



LONDON FOR ALL

A ROADMAP TO END POVERTY



Income & Employment

2.1 Use *London's Community Economic Roadmap* to accelerate skills training programs that meet local labour market needs

Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS)

The Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS) is a new, integrated strategy, which aims to provide flexible and holistic services to support all young Canadians develop the skills and gain paid work experience to successfully transition in the labour market. The YESS has been redesigned to respond to a range of labour market challenges faced by youth, particularly for those facing barriers to employment. The Skills Link, Career Focus, and Summer Work Experience (excluding Canada Summer Jobs) programs that were previously under the Youth Employment Strategy umbrella have been merged into one integrated strategy.

The Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS) program provides up to \$600M in funding to organizations to deliver a range of activities that help youth overcome barriers to employment and develop a broad range of skills and knowledge in order to participate in the current and future labour market. Support is tailored to the needs of youth that are facing barriers to employment. Youth who face barriers often include youth who are early leavers from high school, recent immigrant youth, youth from visible minority groups, youth living with disabilities, single parent youth, youth living in low-income households, youth experiencing homelessness or precarious housing, and youth living in rural or remote areas. For these youth, barriers often intersect and they are more likely to be among the youth population who are involuntarily not in employment, education or training (NEET). Acknowledging that some Indigenous youth face unique circumstances, the YESS is designed to maximize opportunities for them, including more culturally-specific supports and services.

The YESS program also encourages collaborations and innovation to increase capacity across the youth service provider network (e.g. employers, service delivery organizations and educational institutions), to better support youth, and to help employers hire and retain youth, in particular those who face barriers.

Second Career Program

The Second Career Program is a government program designed to help laid-off workers get the skills and training they need to find jobs in high-demand occupations in Ontario. Second Career is a cost-sharing grant provided on the basis of need; therefore, applicants may be required to contribute to their training or education.

Second Career may cover such things as: tuition, books, transportation and basic living allowance. Additional support may be available to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities, dependent care, costs of living away from home and academic upgrading.

Pathways Skill Development

Pathways assists individuals to overcome barriers to meaningful employment, and build new futures for themselves and their families. The practical training prepares clients for success. Clients develop the skills for the industry, the skills to get a job and the positive attitude to achieve their goals.