



News Release

For Immediate Release

Government of Canada provides opportunities for youth in Sault Ste. Marie
Youth facing barriers to employment benefit from job skills training and employment opportunities

July 14, 2017

Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Employment and Social Development Canada

Building a strong middle class means giving Canada's youth the tools they need to find and keep good jobs.

Today, Terry Sheehan, Member of Parliament for the Riding of Sault Ste. Marie, on behalf of the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, announced a new project today that will give youth in the Riding of Sault Ste. Marie, job skills training and hands-on work experience.

Approximately 132 youth will participate in the project, which will be delivered by the Sault Ste. Marie YMCA. Through workshops, youth will develop skills to help them find and keep jobs, such as job search techniques, interview preparation and business communications. They will have the opportunity to participate in courses such as First Aid/CPR and health and safety. Youth will also gain valuable work experience in such fields as retail, the green energy sector, construction, manufacturing, and social services.

The Government of Canada will provide approximately \$1,124,711 in funding for this project through the Skills Link program of the Government's Youth Employment Strategy. Skills Link supports projects that help young people who face more barriers to employment than others develop basic employability skills and gain valuable job experience, which, helps them in making a successful transition into the workforce or to return to school. These youth could include those who have not completed high school, single parents, Indigenous youth, young persons with disabilities, youth living in rural or remote areas or newcomers.

Quotes

"We know that our communities are healthier and stronger when everyone can fully participate. Supporting youth as they transition into the workforce is a key way in which we can grow our economy and strengthen the middle class. Youth in the Riding of Sault Ste. Marie will benefit tremendously from the opportunity to develop their skills and gain valuable workplace experience."

– The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour

"Developing Canada's youth is a priority. The YMCA's project is a concrete example of what we can achieve for youth by working in partnership with organizations across the country. Projects like this one can help put regular paycheques into the reach of those who need it. But more than that, they give young Canadians the chance to change their future."

– Terry Sheehan, Member of Parliament for Sault Ste. Marie

"It is our honour to be delivering the Skills Link Project to the youth of our community, to be able to assist in breaking down barriers to employment faced by our youth and help them be successful in achieving their employment goals. This project allows the YMCA to meet our mission of building a healthier Sault Ste. Marie. We are very grateful to Mr. Sheehan and the Government of Canada, for the opportunity to deliver this project."

Kim Caruso, CEO, Sault Ste. Marie YMCA

Quick Facts

- Skills Link is one of three program streams under the Government's Youth Employment Strategy (YES). Each year, the Government invests more than \$330 million in the YES to help support young Canadians between the ages of 15 and 30 to get the information, skills, job experience and abilities they need to make a successful transition to the workplace.



- Budget 2017 proposes to invest a further \$395.5 million over three years in the YES for additional employment and skills development opportunities for youth.
- Since 2005, YES programs delivered by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) have helped over 582,000 youth develop skills and gain work experience to find a job or return to school. ESDC's Skills Link program has helped over 141,000 youth since 2005.

Associated Links

[Youth Employment Strategy](#)
[Skills Link Program](#)

- 30 -

Contacts

MP office contact information

Media Relations Office
Employment and Social Development Canada
819-994-5559
media@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

[Follow us on Twitter](#) 

Backgrounder

Youth Employment Strategy

The Youth Employment Strategy (YES) is a government-wide initiative which helps to support young Canadians between the ages of 15 and 30 to get the information, skills, job experience and abilities they need to make a successful transition to the workplace. The YES offers three program streams: Skills Link, Career Focus and Summer Work Experience, and is delivered by 11 federal departments and agencies.

Skills Link helps young people who face more barriers to employment than others develop basic employability skills and gain valuable job experience, which, in turn, assists them in making a successful transition into the labour market or to return to school. These youth could include those who have not completed high school, single parents, Indigenous youth, young persons with disabilities, youth living in rural or remote areas or newcomers.

Career Focus helps post-secondary graduates transition to the labour market through paid internships and helps provide youth with the information and experience they need to make informed career decisions, find a job and/or pursue advanced studies.

Summer Work Experience provides wage subsidies to employers to create summer employment for secondary and post-secondary students. The Summer Work Experience program includes Canada Summer Jobs. The Canada Summer Jobs program provides funding to not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers and small businesses with 50 or fewer employees to create summer job opportunities for young people aged 15 to 30 who

are full-time students intending to return to their studies in the next school year.

Each year, the Government invests approximately \$330 million in the YES to help young people gain the skills and work experience they need to find and keep good jobs.

Budget 2016 provided \$165.4 million in 2016–17 for the YES to create new green jobs for youth, increase the number of youth who access the Skills Link program, and support employment opportunities in the heritage sector. In 2016, Employment and Social Development received an additional \$339 million to create up to 35,000 additional jobs under the Canada Summer Jobs program each year for three years.

To further expand employment opportunities for young Canadians, Budget 2017 proposes to provide an additional \$395.5 million over three years for the YES, starting in 2017–18.

Investments made through Budget 2016 and Budget 2017 will help more than 33,000 vulnerable youth develop the skills they need to find work or go back to school; create 15,000 new green jobs for young Canadians; and provide over 1,600 new employment opportunities for youth in the heritage sector.