

Canada – Yukon Labour Market Agreement (LMA) Annual Public Report 2009-2010

Introduction:

The Canada-Yukon Labour Market Agreement (LMA) was signed in July, 2009. Under this Agreement, Canada will make new annual investments in Yukon for the next five years. This funding provides an opportunity for Yukon to augment its current efforts to support the development of Yukon's labour market. The estimated amount of Canada's contribution to Yukon for fiscal year 2009/10 is \$1,457,000. This report provides a summary of the results of programs funded under the LMA for the period April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010 as outlined in Yukon's 2009-2010 LMA Annual Plan.

Background:

The LMA is administered by the Advanced Education Branch, Department of Education on behalf of Yukon. LMA programming is implemented and delivered by a combination of territorial government departments and third party service providers, including community organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Labour Market Context 2009-2010:

In June 2009, Yukon's population totaled 34,157. The majority, 75%, of Yukoners or 25,636 people reside in Whitehorse. The remaining 8,521 citizens reside in 17 small rural communities all of which are connected by road, with the exception of Old Crow.

Yukon's labour force (age 15+) increased in June 2009 to 18,200 when compared to June 2008 at 17,900. Of the June 2009 labour force figure, 16,800 were employed and 1,400, or 7.7%, were unemployed. In June 2008, there were 17,900 individuals in the labour force of whom 17,000 were employed and 900, or 5.0%, were unemployed. Yukon's unemployment rate remained relatively low, 5.5%, in December 2008 but increased to 7.7% in June 2009. Over the last 15 years the average unemployment rate for June has been 9.6%. Over the last year, the unemployment rate for women has been lower than the rate for men.

Compared to Canada, Yukon had the fifth lowest unemployment rate (7.7%) in June 2009. Saskatchewan's unemployment rate (4.6%) was lowest, while Newfoundland's rate (15.6%) was highest.

While unemployment rates in Yukon in 2009, increased compared to 2008, the recent national recession has appeared to have little impact on job vacancies faced by Yukon businesses. According to the Yukon Business Survey (2009), businesses continue to report a high level of vacancies:

- Of the total number of non-home-based businesses responding when asked if they had any job vacancies in the last six months, 334 (43%) said that they did have vacancies. By comparison, 40% reported vacancies in the prior six month period in the 2008 Business Survey. These 334 businesses were then asked if they had difficulties in recruiting new staff and 203 (62%) said that they did have difficulty. This compared to 73% reporting difficulty recruiting new staff in the 2008 Business Survey.
- Of the total number of home-based businesses responding when asked if they had any job vacancies in the last six months, 95 (21%) said that they did have vacancies. By comparison, 8% reported vacancies in the prior six month period in the 2008 Business Survey. These 95 businesses were then asked if they had difficulties in recruiting new staff and 55 (60%) said that they did have difficulty.

Labour Market Priorities:

Priorities continue to focus on members of the following groups who, at times, may have multiple barriers and require additional supports to enable their participation in Yukon's labour market: social assistance recipients, persons with disabilities, older workers, youth, First Nations, women in trades and immigrants.

Unemployment is significantly higher in rural Yukon than in Whitehorse. The unemployment rate between October 2009 and March 2010 for Whitehorse was 6.4% compared to 22.6% rural Yukon. Further, in the same period, the unemployment rate for First Nations was 25.8%, while the non First Nation unemployment rate was 5%. Therefore, a focus on First Nations' capacity building and rural projects that support labour market attachment continued to be a priority.

It important to add that where the local labour market has not met the needs of employers, employers have increasingly turned to immigration to meet their needs.

In future years, it is anticipated that LMA funding will be directly linked to the *Labour Market Framework for Yukon*. If approved, the Framework will see the implementation of five strategies that were developed by key labour market stakeholders (federal government, Government of Yukon, First Nation Governments and organizations, non-government organizations, business owners, and union organizations) to support Yukon's labour market: 1) Comprehensive Trades Training and Skills Development (CSTTS), 2) Recruitment, 3) Retention, 4) Immigration, and 5) Labour Market Information. Committees will be formed of key labour market stakeholders to oversee the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of each strategy. It is planned for the CSTTS committee to work with the Advanced Education Branch to set the priorities for funding allocations for the LMA.

Performance Results:

Fiscal year 2009/10 was the first year of implementation of the LMA. In addition to developing and implementing new programming for individuals, communities and

employers, Yukon was also making enhancements to its administrative and data collection systems and processes to meet the accountability requirements of the agreement.

In 2009/10, Canada's contribution to Yukon under the LMA was \$1,457,000. Yukon's total program expenditures for 2009/10 were \$1,352,272.50. These expenditures supported 179 eligible beneficiaries to participate in labour market programming through direct supports and projects which were fully funded or partially enhanced by LMA dollars.

The following chart provides the key activities funded under the LMA in 2009/10.

Project	Lead Organization
Education & Employment Training Program	Kwanlin Dun First Nation & Yukon College
Youth Work Experience Program (rural)	Yukon Chamber of Commerce
Wrangler/Packer Training	Whitehorse Correctional Center
Heavy Equipment Operation Training (rural)	Dept of Highways and Public Works
Commercial Kitchen Skills & Employ Ability	Challenge
Ready to Work & Canadian Workplace Essentials	Yukon Tourism Education Council
Essential Skills for Food Prep	Yukon College Old Crow Campus
High School Exit Survey	Yukon Bureau of Statistics