

Government program aids Newboro youth in job search

Young people from the Newboro area will develop the skills they need to find and keep quality jobs through a new project supported by the Government of Canada and St. Lawrence College.

Gord Brown, Member of Parliament for Leeds-Grenville, announced the project last week on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development.

"Our government is committed to creating the best educated, most skilled, and most flexible work force in the world," said Mr. Brown. "Our partnership with St. Lawrence College will provide local youth with the skills, knowledge, and experience they need to take advantage of the local job market."

Canada's government is committing \$97,618 in Skills Link funding for St. Lawrence College to help 12 unemployed youth with barriers to employment develop their life and employability skills and acquire work experience. Participants will become more employable through hands-on experience constructing two bungalows, and by attending workshops on topics including problem-solving, job-search techniques, first aid,

and WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System) training.

"St. Lawrence College is very pleased to be working with the Government of Canada and our community partner, the Thousand Islands Region Habitat for Humanity, on this project that will help youth gain the skills they need to find and keep jobs while helping people within their communities," said Michael Laking, Training and Development Specialist. "This Youth Employment Strategies program will be the fifteenth time that St. Lawrence College and the Government have partnered very successfully, and we look forward to a long and continuing relationship."

The federal government is funding this project through Service Canada's Skills Link program, one of Canada's youth employment programs. The Skills Link program involves employers, community organizations, and other levels of government in ensuring that young people have the opportunity to develop their skills and become contributing members of their communities.

The Government has taken steps to address skills shortages and promote the

trades as a quality career option by funding skills-related projects and creating the Apprenticeship Incentive Grant, a taxable cash grant of \$1,000 a year that is available to registered apprentices in the first two years of a Red Seal trade program.

This project reflects the Government of Canada's commitment to creating a strong economy for all Canadians. Through its Advantage Canada plan, the Government is not only focusing on developing work-force skills, but is also building on Canada's strengths and gaining a global competitive advantage by reducing taxes for all Canadians, increasing competition in the marketplace, building modern infrastructure, and eliminating the debt.

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