



Inventory of Forest Worker Transition Programs

British Columbia

This document provides information on all available programs in B.C. that can assist forestry workers in retaining employment or accessing training and other assistance to find new employment.

Forestry Worker Transition Committee
4/17/2010

Program Name:

Tuition Assistance Program

Organization Responsible:

Community Development Trust (Ministry of Community & Rural Development)

Target Group:

Laid-off workers whose jobs are directly involved in British Columbia's forest sector and are on lay-off of four months or longer.

Program Description:

The Tuition Assistance Program assists laid-off forest workers to upgrade their skills and education to prepare for success in British Columbia's 21st century economy. Tuition Assistance Program funding of up to \$5,000 is available to assist with the cost of tuition, mandatory fees and required books for a wide range of academic, trade and other courses at any designated public or private school in B.C

Eligibility Criteria

You may be eligible for Tuition Assistance Program funding if all four of the following Tuition Assistance Program Eligibility Requirements apply to you. Please note that these requirements differ from those for other Community Development Trust programs:

- You are a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or a protected person living in British Columbia with a valid Canadian Social Insurance Number (SIN).
- Your primary occupation has been working in B.C.'s forest industry as an employee of a major licensee, contractor, sub contractor, a processor or as an independent owner/operator for at least two full consecutive years.
- During these two years, at least 65 per cent of your earned income has come from forest industry work.
- You were laid-off on or after May 1, 2007 for a period of four months or longer.

If all four of these points apply to you, then you are eligible to apply to the program.

You are **not** eligible if:

- you left your forest sector job before May 1, 2007, or
- you were terminated for cause, or
- you voluntarily resign prior to having your Tuition Assistance Program application approved, or
- you are an owner/ manager, director or officer, except in the case of independent owner/operators.
- your forest employment does not span multiple season(s) within one year or your employment was for less than 1,250 hours in a year (156 working days, based on an eight hour work day).

If you are a seasonal worker, you may qualify if you provide documentation showing that all three of the following apply to you:

- At least 65 per cent of your income over a two year period has been forest-related.
- Over this two year period, you have averaged 1,250 employment hours per year (156 working days, when converted based on an eight-hour day).
- Your work spans multiple seasons.

Funding / Resources Available:

Tuition Assistance Program funding of up to \$5,000 is available to assist with the cost of tuition, mandatory fees and required books for a wide range of academic, trade and other courses at any designated public or private school in B.C.

How To Apply:

Applications must be submitted on the Community Development Trust website (www.cd.gov.bc.ca/cdt/tuition/howtoapply.htm)

- Applications to enter the program must be received or postmarked no later than December 31, 2010.
- Course selection (School Information Form) and claims for book funding must be received or postmarked no later than February 1, 2011.
- Courses must begin no later than March 31, 2011.

Applying for Tuition Assistance Program funding has two parts:

1. Tuition Assistance Program Application Form (which must be received or postmarked no later than December 31, 2010), and
2. Tuition Assistance Program School Information Form (which must be completed by your school and received or postmarked no later than February 1, 2011).

You must complete your Application Form and get a letter back from CDT saying that you are eligible, before taking a School Information Form to your school's Financial Aid and Awards Office and having them fill out the specifics of your course selection and costs.

Status:

The program is currently available. The program ends on March 31, 2011

Who To Contact:

For more information about the Tuition Assistance Program:

- 1-877-238-8882 from B.C. communities outside Victoria
- 250-387-5349 from Victoria
- email: cdt@gov.bc.ca

Program Name:

Career Transition Assistance Program (Extended Employment Insurance and Training Incentive)

Organization Responsible:

Service Canada

Target Group:

Long-tenured workers receiving EI benefits.

Program Description:

EEITI offers support to long-tenured workers taking long-term training as follows:

1. a claim for EI regular benefits could be extended for up to a maximum of 104 weeks (including the two-week mandatory waiting period) while the claimant is on training.
2. it could include up to 12 weeks of EI regular benefits after the training is completed to help facilitate job search. This will depend on the length of the training.

The type of training will be based on individual needs and should relate to the applicant's plans for future employment opportunities. Applicants must work with your local employment [service provider](#) to develop a plan identifying the most appropriate training to meet the applicant's needs

Eligibility Criteria

A long-tenured worker is someone who:

1. has contributed to the EI program (paid at least 30% of the annual maximum EI premiums) for at least seven out of the ten calendar years immediately preceding the start date of the EI claim;
2. has received no more than 35 weeks of regular EI benefits in the five years immediately preceding the start date of their claim; and
3. has an EI claim that started on or after January 25, 2009, but no later than May 29, 2010.

To be eligible, the training must start after May 31, 2009, be full time, last for 20 weeks or more, and begin within a year of the start date of the person's EI claim

Funding / Resources Available:

Extended EI benefits up to a maximum of 104 weeks

How To Apply:

You are eligible if you qualify for regular EI benefits and have been identified as a long-tenured worker in a Service Canada letter. This letter will give you information on the initiatives and will refer you to your local employment service provider to discuss your training needs. Your employment service provider will determine your eligibility for these measures and help you develop a return to work action plan.

Current Status:

The program is currently available. If your EI claim started between January 25th 2009 and May 31st 2009, you have until August 22nd 2009 to open a Return to Work Action Plan with your local employment service provider . If your EI claim started after May 31st, 2009, you have 20 weeks after your claim started to open a Return to Work Action Plan with your local employment service provider.

Who To Contact:

A full list of Employment Assistance Service providers can be found at:

http://www.labourmarketservices.gov.bc.ca/eas_directory/eas_directory_interactive_map.html

Enquiry B.C. (7:30 to 5:00, Pacific time, Monday-Friday)

In Victoria: 250 387-6121

In Vancouver: 604 660-2421

Elsewhere in B.C.: 1 800 663-7867

Program Name:

Career Transition Assistance Program (Severance Investment for Training Initiative)

Organization Responsible:

Service Canada

Target Group:

Long-tenured workers receiving EI benefits.

Program Description:

SITI allows long-tenured workers who received payments on termination of employment and finance their own training, to get regular EI benefits sooner, instead of waiting for these payments to be exhausted before receiving EI.

To be eligible, the training must be full time, last at least 10 weeks, or the tuition fees must be at least \$5,000 or 80% of the termination payments, and begin within a year of the start date of their EI claim.

Eligibility Criteria

A long-tenured worker is someone who:

- has contributed to the EI program (paid at least 30% of the annual maximum EI premiums) for at least seven out of the ten calendar years immediately preceding the start date of the EI claim;
- has received no more than 35 weeks of regular EI benefits in the five years immediately preceding the start date of their claim; and
- has an EI claim that started on or after January 25, 2009, but no later than May 29, 2010.

For SITI, you must be referred to training by your local employment service provider during the period covered by your termination payments.

If the period covered by your termination payments is five weeks or less you will have to be referred to training by your local employment service provider within six weeks of receiving the letter informing you of the allocation of your termination payments from Service Canada

Funding / Resources Available:

The length of regular EI benefits is determined when the applicant's claim is processed and it is based on the unemployment rate in your region and the number of insurable hours you have accumulated in the qualifying period.

How To Apply:

You are eligible if you qualify for regular EI benefits and have been identified as a long-tenured worker in a Service Canada letter. This letter will give you information on the initiatives and will refer you to your local employment service provider to discuss your training needs. Your employment service provider will determine your eligibility for these measures and help you develop a return to work action plan.

Current Status:

The program is currently available. If your EI claim started between January 25th 2009 and May 31st 2009, you have until August 22nd 2009 to open a Return to Work Action Plan with your local employment service provider . If your EI claim started after May 31st, 2009, you have 20 weeks after your claim started to open a Return to Work Action Plan with your local employment service provider.

Who To Contact:

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Program Name:

Targeted Initiative for Older Workers (TLOW)

Organization Responsible:

Ministry of Housing and Social Development

Target Group:

Unemployed, older BC workers.

Program Description:

The Targeted Initiative for Older Workers (TLOW) program is a federal/provincial program for communities affected by significant industry downsizing or closures. The program provides assessment, counselling, resumé writing, interview techniques and job finding clubs

Eligibility Criteria

Unemployed older workers between the ages of 55 and 64 are eligible (some exceptions may be made for those 50 to 54 and 65 and over). Priority is given to people who are not receiving employment insurance benefits, workers who have been displaced due to industry downsizing or closure, and those who were employed in a related business.

Funding / Resources Available:

The program provides funding to community-based groups to provide services to unemployed older workers.

How To Apply:

Contact the Service Providers on the attached sheets

Current Status:

The program is currently available.

Who To Contact:

Contact the Service Providers on the attached sheets

Targeted Initiative for Older Workers – Programs and Contact

Location	Agency	Project Name	Contact Information
100 Mile House,	Horton Ventures, Inc.	Value in Experienced Workers	(250) 395-8457
Campbell River	Opportunities Career Services Society	Prime Time for Success	(250) 286-3436
Canal Flats	Steele O'Neil & Associates	East Kootenay Experienced Workers Employment Program	(250) 489-4180
Castlegar	Ashland Training Concepts Ltd.	Opportunities for Mature Workers	(250) 365-0966
Chilliwack	Mission Community Skills Centre Society	Working Beyond – Chilliwack & Region	604) 826-0626
Courtenay	Creative Employment Access Society	Vintage Advantage	(250) 334-3425
Cowichan	Ethos Career Management Group Ltd.	Experience Works – Mobile	(250) 741-8116
Cranbrook	Steele O'Neil & Associates	East Kootenay Experienced Workers Employment Program	(250) 489-4180
Creston	Kootenay Employment Services	Experience Works in Creston	(250) 428-5655
Fort St. James	College of New Caledonia	Enhancing Workplace Literacy Skills	(250) 996-7019
Grand Forks	Community Futures Development Corporation of Boundary Area	Boundary Skills Acquisition Training Program	(250) 442-2722
Hope	Mission Community Skills Centre Society	Working Beyond – Hope & Region	(604) 826-0626
Kamloops	Shuswap Nation Tribal Council (CITAC)	Central Interior Trades & Apprenticeship Older Worker Program	(250) 434-9261
Midway	Community Futures Development Corporation of Boundary Area	Boundary Skills Acquisition Training Program	(250) 442-2722

Location	Agency	Project Name	Contact Information
Mission,	Mission Community Skills Centre Society	Self Employment – Pathway to AD-Venture	(604) 826-0626
Nakusp	Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services	Employment Link	(250) 265-3674
Port Alberni	Ethos Career Management Group Ltd.	Experience Works – Mobile	(250) 741-8116
Powell River	Powell River Employment Program Society	Prime Time For Success Program	(604) 485-7958
Prince George	Kopar Administration Ltd.	Opportunities North Employment – Prince George	(250) 564-3545
Prince Rupert	Hecate Strait Employment Development Society	North Coast Mature Workers Project	(250) 624-9498
Queen Charlotte City	Hecate Strait Employment Development Society	North Coast Mature Workers Project	(250) 624-9498
Quesnel	Horton Ventures, Inc.	Value in Experience Workers	250) 395-8457
Revelstoke	Okanagan College – Revelstoke Centre	Experience Works!	(250) 837-4235
Smithers	Kopar Administration Ltd.	Opportunities North Employment - Smithers	(250) 564-3545
Sooke	Work Link Employment Society	Prime Time Workers	(250) 478-9525
Sechelt	Ethos Career Management Group Ltd.	Experience Works – Mobile	(250) 741-8116
Squamish	T.I.I. Training Innovations Inc.	Encore Employment Project	(604) 298-4757
Terrace	Terrace & District Community Services Society	Mature Career Opportunities	(250) 635-7995
Williams Lake	Horton Ventures, Inc.	Value in Experienced Workers	250) 395-8457
Vanderhoof	College of New Caledonia	Enhancing Workplace Literacy Skills	(250) 996-7019

Program Name:

Work Sharing Program

Organization Responsible:

Service Canada

Target Group:

Employers and employees in job threatened firms.

Program Description:

Work-Sharing is an adjustment program designed to help employers and workers avoid temporary layoffs when there is a reduction in the normal level of business activity that is beyond the control of the employer. The measure provides income support to workers eligible for Employment Insurance benefits who are willing to work a temporarily reduced work-week.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible employers must:

- have been in year-round business in Canada for at least two years;
- show that the need for reduced hours is unavoidable;
- show that the work shortage is temporary and unexpected;
- demonstrate (through a recovery plan) how the business will be maintained for the duration of the agreement and return to normal working hours as the economy strengthens;
- not be undergoing a labour dispute; and
- have the agreement of the union (if applicable) and employees.

Eligible employees must:

- be "core staff" (year-round permanent full-time or part-time employees who are required to carry out the functions that will lead to recovery);
- be eligible to receive regular Employment Insurance benefits; and not be participating in a labour dispute.
- A minimum of two employees is required for a Work-Sharing Agreement.

Funding / Resources Available:

Work-Sharing Agreements have a minimum duration of 6 weeks. For applications received as of February 1, 2009, the maximum agreement duration is 52 weeks. This new maximum is one of the provisions included in Budget 2009, and will be in effect until April 3, 2010.

Status:

The program is currently available

How To Apply:

Employers must submit a Work-Sharing Application form. The completed application, along with the Attachment A listing the employees involved and a recovery plan, can be submitted in-person at the local Service Canada Centre. Applications must be submitted at least one month prior to the anticipated start date. All agreements start on a Sunday.

(http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/work_sharing/applicantguide/index.shtml)

Program Name:

Workplace Training for Innovation Pilot program

Organization Responsible:

Ministry of Advanced Education & Labour Market Development

Target Group:

Employees and employers in small to medium sized firms

Program Description:

The program provides small business and not-for-profit employers in British Columbia with access to funding to support employee training, helping improve skills and productivity. The program is designed to provide eligible employers with funding for employee training in order to:

- Improve productivity.
- Support the introduction of new technology, machinery or work processes.
- Enhance international competitiveness.
- Introduce innovative training to increase the long-term competitiveness of the

The funding will support training activities, which may be up to six months in duration, and can be offered offsite or in-house

Eligibility Criteria

Both businesses and not-for-profit employers may be eligible to receive funding. Eligible employers must be a small organization of less than 50 employees, in good standing with the BC Corporate Registry, and in existence for one year or more

Funding / Resources Available:

The program offers up to \$1,500 per employee – to a maximum of \$5,000 per employer – to support employee training. The total program budget is \$15 million.

How To Apply:

Application form can be accessed at (www.aved.gov.bc.ca/workplace_training_program/welcome.htm)

Status:

The program is currently available. Applications will be accepted until Jan. 31, 2011. They will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis and will be subject to available funding.

Who To Contact:

Program Administrator (Chemistry Consulting Group Inc.) at 1 877 365-5757

Program Name:

Employment Insurance Benefits for Self-Employed People

Organization Responsible:

Service Canada

Target Group:

Self employed persons

Program Description:

Beginning in January 2011, self-employed Canadians will be able to access Employment Insurance (EI) special benefits. There are four types of EI special benefits:

- maternity benefits;
- parental benefits;
- sickness benefits; and
- compassionate care benefits

Eligibility Criteria

You may be eligible to access EI special benefits beginning in January 2011 if you:

- are a self-employed person; and
- are a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada; and
- have entered into an agreement with the Canada Employment Insurance Commission through Service Canada.

Funding / Resources Available:**How To Apply:**

To enter into an agreement with the Commission, you will have to register online using My Service Canada Account anywhere you can access the Internet, including at a Service Canada Centre near you.

If you have not previously used My Service Canada Account, you can apply at any time for a personal access code on the My Service Canada Account Web page (www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/online/mysca.shtml). Once you apply, it will take about 10 days to receive your personal access code in the mail.

Status:

The program is currently available.

Program Name:

Employment Assistance Services

Organization Responsible:

Ministry of Housing & Social Development

Target Group:

Unemployed persons.

Program Description:

Employment Assistance Services help unemployed individuals prepare for, obtain and maintain employment. Employment Assistance Services provide employment services for unemployed individuals who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents, and are legally entitled to work in British Columbia. Services available through Employment Assistance Services include: development of a Return to Work Action Plan, sharing labour market information, job search skills, employment counseling, job placement services, case management and follow-up of a participant in an employment program.

Eligibility Criteria:

Employment Assistance Services are available to all unemployed persons who are entitled to work in Canada and are willing and able to actively participate in the labour market. Certain services have specific eligibility requirements – for example, job seekers may need to be eligible for Employment Insurance.

Funding / Resources Available:

Services are provided at no charge to eligible clients. EAS service providers are funded by the Ministry of Housing & Social Development under the Labour Market Partnership Program

How To Apply:

A full list of Employment Assistance Service providers can be found at:
http://www.labourmarketservices.gov.bc.ca/eas_directory/eas_directory_interactive_map.html

Status:

The program is currently available.:

Who To Contact:

Contact your nearest Employment Assistance Service provider

Program Name:

Targeted Wage Subsidies

Organization Responsible:

Ministry of Social Services & Housing / EAS Providers

Target Group:

Unemployed persons.

Program Description:

Targeted Wage Subsidies is an employment program that helps individuals who are experiencing difficulty finding work, by providing temporary wage subsidies to assist employers to hire them. Normally, the subsidy will lead to permanent employment. The **Program Objective is to** help individuals who face barriers to employment by enhancing their skills and improving their employability, through the temporary wage subsidies provided to the employers that hire them.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for participation in Targeted Wage Subsidies (TWS), you must be an unemployed individual who has :

- an unemployment benefit period has been established or has ended within the 36 months (3 years) prior to the date of requesting assistance; or
- a benefit period that included a maternity or parental claim has been established within the 60 months (5 years) prior to the date of requesting assistance, after which you remained out of the labour market in order to care for a newborn or newly adopted child and are now seeking to re-enter the labour force.

Funding / Resources Available:

The quality of the work experience and other factors will be considered in determining the wage subsidy.

How To Apply:

If you are seeking financial assistance through Employment and Labour Market Services; You must first meet with a Case Manager at the EAS office nearest to you. During the initial meeting, the Case Manager will conduct an employment assessment interview, develop a return-to-work action plan and provide support throughout the process. The Case Manager will then refer you to the Employment and Labour Market Service they feel is most suitable for your specific situation. You will then fill out the application for the employment program and submit it to the appropriate authority for assessment and decision making. These employment services are provided to unemployed individuals free-of-charge.

A full list of Employment Assistance Service providers can be found at:

http://www.labourmarketservices.gov.bc.ca/eas_directory/eas_directory_interactive_map.html

Status:

The program is currently available

Who To Contact

Contact your nearest Employment Assistance Service provider

Program Name:

Job Creation Partnerships

Organization Responsible:

Ministry of Social Services & Housing / EAS Providers

Target Group:

Unemployed persons.

Program Description:

Job Creation Partnerships is an employment program that supports projects that provide eligible individuals with meaningful work experience to help them obtain on-going employment. Projects should benefit the participant, community and the local economy. However, the primary focus must be on helping the participant. At the end of the participation with the Job Creation Partnerships, the participants in the program will have recent work experience and additional skills to add to their resumes, increasing their chances of successfully finding long-term employment. Activities through the Job Creation Partnerships must be finite and incremental to the on-going operation of the project sponsor.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for participation Job Creation Partnerships you must be an unemployed individual who has :

- an unemployment benefit period has been established or has ended within the 36 months (3 years) prior to the date of requesting assistance; or
- a benefit period that included a maternity or parental claim has been established within the 60 months (5 years) prior to the date of requesting assistance, after which you remained out of the labour market in order to care for a newborn or newly adopted child and are now seeking to re-enter the labour force.

Funding / Resources Available:

Individuals will receive income support while on the project. Individuals currently in receipt of EI may continue to receive their EI benefits or the project rate, whichever is higher. Eligible participants not in receipt of EI benefits will receive the project rate. This income support is taxable and non-insurable.

How To Apply:

If you are seeking financial assistance through Employment and Labour Market Services you must first meet with a Case Manager at the EAS office nearest to you. During the initial meeting, the Case Manager will conduct an employment assessment interview, develop a return-to-work action plan and provide support throughout the process. The Case Manager will then refer you to the Employment and Labour Market Service they feel is most suitable for your specific situation. You will then fill out the application for the employment program and submit it to the appropriate authority for assessment and decision making. These employment services are provided to unemployed individuals free-of-charge.

A full list of Employment Assistance Service providers can be found at:

http://www.labourmarketservices.gov.bc.ca/eas_directory/eas_directory_interactive_map.html

Status:

The program is currently available.

Program Name:

Skills Development For Job Seekers

Organization Responsible:

Ministry of Social Services & Housing / EAS Providers

Target Group:

Unemployed persons.

Program Description:

Skills Development is an employment program that provides financial assistance to eligible individuals to help them obtain the skills training they need to re-enter the labour market. Skills Development provides funding to eligible individuals who require skills training to secure employment. These individuals will arrange and pay for their own training, with the financial assistance provided by Skills Development.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for participation in Self Employment For Job Seekers, you must be an unemployed individual who has :

- an unemployment benefit period has been established or has ended within the 36 months (3 years) prior to the date of requesting assistance; or
- a benefit period that included a maternity or parental claim has been established within the 60 months (5 years) prior to the date of requesting assistance, after which you remained out of the labour market in order to care for a newborn or newly adopted child and are now seeking to re-enter the labour force.

Funding / Resources Available:

Eligible costs covered under Skills Development may include tuition costs, living expenses, dependent care expenses, disability needs, and transportation costs. Individuals are generally required to make a contribution towards the cost of their training. Individuals approved for financial assistance who are currently on an active EI claim may continue to receive their regular EI benefits until the end of their benefit period.

The Ministry of Housing and Social Development has implemented measures to manage pressures on the Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA) budget to maintain services for clients eligible for Skills Development training. On November 27, 2009, all service providers that receive funding through the LMDA implemented a tuition cap of \$4000 per person for the Skills Development Employment Benefit and introduced tighter criteria to applicants. The cap was based on the average tuition funding for the Skills Development program.

How To Apply:

If you are seeking financial assistance through Employment and Labour Market Services; You must first meet with a Case Manager at the EAS office nearest to you. During the initial meeting, the Case Manager will conduct an employment assessment interview, develop a return-to-work action plan and provide support throughout the process. The Case Manager will then refer you to the Employment and Labour Market Service they feel is most suitable for your specific situation. You will then fill out the application for the employment program and submit it to the appropriate authority for assessment and decision making.

These employment services are provided to unemployed individuals free-of-charge.

A full list of Employment Assistance Service providers can be found at:

http://www.labourmarketservices.gov.bc.ca/eas_directory/eas_directory_interactive_map.html

Status:

The program is currently available

Who To Contact:

Contact your nearest Employment Assistance Service provider

Program Name:

Forestry Labour Force Development Program

Organization Responsible:

Truck Loggers Association of B.C.

Target Group:

Unemployed persons.

Program Description:

The Forestry Labour Force Development Program will provide training to forest workers who are not eligible for Employment Insurance-funded projects. The goal of the program is to provide support to unemployed forestry workers and assist them to develop and enhance their skills in harvesting, human resource and business practices and business innovation developments to aid in their return to the future forest industry. Training courses include:

- Certification training for Fallers
- Human resource management training for owner/operators
- Business management for owner/operators

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible participants must:

- Have previously worked in the forest industry
- Be self-employed or, unemployed and not eligible for Employment Insurance
- Reside in one of the pilot program Development Regions:
 - o Vancouver Island
 - o Cariboo
 - o Nechako
 - o Northeast, or
 - o Northcoast
- Not be receiving support for the same training through another source

Funding / Resources Available:

Funding is available for the costs of courses approved by the Program and costs associated with attending the courses (eg. travel and accommodation) up to \$500

How To Apply:

The program will also support training selected by eligible participants that will contribute to greater success in the forest industry. Approval from program management is required in advance of taking courses. Contact TLA program management at (604) 684-4291 ext. 7 (Coast) or 1-877-562-5668 (Interior).

Status:

The program is currently available

Program Name:

Emergency Wildfire Training Program

Organization Responsible:

Ministry of Forests and Range

Target Group:

Unemployed persons.

Program Description:

The Emergency Firefighter Training program will pay qualified individuals to take the S-100 Basic Fire Suppression and Safety training course that prepares individuals to become emergency firefighters. The two-day course is a comprehensive introduction to wildfire suppression work and combines classroom theory with a hands-on field component.

Once trained, individuals with a valid S-100 certificate can be placed on an availability list to assist fire centres and fire suppression contractors in the event that existing resources are fully deployed and additional contingency firefighting resources are needed. When deployed, emergency firefighters earn \$15 per hour and typically perform mop-up, patrols, camp demobilization and other support functions under the supervision of experienced personnel.

Training will be delivered in regions across the province, with the most likely locations near the existing fire centres in Parksville, Kamloops, Castlegar, Prince George, Smithers, and Williams Lake. The list of communities will be adjusted to best accommodate the number and location of applicants. Additional course dates and locations will be considered if there is sufficient demand.

Eligibility Criteria

All unemployed workers who are physically capable.

Funding / Resources Available:

Funding is available for the costs of courses and \$15 per hour during the course delivery.

How To Apply:

Contact the Wildfire Protection Branch at (250) 387-5965 or Enquiry BC at 1 800 663-7867

Status:

The program is currently available

Program Name:

Petroleum Labour Market Transition Project

Organization Responsible:

Petroleum Human Resource Council of Canada

Target Group:

Unemployed workers in resource sectors.

Program Description:

The Petroleum Labour Market Transition Phase II project aims to develop and pilot the delivery of a Petroleum Labour Market Transition stagegate process (or PLMT). Learnings from the pilots will be the basis for refining or enhancing the process. The PLMT stagegate process is designed to help petroleum companies develop effective recruitment plans to transition available workers from declining workers into in-demand petroleum jobs. Certain process activities also provide value to downsizing situations by providing accurate information about the oil and gas industry and its careers, recruitment processes and HR practices.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO-DATE

The Petroleum HR Council completed its first pilot with oil and gas companies and the downsized pulp and paper workforce in Campbell River, BC. The following were conducted during the first pilot:

- Identified the oil and gas occupations that are in-demand;
- Assessed the downsizing situation to understand the opportunities and readiness of workers to transition into oil and gas;
- Equipped the downsized pulp and paper workforce and key community stakeholders with petroleum industry knowledge;
- Addressed perceptions of our industry; and
- Worked with industry and the community to successfully transition workers.

Strategic partnerships with the Communications Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada (CEP) and with the North Island Employment Foundations Society (NIEFS) were key to the success of the pilot. The work in Campbell River has resulted in several accomplishments:

- Local employment centres and CEP are enabled to better assess and assist downsized workers;
- Training and education courses have been developed to upgrade pulp and paper workforce existing skills to petroleum requirements;
- Workers have a better understanding of their transferable skills and how best to market themselves;
- Information exists to help oil & gas companies understand pulp and paper workers' transferable skill sets; and
- Approximately 70 workers have transitioned into oil and gas as a result of the pilot.

The Petroleum HR Council is also gearing up for a second LMT pilot project focusing on petroleum labour demand (current and up to five years) and downsizing situations within Northern British Columbia and Alberta. The difference from the first and the second pilot is that Enbridge Inc., through its Northern Gateway Pipeline Project, is providing financial support to expand the labour supply focus of certain activities to include youth and under-represented groups such as Aboriginal peoples. The goal is to achieve labour market efficiencies within Northern BC and AB by matching and enhancing the skills of available labour pools within the region to those needed by the petroleum industry in the current- to longer-term.

The following is a list of communities that are in-scope for the project:

- Prince Rupert
- Terrace
- Kitimat
- Smithers
- Burns Lake
- Vanderhoof
- Prince George
- Quesnel
- Summit Lake
- Mackenzie
- Tumbler Ridge
- Chetwynd
- Dawson Creek
- Fort St. John

The second pilot will be conducted April 19 – June 30, 2010 and will include the following activities:

- Engage petroleum companies to participate and identify their labour and skills requirements currently and up to five years within Northern BC and AB.
- Select and assess three downsizing situations within Northern AB and BC in terms of match to petroleum labour demand. Assessments will specifically cover the following:
 - Skills, experience and nature of work transferability with minimal efforts and high impact for the petroleum industry.
 - Readiness and willingness of workers to transition and be mobile (if required).
 - Available support to assist in worker transition.
- Whenever possible, identify other available labour supply pools in the community and gather general information regarding the opportunities and barriers to match them to the in-demand petroleum occupations.
- From the three assessed situations/communities, select one to pilot. Develop and implement an action plan (includes workforce development initiatives and transition activities) for the pilot location that considers all viable labour supply pools. Activities can be customized for particular labour pools.
- Evaluate results of pilot.

The expected outcomes of the second pilot are:

- Larger pool of skilled workers that meet current and future industry needs in Northern BC and AB;
- Greater understanding of transferable skills and assets within multiple communities;
- Greater understanding and acceptance of the oil and gas industry and its potential contribution to social and economic benefits for communities in Northern BC and AB;
- New partnerships with industry companies and community/supply stakeholders; and
- Increased capacity within the industry and communities to effectively transition workers.

Eligibility Criteria

All unemployed workers in target communities.

Who To Contact:

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Status:

The program is currently available