



News Release

For Immediate Release

Government of Canada provides opportunities for youth in London, Ontario.
Youth facing barriers to employment benefit from job skills training and employment opportunities

September 13, 2017

London, Ontario

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, Peter Fragiskatos, Member of Parliament for London North Centre, on behalf of the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, announced a new project that will give youth in London, Ontario job skills training and hands-on work experience.

This project, which will be delivered by Leads Employment Services London Inc., will see 154 youth participating in a 13 week program which features 2 weeks of training and 11 weeks of work experience. 77 female and 77 male youth from London will be placed in jobs related to sales, services, hospitality, retail, and administration.

The Government of Canada will provide approximately \$1,337,380 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, in turn, assists 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 London North Centre 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. This project delivered by Leads Employment Services London Inc. 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."

– Peter Fragiskatos, Member of Parliament for London North Centre

"We are overjoyed to receive Service Canada, Skills Link Multiyear Funding which we have always asked for, so we may continue with the ongoing supports to our young talents with disabilities. The resources will allow them an equal access to participate in youth development and increase opportunities to meaningful employment. Our employers are delighted that the untapped energized labour force is there to support their business. They are thrilled to be part of molding and developing leaders. Thank you MP Peter Fragiskatos for listening and advocating the much needed workforce development that benefits our community"

– Wendy Lau, Chief Executive Officer, Leads Employment Services Inc.

"I consider this program a blessing, it is great to be paid minimum wage and receive training, bus tickets for training and a job. I also found the workshops very helpful, in particular I found the budgeting workshop useful and the hands-on part of it really helped me understand how to be smarter with my money."

– Chris, Opitions Program Client



“As a national company based in London, GoodLife Fitness jumped at the chance to take part in this inclusive youth employment program with Leads Employment Services in our hometown. We’re always looking for talented people to join our team of over 13,000 associates, so the chance to connect with new candidates and bring them in for training and on-the-job experience in the fitness industry is a win-win.”

– Alana Free, Vice President of People and Culture, GoodLife Fitness

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](#)

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Backgrounder

Youth Employment Strategy

The Youth Employment Strategy (YES) is the Government of Canada's commitment to help youth make a successful transition to the workplace. YES helps youth between the ages of 15 and 30 get the information and gain the skills, job experience and abilities they need to make a successful transition to the workforce. YES includes Skills Link, Career Focus and Summer Work Experience and is delivered by 11 federal departments.

- **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.
- **Skills Link** helps youth facing barriers to employment—including single parents, youth with disabilities, Indigenous youth, young newcomers and youth in rural and remote areas—to develop employability skills and gain the experience they need to find a job or return to school.
- **Career Focus** helps post-secondary graduates transition to the labour market through paid internships. It helps provide youth with the information and experience they need to make informed career decisions, find a job or pursue advanced studies.

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

Budget 2016 provided \$165.4 million in 2016–17 for 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, the Government of Canada nearly doubled the Canada Summer Jobs program, creating tens of thousands of additional jobs for young people each year.

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