are accountable, flexible and responsive to local labour market needs.	<i>The programs under the existing Labour Market Agreements are helping tens of thousands of Canadians get jobs and improve their lives. Today's programs can certainly be better but eliminating them in favour of a completely unknown, untested program would be a huge waste of public money.</i>
Labour Market Agreement programs delivered through employability and training organizations have built strong, lasting connections with employers.	<i>Very few employers in Canada have any experience in training. We support getting employers more deeply involved, but believe that just offering a training grant and then expecting matching funds (up to \$5,000) from employers is not the way to achieve this objective.</i>
We support the position of the Provinces and Territories: they are the level of government best equipped to design and deliver labour market programs, rather than a one-size fits all federal government program.	<i>It should be obvious to everyone that the labour market in rural Quebec is not the same as in downtown Vancouver, or Fort McMurray. We need programs designed for real local needs.</i>
The Federal Government is best suited to setting vision, broad operational parameters, evaluation and outcome measures and developing better national labour market information to achieve equity across the country.	<i>Ottawa needs to do what it can do best: set a vision for Canada, demand rigorous evaluations of programs, set national goals, and maintain national labour market information.</i>

For further information please contact:

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