

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

2015 Federal Election – CCCBET Position Paper

The Canadian Coalition of Community-Based Employability Training (CCCBET) is an affiliation of national and provincial non-profit employment and training associations aligned with CCCBET's vision that "all people have access to local community-based services that support their pursuit of meaningful employment and social inclusion."

Local community-based agencies:

- Address employment barriers and speed the transition to employment and economic independence.
- Include marginalized populations in the workforce.
- Focus on clients, working with each individual to overcome their barriers.
- Focus on local employers working with each individually to serve their business and HR needs.
- Understand the labour market gaps and needs in our communities and provinces.
- Connect with other resources in our communities, enhancing the effectiveness of government services for individuals with barriers to employment.

Our member agencies from across Canada deliver a large proportion of provincially-managed employment services that are funded through the federal-provincial Labour Market Development Agreements and the Canada Job Fund Agreements. About \$2.7 billion in federal funding is provided to provinces and territories for this purpose annually. Our member agencies also offer programs funded directly by the Government of Canada for individuals with barriers to employment. Community agencies amplify government funding through collaborations and entrepreneurial endeavours with other community partners and resources.

CCCBET recognizes the federal government's role in framing and implementing national employment and training initiatives. CCCBET has supported the federal government's devolution of many of these services to the provinces and territories since 1996. We believe that the provinces and territories are the appropriate level of government to deal with the delivery of employment programs and services. By being "closer to the ground", they can be more responsive to regional labour market that vary across the country and require in-depth local knowledge.

CCCBET supports the critical role of the federal government to be the leader on long-term strategic direction-setting and reliable funding, but strongly recommend collaboration with the provinces and territories and other key stakeholders, including the business, labour, the education and training sector, and career and employment service providers. We recognize that despite Canada's solid economic potential, the development and employment of tomorrow's workforce still leaves many populations un/under-tapped,

particularly youth, aboriginals, persons with disabilities and newcomers. Business recognizes this is wasted talent, but needs an active partnership with government and employment service providers to close the skills gap. We can help avoid that and be part of the solution to help those individuals contribute to the economy of Canada.

Another essential role for the federal government is exemplified through collaboration with the provinces and full participation in the meetings of the Labour Market Ministers. Cohesion and cooperation between governments will avoid duplication of services, result in an integrated continuum of services and make the most effective use of taxpayer dollars. Piggy backing skills training programs with major infrastructure and economic development projects would also result in a greater return on investment.

Canada needs:

1. A national framework for planned investment in employment and economic development guided by broadly accepted outcomes and performance measures.
2. Increased investment in research for innovative practices, labour market information, and more effective supports for the unemployed responding to regional labour markets.

CCCBET supports employment services based on reliable and comprehensive labour market information, increased labour market mobility and efficient employment services that recognize the continuum of needs. CCCBET can be a valuable ally and partner, offering its expertise in any national stakeholder advisory body that will be established after the federal election. CCCBET has a vested interest in getting it right, in doing it well and in being accountable. We owe this both to today's workers and business, and tomorrow's.

Questions

1. If you are elected, what policies would you implement regarding employment programs?
2. What is your party's position on the programs for individuals with barriers to employment, how they operate and how they might be improved?
3. What is your party's perspective on employment and training services in rural communities?
4. What would be your party's plan to ensure that all Canadians at every stage of life, income level and employment readiness level have access to the services they need to enter the workforce?
5. How would you invest the \$97 million in unspent funds budgeted for this year to improve employment conditions and advance Canada's economic development?

CCCBET Members

