Fiscal Year
2024/25



B.C. Labour Market Development Programs

Public Report

Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills
Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

Canada BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Introduction

Amid global market shifts and tariff pressures redefining how we live and work, British Columbia is embracing the challenge with resilience and vision. In 2024/25, supported with funding from the Government of Canada through the Labour Market Transfer Agreements, B.C. delivered flexible and innovative workforce programs that empowered people to upgrade their skills, adapt to change and seize new career opportunities in a rapidly evolving economy.

Building on the foundation provided by the Labour Market Transfer Agreements (LMTAs), B.C. continued to leverage the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan to build a skilled, efficient and inclusive workforce. B.C. is also realigning labour market programs with ministry mandates to make it easier for people to access the right services for their needs.

From tailored services for people who are preparing for their first job to specialized training for trades apprentices, B.C.'s skills training investments show that together, we can build a stronger, more equitable future.

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B.C.'s labour market programs are funded mainly through the Canada-B.C. Labour Market Transfer Agreements and delivered primarily through the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS) and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR).

Overview of B.C.'s Labour Market Programs

Through the Workforce Development Agreement, administered by the Ministry of PostSecondary Education and Future Skills and the Labour Market Development Agreement, administered by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, B.C. delivers a wide variety of labour market programming designed to connect job seekers to sustainable employment, businesses to workers, and communities to a better future.

B.C.'s labour market development programs are informed by the annual Labour Market Outlook, which supports an evidence-based approach to program design and delivery.



Programs for People

- Diverse WorkBC employment services and supports that people can access in person at 102 centres across the Province and online
- Innovative skills training services & project funding designed to reach people who have historically been left behind
- Skills training services for people looking to get in-demand jobs in sectors, like trades and health care



Programs for Communities, Employers and Sectors

- Services for sectors, community partners, and employers who are testing new technologies, strategies, and other innovative solutions to attracting, hiring, and retaining skilled workers
- Support for employers who want to invest in their workers to increase their skills through training
- Grants & project funding for communities to access skills training that meets their local labour market needs, ensuring that local workers can be matched with local jobs
- Funding for First Nations and Métis organizations to deliver self-determined, community-based skills training and post-secondary education

Programs that work for B.C.'s people, businesses, and communities

In 2024/25, the Government of Canada supported labour market programming through the **Workforce Development Agreement (WDA),** and the **Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA).**

In 2024-25, B.C. leveraged provincial, LMDA and WDA funding to support workers facing economic and labour market disruptions, including a priority focus for those affected by forestry-related impacts across communities.

B.C. invested additional funding through the **StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan,** which helped offset a $74 million reduction in the federal agreements and respond to urgent labour market challenges, including supports for workers, employers and communities affected by changes in the tariff-impacted forest and softwood-lumber sectors.

B.C. also implemented other mitigation measures to minimize the impact of this funding reduction, including realigning ministry portfolios and gradually reducing funding for grant and targeted training programs.

LMTA funding continues to support a wide range of important services, including 102 WorkBC Centres in communities across the province.

Between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025…



130,000 people

in B.C. received diverse and responsive employment services through labour market development programs

Programs serve diverse people with **different goals and needs**. For most programs, at least **60–80%** of people who accessed supports **found jobs or got further education** and training for sustainable employment. Many people who accessed supports identified with one or more groups underrepresented in the labour market.

Of people accessing LMTA-funded programming…

10%

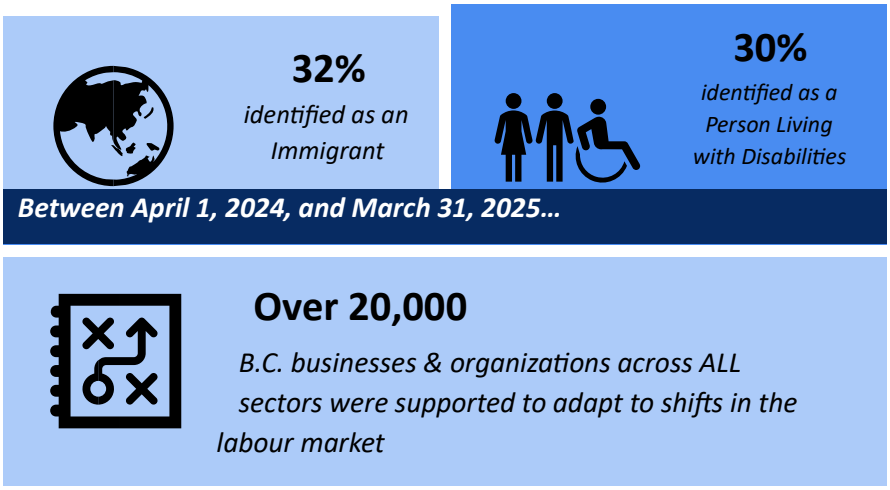
identified as Indigenous

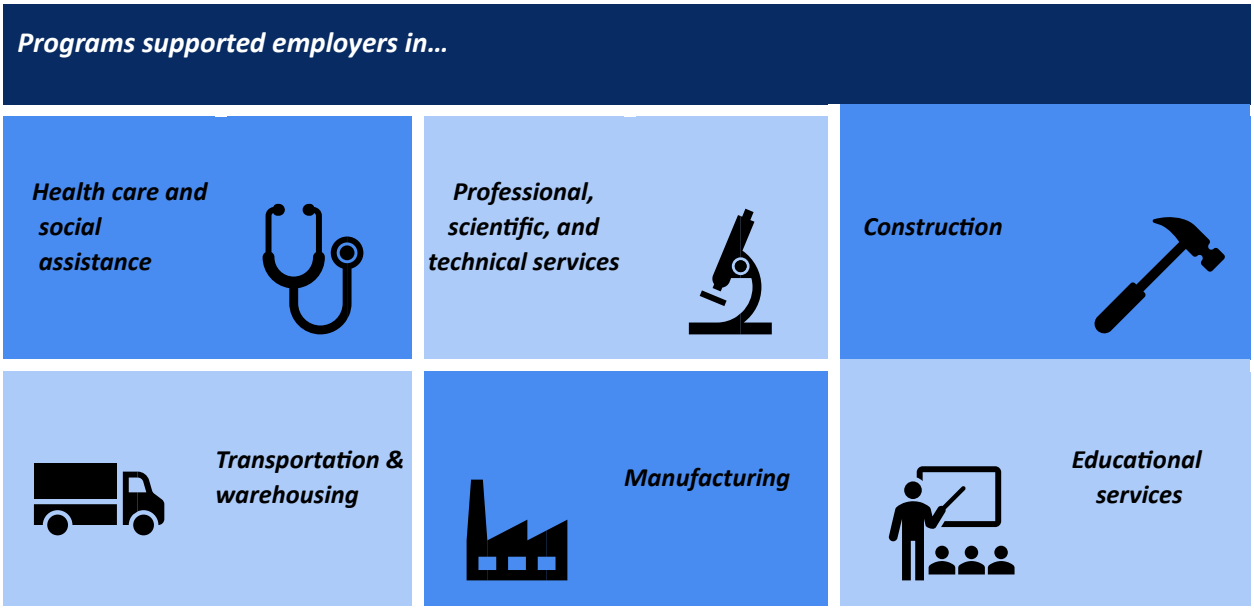


22%

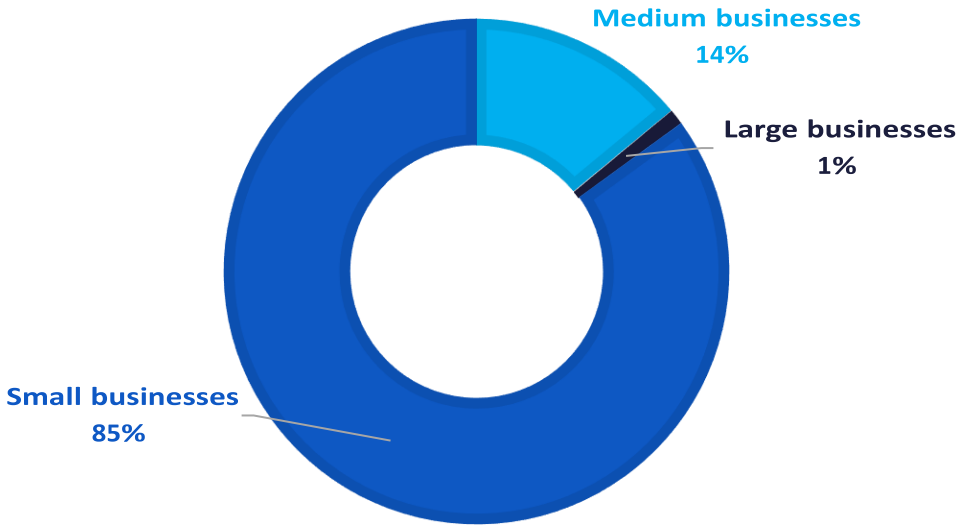
identified as a Visible Minority





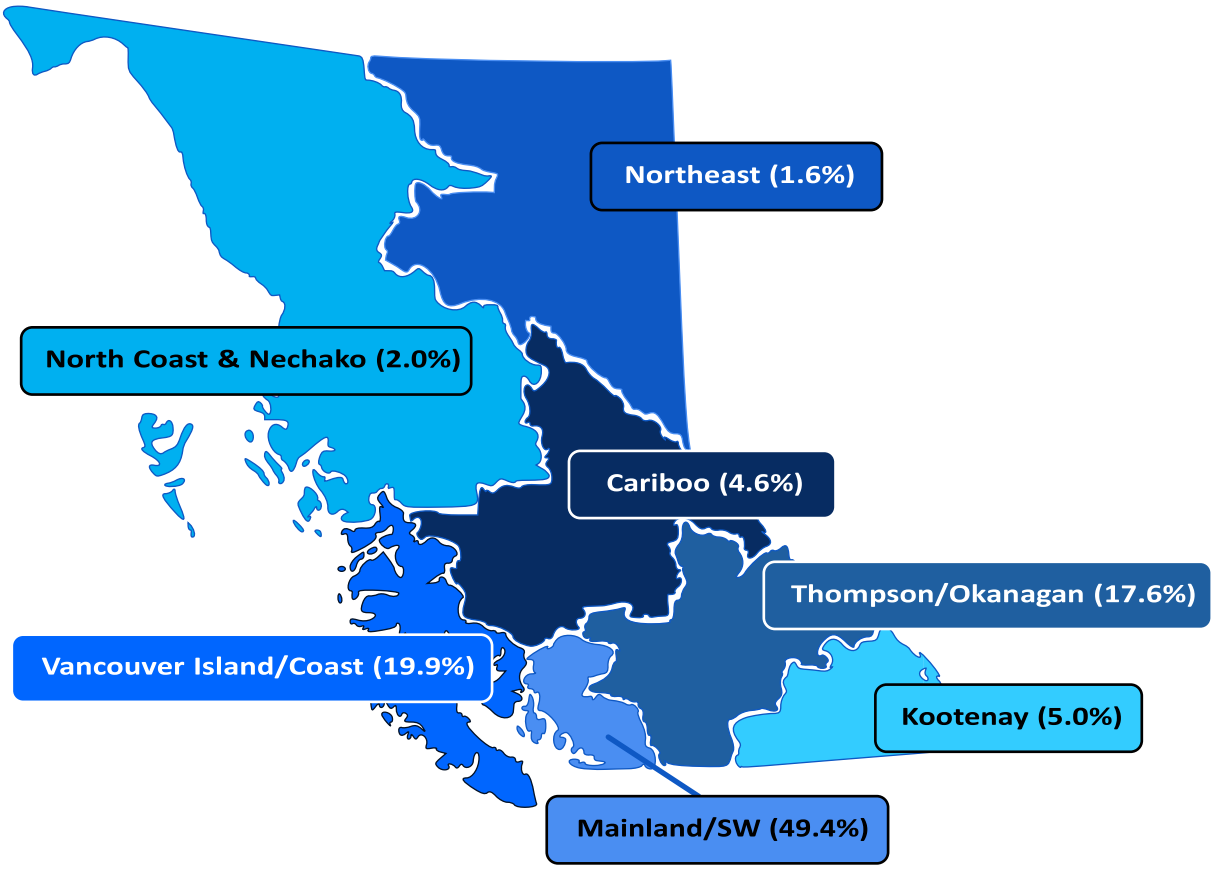


About 85% of employers supported by labour market programs were small businesses.



People Served by B.C. Economic Development Region

LMTA-funded programs reach people throughout B.C. This map shows the distribution of the 130,000 people served by programming across the province*.



Data is not available for about 1% of people served.

[*] These percentages broadly reflect the population of each region, except for the Mainland/Southwest region, which is about six percentage points lower than its 2024 population share.



Programs for People

Programs for British Columbians seeking skills training and support tailored to their specific needs and goals.

Programs include:

- WorkBC
- Community Living BC
- Community-based Employment Services
- Mental Health and Substance Use Employment Support Programs
- Skills Training for Employment
- SkilledTradesBC Pre-Apprenticeship Programs
- BladeRunners

WorkBC

WorkBC Employment Services

WorkBC Employment Services* supports all British Columbians seeking work, regardless of where they live or the employment barriers they may face.

British Columbians can get in-person assistance at **102 WorkBC Centres across the province**.

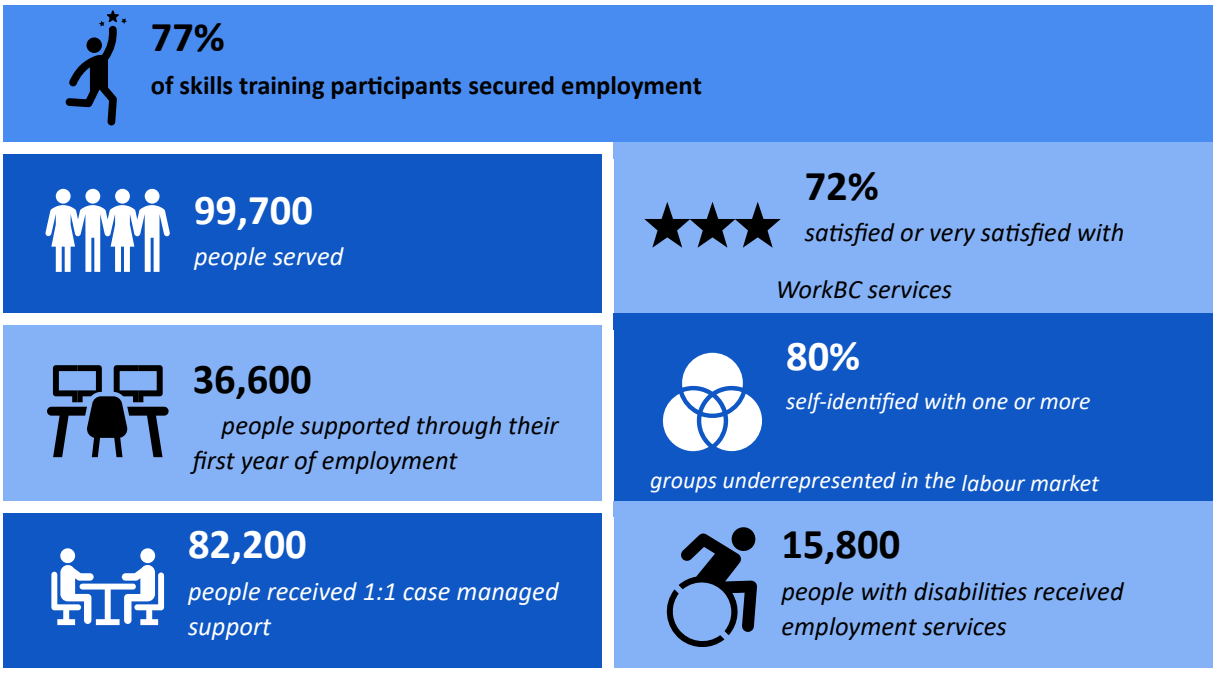
Services include:

- **Job search support**, such as resume and interview preparation, job search tools and access to local job opportunities.
- Paid and unpaid **work experience placements** to assist with gaining work experience and developing skills.
- **Skills training support** with financial help for tuition, transportation costs, child care and more.
- **Job start support** to help with covering the essential costs to start work.

Supports for employers include:

- **Finding talent** — WorkBC centres help employers access local, skilled job seekers to meet their hiring needs.
- **Wage subsidies** — to support workers to access in-demand jobs and support employers to hire and train skilled staff.
-

WorkBC Employment Services Impact 2024/25



* This program receives both Federal and Provincial funding.

Success Story

Sean finds purpose through WorkBC support

After being unemployed since 2019 and facing a significant challenge of a below-the-knee amputation, Sean turned to WorkBC for support. Through oneon-one case management, he received help with resume development, short-term occupational certification (STOC), job start supports, and Class 3 driver training with air brakes.

With these tools and encouragement from WorkBC staff, Sean secured full-time employment with Heidelberg Materials as a mixer driver.

Reflecting on his journey, Sean shares: “Success looks to me as being able to pay my bills,

spend time with my daughter and live happy.”

WorkBC Apprentice Services

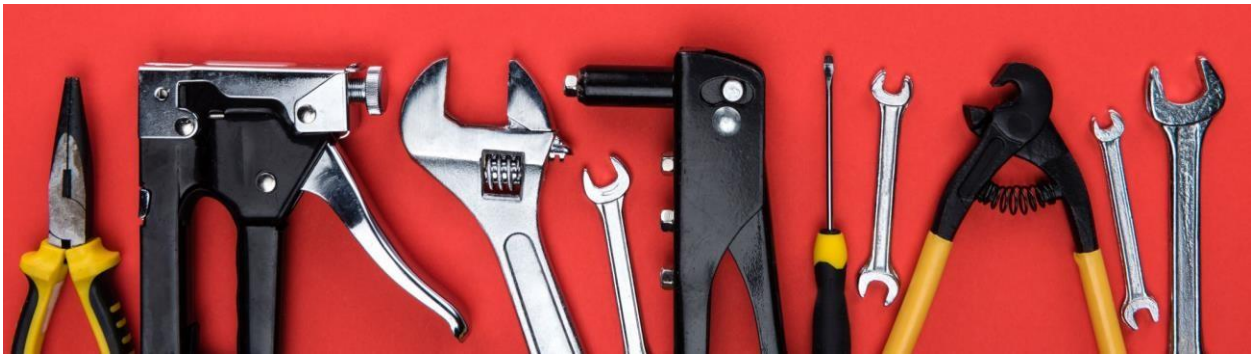
Over the next decade, more than 100,000 job openings are expected in the skilled trades and apprentices will play a crucial role in addressing the skills gap.

WorkBC Apprentice Services* provides program-related financial supports for Employment Insurance (EI) eligible **apprentices who are registered with SkilledTradesBC,** to help them achieve journeyperson status.

WorkBC Apprentice Services Impact 2024/25

15,300
apprentices supported

2,400
apprentices advanced to the next level of their careers



* As part of realignment work between B.C. government ministries, the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills will take responsibility for WorkBC Apprentice Services starting in 2026/27.

WorkBC Assistive Technology Services

WorkBC Assistive Technology Services supports people who face a work-related barrier due to a disability or a functional limitation, providing **equipment and devices to help people thrive in the workplace**.*

Specialized assessments are conducted to determine each person's **employment-related assistive technology needs**, such as:

- Assistive devices, equipment and technology
- Ergonomic and restorative supports
- Workplace access and modification
- Communication and hearing devices related to work, and American Sign Language interpreting and captioning

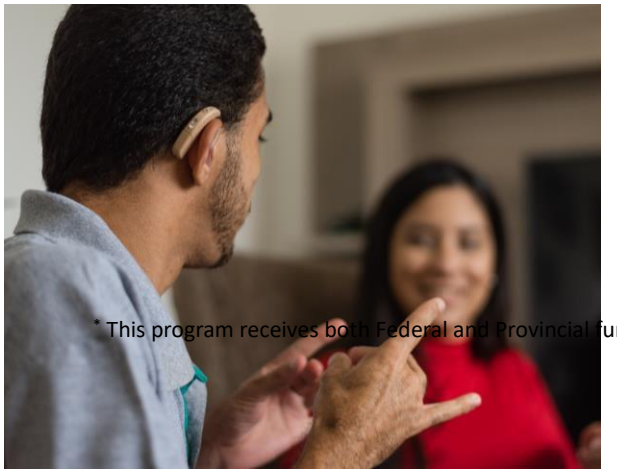
WorkBC Assistive Technology Services Impact 2024/25

900

specialized assessments conducted

1,800

people provided adaptive tech to help pursue work



* This program receives both Federal and Provincial funding.

Success Story

Hearing aids help Ali stay on the jobs

At 71 years old, Ali continues to work as a manager and estimator for a construction company in Vancouver.

Due to hearing loss, communicating on the job has become increasingly difficult. Through the WorkBC Assistive Technology Services program, Ali received an audiological assessment and hearing aids.

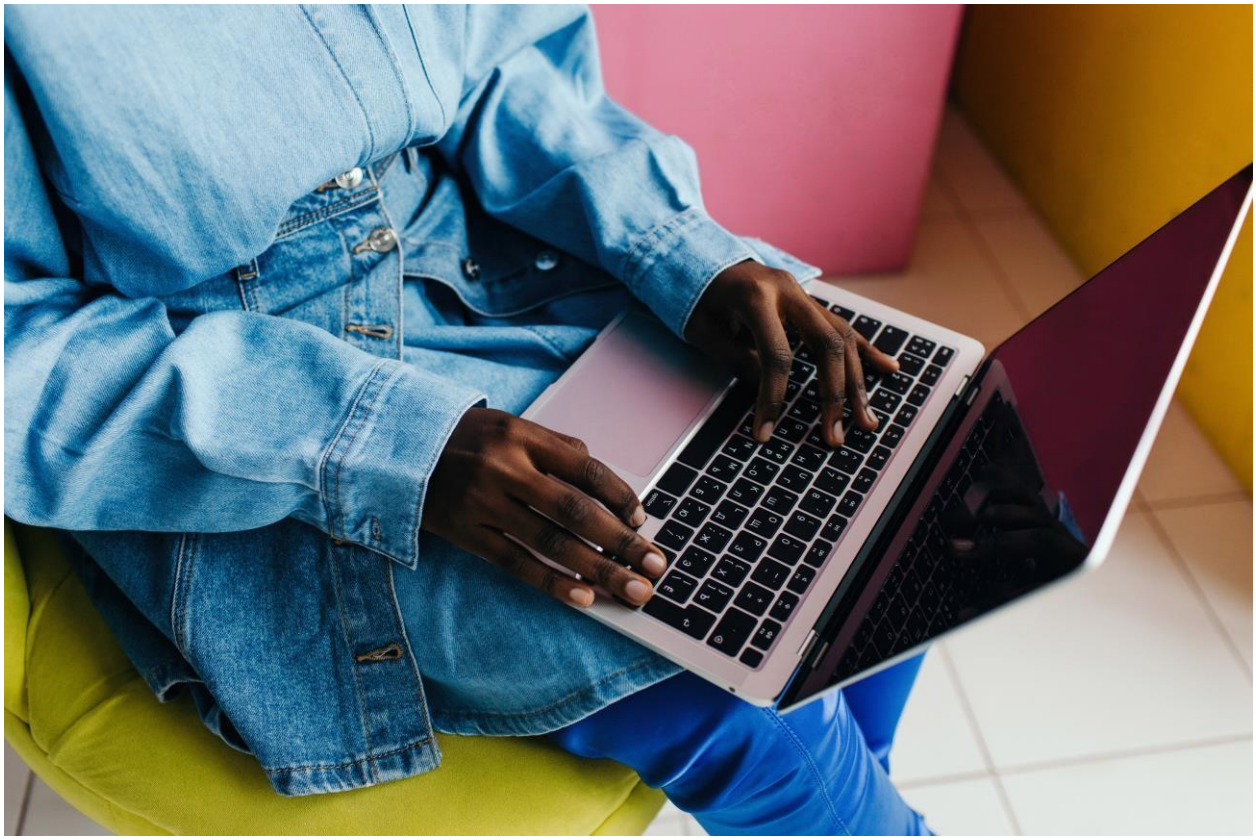
"Before having these hearing aids, I was not able to communicate at work," he shared. "[WorkBC Assistive Technology Services] helped me to improve my hearing, my communication, and keep my job."

WorkBC.ca

WorkBC.ca is an online resource designed to help people achieve their education and career goals. Visitors can search for jobs, plan their career, research B.C.'s labour market, explore education and training, and find funding. WorkBC.ca offers:

- Job application tips and B.C.'s most comprehensive job board
- Career exploration tools, including Career Discovery Quizzes, career profiles and a Career Transition Tool
- Over 500 Career Trek Videos, a collection of short videos featuring people in their workplaces who provide a glimpse of different careers
- An interactive map of WorkBC Employment Services Centres
- Employer resources, labour market information, and training and education tools and supports
- Phone and email for support

The Find Your Fit tour, a collaboration between WorkBC and EducationPlannerBC, gives students in grades 5 to 10 the chance to explore a variety of high-opportunity careers in B.C. through fun, hands-on activities designed to spark inspiration and curiosity.



Community Living BC

Supported employment services administered by Community Living BC (CLBC) provide support to CLBC-eligible adults to enter the workforce alongside employees without disabilities for competitive wages.

An increasing number of people with developmental disabilities want to work, earn their own wages, feel valued as employees and experience the benefits of employment. CLBC's vision for employment is "that every individual with a disability who wants a job is employed."

CLBC provides employment services based on the following principles:

- *Every individual has the right to employment and has skills, abilities, and talents to contribute to the labor market.*
- *Employment contributes to economic and social inclusion, and to safety within community.*
- *With the right support and job match, everyone can be successfully employed.*

Community Living BC Impact 2024/25

3,875 people served



37%
increase in clients accessing job support

59%
employment success rate



Success Story

Tracey shows pride in her accomplishments

Tracey joined Employment Services at Inclusion Parksville in 2022, having never had a paid job. From day one her dream was to work in the food industry. After receiving support from Employment Services, Tracey successfully completed her Food Safe course and obtained part-time employment at Save On Foods as a Restaurant Clerk.

Tracey has continued to learn new skills on the job and in addition to being trained in food preparation, she has also been trained to operate the cash register. Tracey loves working at Save On Foods, helping customers while proudly wearing her shirt and hat emblazoned with the Save On Foods logo.

Having secure employment in a unionized position has given Tracey newfound selfesteem and purpose. She has worked hard, and her efforts have paid off, literally. For Tracey, regular employment has been a journey of achievements on the road to independence.

Community-based Employment Services

Community-based Employment Services (CBES) provides individualized employment support that empowers

Community-based Employment Services Impact 2024/25

people to build stability, strengthen their skills, and move toward meaningful work — especially those navigating barriers such as housing instability, substance-use recovery, or mental health challenges.

CBES meets people where they are on their path towards employment, offering trauma-informed and culturally safe supports.

This outreach-based, person-centered service is available in six communities across the province: Vancouver
(Downtown Eastside) Surrey, Victoria, Nanaimo, Prince George, and Kelowna. Building on learnings from the initial six communities, CBES is expanding to 16 new communities in spring 2026.

376

people received individualized, outreach-based support to help them take meaningful steps towards obtaining a job



Success Story

From struggling to thriving: Vinny's journey of transformation

Vinny* was grappling with a chronic injury that impaired his memory and concentration. Homeless, unemployed and battling depression, he felt trapped in a cycle with no way out.

Everything changed when he discovered Beacon's BEAMS project. Through BEAMS, he received personalized career coaching, job search advice, and interview preparation. He was also able to obtain certifications like Occupational First Aid and Serving It Right, opening new job opportunities. Beyond employment support, BEAMS also ensured his basic needs, such as food and transportation, were met.

Vinny now has a full-time job he's passionate about, allowing him to start building a savings safety net, and he's been given the tools to address chronic injury properly.

"For the first time in years, I'm planning for the future with confidence and excitement. Beacon didn't just offer a program; they offered a lifeline."

*Name changed to protect privacy of the individual.

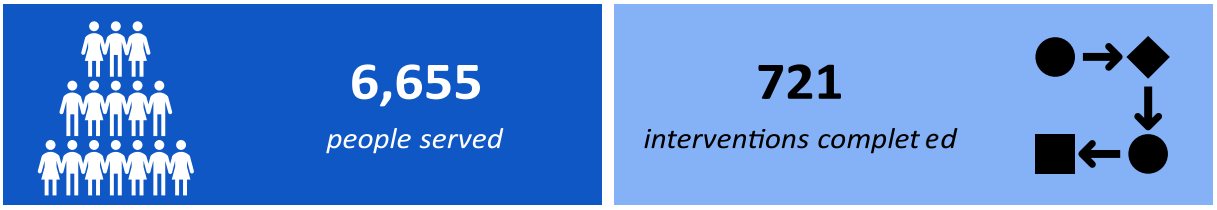
Mental Health and Substance Use Employment Support Programs

The Ministry of Health administers a suite of Mental Health and Substance Use employment support programs to assist people with severe mental health and/or substance use disorders in obtaining pre-employment skills, education skills and opportunities for supported employment. The intended outcomes include improved education and employment status, increased community and social integration, and increased vocational and financial independence.

Programs are distributed across three streams:

- **Pre-Employment Supports** assist people to improve basic work habits, skills and behaviours.
- **Supported Education** helps people prepare for, enter and complete education and training programs.
- **Supported Employment** helps people obtain and maintain employment opportunities through ongoing individualized supports.

Mental Health and Substance Use Employment Support Programs Impact 2024/25





Skills Training for Employment

Skills Training for Employment programs provide skills training and wraparound supports to thousands of people facing barriers to unemployment. These programs, delivered alongside over 1,500 employer partners and over 1,550 community partners throughout B.C., emphasize inclusion, accessibility, and attachment to the labour market.* **Skills Training for Employment Impact 2024/25**

6,066 people supported

92%† *found a job or pursued further education*

27% *identified as Persons with a Disability*

42% *had completed post-secondary training*

Success Story

Santiago finds a career that floats his boat



Santiago connected with Quadrant Marine at a trade fair during his last month of high school. With an interest in mechanics and a passion for the outdoors, he was a good fit for Quadrant Marine's We Float Boats! Marine Service Pre-Employment Program, which trains young people to work in the marine service industry.

Discovering the world of marine service meant that Santiago was able to find the foundation of a lifelong career within half a year. He now works full time in the marine industry and has enrolled in Quadrant Marine's apprenticeship program.

"I'm loving it," he says. "And I'm learning a lot — mechanical wise, insulation wise, electrical, a whole lot of stuff. It's super fun, I'm super happy."

* As part of realignment work between B.C. government ministries, a new targeted workforce skills training program will launch in April 2027.

† Of those who completed training and reported outcomes. Skills Training for Employment program services may extend over more than one year. Outcomes are not reported until a participant has completed their program.

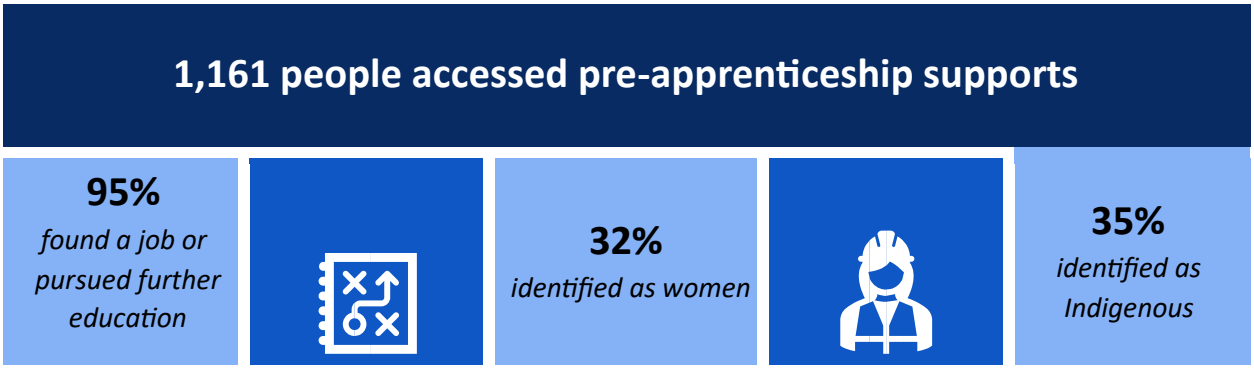
SkilledTradesBC Pre-Apprenticeship Programs

The Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills transfers funding to SkilledTradesBC to support trades training for people that are underrepresented in the trades.

SkilledTradesBC Pre-Apprenticeship programs provide support to equity-deserving groups in the trades to help them pursue apprenticeship and work towards employment. Equity in Trades Training and Indigenous Peoples in Trades Training programs include:

- Pre-apprenticeship training
- Employment support
- Equity-based supports for women, Indigenous peoples, and other underrepresented groups

SkilledTradesBC Pre-Apprenticeship Programs Impact 2024/25



Success Story

Kayode takes steps to earning his Red Seal in plumbing



As an internationally trained construction professional awaiting permanent residency, Kayode was finding the transition into B.C.'s construction industry challenging… until he came across the Skilled Trades Employment Program (STEP).

Delivered by the BC Construction Association as one of SkilledTradesBC's WDA-funded pre-apprenticeship programs, STEP helped Kayode begin a job as an apprentice plumber. Other supports included job search tips, employer outreach, safety training and certificates, funding for Kayode's start-up tool set and personal protective equipment.

Thanks to STEP, Kayode is excited about his daily growth in the Canadian construction industry. "Having secured a job a few months ago, I can boldly say that a journey of a thousand miles starts with a right step," he says. "My continuous daily step all the way has been filled with the passion to achieve the Red Seal goal through the STEP program."

BladeRunners

BladeRunners provides services and ongoing supports to unemployed or precariously employed young adults. Programs are delivered by service providers throughout B.C. to help people aged 15-30 find and keep full time employment in high-opportunity industries such as construction.

Employment-training and supports available through BladeRunners include:

- Job readiness skills
- Certification courses
- Job coaching and support
- Workplace communication skills
- Job placement opportunities
- Life skills training

BladeRunners Impact 2024/25

1,222
people served

46%
identified as Indigenous

73%

found a job or pursued further education

27%

identified as Persons with a Disability

Success Story

Aaliyah gets her first good job



Aaliyah knew she needed help in gaining employment: she was living with her boyfriend's family, didn't have her high school diploma, and hadn't held a real job before.

She joined the BladeRunners program offered by ACCESS through the Nanaimo Youth Services Association, which focuses on training in construction and customer service industries. Aaliyah was proud to show up every day of the four-week program, earning certificates and building her resume and job interview skills. The program also directed her to places that would help her complete her high school diploma.

"I got a good job after I finished the program and they got me good shoes to work in," shares Aaliyah. "BladeRunners helped me a lot when I really needed it and no one has helped me like that before."



Programs for Communities, Sectors & Employers

Programs for employers and sectors can be accessed by B.C. employers, sector associations, and industries to meet specific business and workforce development needs.

Programs for communities can be accessed by a variety of B.C. organizations, depending on the program, including municipalities, Indigenous organizations, non-profits that serve the community, and more.

Programs for employers and sectors include:

- Community and Employer Partnerships
- Strategic Grants
- Community Workforce Response Grant
- Indigenous Skills Training and Education
- Sector Labour Market Partnerships
- B.C. Employer Training Grant

Community and Employer Partnerships

Community and Employer Partnerships (CEP)* funds community-driven projects to increase in-demand skills training and work experience opportunities for job seekers across B.C.

CEP projects strengthen the labour market, support communities, and contribute to economic growth. Participants receive wages, childcare, and other supports to help them succeed.

Project streams in 2024-25 included:

- **Project Based Labour Market Training** provides funding to organizations to support local job employment training.
- **Job Creation Partnerships** provides funding to organizations to support local work experience and skill enhancement opportunities.

Community and Employer Partnerships Impact 2024/25

15
Project Based Labour Market Training projects



377
people received training for in-demand jobs

Success Story

A New Road Forward: Willow's Career Shift into Trucking

Willow, a single mom working in film, was looking for more job stability. She joined the Changing Gears truck driving program, led by the YWCA and designed to support women in the Lower Mainland who are entering the transportation industry.

Participants in the program receive 20 weeks of employability and skills training, work experience with local employers, and ongoing follow-up support.

"It's been a super humbling process learning all of the different things involved with this type of trucking," Willow shared. "I'm smaller than most people that work here, so I do have to try harder. I have some workarounds, and over time, I've gotten stronger."

Now equipped with new skills, experience, and confidence, Willow is ready to start a more secure career on the road.

* Due to a significant reduction in Federal government funding to the LMTAs of almost $74 million, Community and Employer Partnerships focused on fewer projects in 2024/25 that were strategically selected to ensure maximum impact and alignment with provincial and national priorities. This program receives both Federal and Provincial funding.

Project-based Labour Market Partnerships

B.C. supported 15 Project-based Labour Market Training projects, such as:

Community Support Workers in Northern BC

Community Support Workers in Northern BC provided participants with employability, essential skills, occupational skills training and on-the-job work experience with local employers to prepare participants for employment as Community Support Workers and Community Mental Health Workers.

The Purpose Project with Kinghaven Peardonville House Society

The Purpose Project with Kinghaven Peardonville House Society for male survivors of violence prepared participants for employment in the construction industry. Participants receive occupational and employability skills training, individual trauma counselling and one on one supports.

Wildfire and Integrated Natural Resources Training

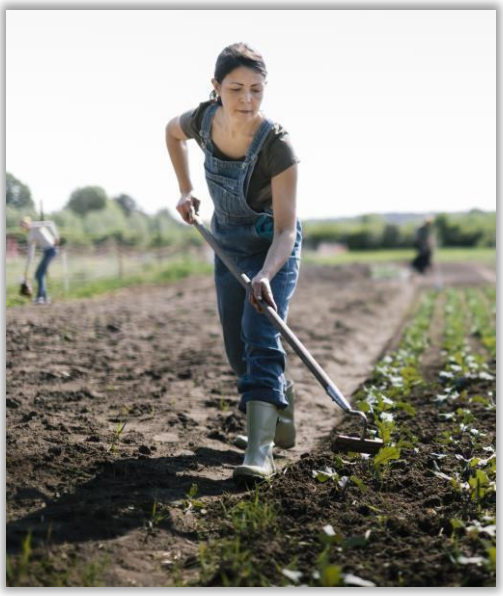
Wildfire and Integrated Natural Resources Training provided participants with employability, essential skills, occupational skills training, and on the job work experience opportunities with local employers to prepare for employment in the natural resources sector.

Job Creation Partnerships

B.C. invested in one Job Creation Partnership project:

The Regenerative Agriculture Project

The Regenerative Agriculture Project provided participants with work experience and skill enhancement in the agriculture sector. Training included general farm practices, composting skills, regenerative agriculture, and food security techniques. The project enhanced the participants' employment prospects as harvesting labourers or general farm workers, as well as knowledge of regenerative agriculture that gave participants an advantage in the labour market.



Strategic Grants

Research and Innovation (R&I) funding* helps community organizations to explore and test new ways of delivering programming that support people in finding, keeping, and returning to work.

In 2024/25, B.C. continued to build on Research and Innovation investments made in previous years to support initiatives focusing on enhancing employment supports and programming for youth, Indigenous Peoples, people with disabilities, and underrepresented populations. Projects included:

- **Foundry Work and Education program**, which provides integrated and personal wraparound assistance to youth ages 15 to 24, including health, mentoring, education, skills development, and job-placement services.
- **CASTL Elevate – B.C. Biomanufacturing**, providing foundational skills including classroom training and on-the-job work experience in bioscience for unemployed or underemployed youth to transition into B.C.'s fast-growing bioeconomy.

A range of active, on-the-ground initiatives are supporting forestry workers, employers, and communities through training, business development, and diversification efforts.

- **Making New Jobs – Hands-on Manufacturing Micro-credential:** Providing hands-on training for forestry workers to transition into sustainable manufacturing jobs, supporting local industry diversification.
- **Northern Development Initiative Trust Rural & Remote Employment Initiatives Fund:** Funding labour market research and business advisory services to support diversification in communities impacted by economic shifts.
- **Hub Space Build Your Own Future:** Investing in business development and capacity-building skills to help impacted workers start successful businesses. Tailored supports assist entrepreneurs to launch innovative ventures, creating jobs and building resilient communities.

Strategic Grants Impact 2024/25

Foundry Work and Education Program expanded to **16 communities across B.C.**, improving access to employment services for at-risk youth in the province. Over 1,200 youth have been supported with nearly 70% securing jobs or returning to school



* This program receives both Federal and Provincial funding.

Strategic Grants (continued)



Bridging Barriers to Education Through FWEP

The Foundry Work and Education Program (FWEP) played a central role in helping a young person re-enter post-secondary education with the supports they needed to succeed. Through FWEP, the youth was supported in accessing Student Aid BC, including a grant for students with disabilities, and was connected to Assistive Technology BC for a range of essential tools that reduced physical strain and supported their learning.

With FWEP's guidance, the youth experienced a significant improvement in their wellbeing and academic success. After previously withdrawing from school due to unmet mental health and disability-related needs, they shared that this return to education feels fundamentally different.

"I feel excited about school. I feel supported and not weighed down by financial stress or the pressure to find part-time work while dealing with chronic pain. These supports have truly helped bridge the gap between my barriers and my ability to succeed in school."

This story highlights FWEP's impact in reducing barriers, coordinating supports, and empowering young people to pursue their educational goals.



Community Workforce Response Grant

The Community Workforce Response Grant* provides flexible and comprehensive funding for communities and sectors to deliver occupational skills training projects that respond to labour market needs, including workforce shortages and mass layoffs. The program supports cohort-based skills training that helps people get the skills they need to find a keep a job in their community, contributing to a strong local economy.

In addition to funding training fees, tuition, and mandatory costs, the grant helps reduce barriers for participants by providing financial supports for child care, transportation, and equipment, as well as employment services and support.

Community Workforce Response Grant Impact 2024/25

575 *people received training†*		**29** *communities directly benefitted*
72% *were employed three months after training*		**59%** *of communities were rural and remote*

Success Story

Cecilia finds a fulfilling career in health care

Medical providers in the Vancouver region have consistently identified challenges in recruiting qualified medical office administrators. Recognizing this gap, Sources Community Resources Society applied for a Community Workforce Response Grant to fund relevant training for 18 unemployed and precariously employed people.

Cecilia, one of the participants, faced challenges in starting a new career, being a new permanent resident and over age 55. However, she was committed to move into a field where she could feel valued, make a difference and continue learning.

Thanks to the funding, Cecilia earned a Medical Office Skills Certificate from Vancouver Community College and found work immediately. Additional supports, like transportation, food and regular check-ins helped Cecilia stay focused on her training and complete the program successfully.

"Today, I'm proud to work part-time at a clinic that believes in me. Every day, I learn new skills, adapt to new systems, and grow both as a professional and as a person," shares Cecilia.

[*] This program receives both Federal and Provincial funding.

[†] In 2024/25, the CWRG helped workers access higher-cost training for in-demand careers, like licensed practical nurse, heavy equipment operator, and BC Class 1 truck driving.

Indigenous Skills Training and Education

Federal funding through the Indigenous Skills Training and Education program supports Métis Nation British Columbia to deliver community-based skills training and education programming consistent with the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

This program is also provincially funded and supports BC First Nations, the First Nations Education Steering Committee, and the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres to provide community-based skills training and post-secondary education initiatives to Indigenous people across British Columbia.

Declaration Act Action Plan Item 4.41: *Work with First Nations, Métis chartered communities and urban Indigenous organizations to provide funding for selfdetermined, community-led programs for Indigenous Peoples to upgrade skills, obtain credentials, secure employment, and develop and support community economies.*

Indigenous Skills Training and Education Program Impact 2024/25

800	640	Over 85%
Métis participants are expected to enroll in skills training education	*Métis participants are expected to complete training*	*of participants* are expected to move on to employment or further training*

Success Story

Fuelling Ocean's career in the automotive industry

Métis Nation BC's Skills Training, Employment and Post-Secondary (STEPS) program was key in supporting Ocean's educational journey and supporting her career path to become an automotive technician. She recently completed her second-year apprenticeship training and is working towards Red Seal certification.

"With the help of MNBC I was able to successfully get this far and am beyond grateful for everything they have done for me. I would have struggled immensely without the support," shares Ocean. "I am on my way to becoming an automotive mechanic; I have done engine swaps, head gasket jobs, oil changes, tire change overs and have learned so much more."

When she earns her Red Seal, Ocean plans to open her own shop that prioritizes and encourages women in trades. "I am beyond excited to see what my future brings in my career," she says. "I would like to thank MNBC again for making this possible for me."

* Of Métis participants who completed training and education programs supported by Métis Nation British Columbia.

Sector Labour Market Partnerships

The Sector Labour Market Partnerships (SLMP) program funds collaborative partnerships within or between sectors, populations, and/or economic regions for projects that anticipate or address labour market challenges, investigate knowledge and skills gaps, and identify and test innovative solutions.

Initiatives range from in-depth labour market information research to industry-led pilot projects, focusing on achieving outcomes for stakeholders and rightsholders across the sector, region or population.

SLMP projects fall into four priority areas: Labour Market Imbalances, Skills Gaps, Economic Transformation, and Reconciliation and Indigenous Workforce Priorities.

Sector Labour Market Partnerships Impact 2024/25

16 *projects throughout B.C.*

9 *sectors supported, like construction and manufacturing*

81% *of projects integrated equity components*



Success Story

Practical tools to strengthen the restaurant industry

The Chefs' Table Society of British Columbia completed an SLMP-funded pilot to improve workplace culture in the restaurant industry, enhancing working conditions for workers and stability for food service employers. The project produced new resources to support the restaurant industry in B.C., including a dashboard specially designed for small- and medium-sized restaurants. The dashboard offers tangible ideas and tools for recruiting, retention, staff development, equity, diversity and inclusion, as well as systems changes. These new resources are available on the Chefs' Table Society's website.

B.C. Employer Training Grant

The B.C. Employer Training Grant* supports employers, including self-employed persons and business owners, to invest in training for current or new employees. This cost-sharing grant helps employers to respond to changing labour needs and invest in workers' development by funding up to 80% of eligible training costs, including but not limited to tuition, textbooks, exam fees and some travel costs.

B.C. Employer Training Grant Impact 2024/25

1,389 employers received funding for skills training

85%
are small businesses



4,135
workers received training



55%
of those who completed training saw wage increases



Success Story

Pivoting to a career in carpentry

Under the Future Ready Action Plan, the Province funded support for employers affected by forest sector changes, helping them adapt to new forestry opportunities or transition to other industries.

When a mill in the north closed, a small log processing contractor lots their source of business. To continue operating, the small business received $8,800 through the B.C. Employer Training Grant to access carpentry training for employees and pivot to building and renovations.

Ben, a mill employee, had been in the logging industry since age 19 and knew he needed to make a career change to have more job security. The carpentry training allowed him to pursue his interest in building and complete his Level 2 apprenticeship. “The most valuable part of training was that I built confidence and knowledge,” says Ben. “I want to continue my education and obtain my Red Seal in carpentry. The training I have received has also made more employable in the field.”

[*] This program receives both Federal and Provincial funding.

Conclusion

British Columbia’s labour market programs are building a resilient workforce and supporting people, businesses and communities through change.

As tariff threats and global market shifts reshape how we live and work, labour market programs are vital to helping people in B.C. find pathways to good jobs, education and training, ensuring that businesses and sectors have the skilled workforces they need, and supporting communities through growth and change.

Despite Federal funding reductions in 2024/25, B.C. remains committed to supporting a strong, stable economy and building a future where skills, innovation and collaboration deliver prosperity to everyone. In 2025, B.C. launched the Look West strategy to invest in our province's unique strengths, and we continue to work with the Government of Canada and other jurisdictions to turn tariff challenges into opportunity.



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