

Canada-Nova Scotia Labour Market Agreement Fact Sheet

The Labour Market Agreement (LMA), negotiated between the federal government and the Province of Nova Scotia, will see approximately \$80 million transferred from the Government of Canada to the Province of Nova Scotia over six years. These funds will be invested by the Province to help low-skilled workers and others who would not be eligible for Employment Insurance benefits.

Through the LMA, Nova Scotia is making sure its workforce has the training and the knowledge it needs for the future.

While most existing employment programs require that clients be receiving Employment Insurance (EI) or Income Assistance (IA) to participate, the LMA is open to people who have limited options to access or advance in today's job market. This means that LMA-funded programs and services will be available to Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, immigrants, African Nova Scotians, Acadian and francophone Nova Scotians, workers over 55 years of age, women, social assistance recipients, people who were formerly self-employed, and people who are currently employed but who have less than a Grade 12 education.

During the summer, a committee representing the departments of Labour and Workforce Development, Education, Community Services, Immigration, African Nova Scotian Affairs, Economic Development, Aboriginal Affairs, Nova Scotia Council on the Status of Women and Acadian Affairs considered long-standing recommendations from community-based agencies, clients and other stakeholders about shortcomings in existing workforce development programming.

As a result, Labour Market Agreement funding for 2008-2009 was assigned by the interdepartmental team. Investments for future years, beginning with the 2009 - 2010 fiscal year, will be made in greater consultation with community and other stakeholders. Watch www.gov.ns.ca/lwd/lmda for additional information.

Examples of approved projects for 2008-2009 include:

- additional adaptive aids and supports to help working people with disabilities to stay employed
- English language training for immigrants who are professionals and who require greater language proficiency
- programs leading to apprenticeship training for targeted groups
- partnerships with employers and industries that are experiencing a shortage of skilled workers
- programs to strengthen essential workplace skills
- entrepreneurship and business development counselling for immigrants

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