Regional Employer Supports

Employer Resources August 2025

The following list of resources is not exhaustive and is updated on an ongoing basis.

Note that funding opportunities may have application windows.

Grants and Funding Programs – General

<u>Canada-Alberta Productivity Grant (Government of Alberta)</u> – helps employers invest in training that focuses on enhancing productivity skills for their current and future employees that aligns with the needs of their business. It is an employer-driven program meant to partially reimburse the cost for an employer to send their employee(s) for training.

<u>Indigenous Employment Training Partnerships Program (Government of Alberta)</u> – grant funding for Indigenous communities and organizations to deliver group-training projects designed in partnership with employers and other partners.

Northern and Regional Economic Development Program (NRED) (Government of Alberta) – funds initiatives led by Alberta municipalities, Indigenous communities, and non-profits that promote regional economic development and diversification.

<u>Wage subsidies and assistance programs (Government of Canada)</u> – information on federal programs to help you hire the right employees for your business.

<u>Training on the Job Program (WCB Alberta)</u> – subsidy to employers to hire and train someone who is unable to return to their regular job due to a workplace injury. The worker develops skills and gains work experience while the employer receives financial support from WCB during the employee's training period.

<u>Workforce Partnerships Grant (Government of Alberta)</u> – grant program to support labour market adjustment strategies and workforce development through partnerships.

<u>Workforce Strategies Grant (Government of Alberta)</u> – grants to support organizations with innovative solutions that will help Albertans develop new skills and assist employers and industry to grow their workforce.

<u>Workplace Training Program (Government of Alberta)</u> – offers eligible Albertans work-site training and paid work experience. Participating employers provide on-the-job training and/or work experience with government funding contributions, with the expectation that participants maintain employment after completion of the program.

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Grants and Funding Programs – Industry-Specific

<u>Food Futures Program (Alberta Food Processors Association)</u> – wage subsidies are available to hire current post-secondary students and recent grads for temporary work experience placements in any area relevant to the industry, including nutrition and food science, agriculture, technologists, accounting and finance, human resources, IT, logistics, safety, engineering, etc.

<u>Training & Wage Subsidies for Environmental Jobs (ECO Canada)</u> – employment programs that stimulate environmental career pathways, skill development, business growth, workforce support and workforce advancement through wage and training funding.

<u>Class 1 Learning Pathway Grant Program (Government of Alberta)</u> – grant program to support training and employment of Class 1 drivers by reimbursing employers for onboarding, training, and certain professional development costs.

Grants and Funding Programs – Youth and Apprenticeships

Apprenticeship job creation tax credit (Government of Canada) - non-refundable employer tax credit for eligible apprentices.

<u>Grants and funding for skilled trades and apprenticeship (Government of Canada)</u> - Grants, loans, and funding programs to help apprentices, employers, unions, and other organizations participate in apprenticeship.

<u>CAREERS - Youth Internship Incentive Program (YIIP)</u> – CAREERS works with Alberta schools to connect students to employers for paid internships. YIIP provides qualified employers with financial incentives to hire interns.

<u>Empowering Futures for Apprentices (Electricity Human Resources Canada)</u> – student work placement program for the electricity industry that provides subsidies to organizations who create these opportunities.

<u>FIRST (First Industry Research Science Technology) Jobs Pilot Program (Technology Alberta)</u> – meaningful work experience for students or recent graduates of an Alberta post-secondary institution while supporting growth of Alberta's Tech Sector.

<u>Student Work Placement Program (Government of Canada)</u> – gives post-secondary students paid work experience related to their field of study. Employers can access funding for each student hired, including first year students or students from an under-represented group (women in STEM, persons with disabilities, newcomers, Indigenous students, visible minorities).

<u>Supplementary unemployment benefit plan (SUBP) (Government of Canada)</u> – employers can top up wages while apprentices are in technical training.

<u>Trade Pathways Program (Alberta Construction Association)</u> – participating employers can access financial and recruitment support to help their company develop the next generation of skilled tradespeople in Alberta.

Resources - Employee Attraction, Recruitment, and Retention

Agriculture Job Connector (Government of Alberta) - matching workers with employers to fill agriculture and agri-food jobs.

Alberta is Calling: Moving Bonus (Government of Alberta) — provides a \$5,000 refundable tax credit for up to 2,000 eligible skilled tradespersons who moved to Alberta between May 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024.

<u>Careers In Energy</u> – free resources for small to large energy industry employers to help hiring and retention practices evolve and shift with the changing skills and knowledge demands of the energy sector.

<u>Job Bank (Government of Canada)</u> – advertise your job for free and access free tools and resources to help you find, hire, and retain the right workers.

<u>Labour Market Information (Government of Alberta)</u> – wage and salary information and job market forecasts, trends, statistics, and profiles.

Level UP (Riipen) - enables employers to connect with students from across Canada for paid, short-term, remote projects.

<u>Tourism HR Canada</u> – pan-Canadian organization with a mandate aimed at building a world-leading tourism workforce by facilitating, coordinating, and enabling human resource development activities.

<u>Training for Work (Government of Alberta)</u> - Are you an employer looking for skilled employees? Contact one of our service providers to connect to job ready graduates in your area. Follow the link for more information and to see a list of Training for Work programs across Alberta.

<u>Ukrainian Rural Alberta Attraction Program (Calgary Catholic Immigration Society and Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies)</u> – This is a new provincial funded program lead by Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies (AAISA) to match Ukrainian nationals with employers in rural Alberta.

Wage and salary information (Government of Alberta) – analysis of wages/salaries across a variety of occupations in Alberta.

Other Programs and Resources

<u>Alberta Advantage Immigration Program (AAIP) (Government of Alberta)</u> – an economic immigration program for permanent residence in Alberta. There are several streams for workers that employers should be aware of.

<u>Alberta Purchasing Connection (APC) (Government of Alberta)</u> – easy to use tool that lets public and private sector users manage, advertise, distribute, and download public purchasing opportunities for goods, services, and construction in Alberta. Check APC for funding or proposal opportunities.

Business Benefits Finder (Government of Canada) – get a list of government programs and services for your business.

Business Link - small business advice in Alberta to help small businesses start and thrive.

<u>Community Futures Alberta</u> – offers business loans, resources, mentoring, guidance and support for rural small business owners and entrepreneurs.

<u>Employment Standards (Government of Alberta)</u> – rules, regulations, compliance measures, and education and resources for employers and employees in Alberta workplaces.

<u>Francophone Mobility Work Permit</u> – a program for employers to hire French speaking temporary workers without a labour market impact assessment.

Health and safety eNews (Government of Alberta) - monthly Occupational Health and Safety newsletter.

<u>Prairies Economic Development Canada (PrairiesCan) (Government of Canada)</u> – federal department that supports economic growth across the Canadian Prairies by helping people navigate federal economic programs and services.

<u>Procurement support for business (Government of Canada)</u> – resources and supports available to support procurement with the Government of Canada.

Regional economic development resources (Government of Alberta) – resources to help community leaders, industry and business diversify and grow their regional economies.

<u>Small business resources (Government of Alberta)</u> – service helping small businesses connect to resources such as funding opportunities, mentorship programs, and expert advice. For more information, email <u>Biz Connect</u>.

Tradesecrets (Government of Alberta) - information about apprentice services, certification, trades in Alberta, regulations, etc.

<u>Trucking HR Canada</u> – a non-profit organization working to ensure Canada's freight transportation network has the skilled workforce needed for today and into the future.

Work-Sharing Program (Government of Canada) – helps employers and employees avoid layoffs when there is a temporary decrease in the normal level of business activity, beyond the control of the employer.