



BOARD MEMBERS & SPONSORS UPDATE

Improving Information Dissemination

Welcome to this monthly publication designed to provide an update to board members and funding agencies (Service Canada and MTCU) on the activities and initiatives being led and/or supported through Niagara Training & Adjustment Board.

NTAB KEY FOCUS INITIATIVES 2006—2007

- 1. Strengthening Community Capacity...Promoting Youth Leadership** ~ This one day forum that took place on April 3, 2006 targeted Niagara's youth. Community Youth Councils, student councils and elected officials took part in workshops on leadership skills and round table discussion of competencies, abilities, youth engagement in the community, youth migration and youth employment.
- 2. Skilled Trades Roundtable for Parents and Youth** ~ A series of round tables for parents and youth to provide information on skilled trades, pathways and apprenticeship supports available.
- 3. Career Pathway Symposium** ~ July 4 to 7, 2006. Selected students in grades 7 & 8 from across Niagara who are identified as Success Students will be offered some additional , creative, means of increasing awareness and engagement in their future directions. These 8 camps will be offered in each of the Niagara Catholic District School Boards high schools.
- 4. Developing Niagara's Talent Pool** ~ This small, senior level task force will develop an integrated, regional workforce development plan that will promote a collaborative approach to community capacity building and leadership development. This plan will link to Niagara's economic growth strategy.
- 5. Education—Business Forum 2006** ~ The focus of this initiative is to promote and facilitate input from the business community that will assist the education community to better prepare students for the workplace. The question of the day is "How can education and business partner to develop the best possible candidate for employment in Niagara"?
- 6. Newcomers Employment—Strategy Development and Implementation.** The Niagara Newcomer Employment Council is an alliance of 21 community organizations dedicated to enhancing the region's diversity, productivity, competitiveness and prosperity by developing its capacity to attract, develop, integrate and retain a larger percentage of the newcomers in Niagara.
- 7. Niagara Transportation Strategy...Linking People to Jobs** ~ The project develop model documentation that can be shared across other jurisdictions challenged by transportation barriers. Emphasis will be on articulating the process, partner roles and identification of lessons learned.

Upcoming..

- **Niagara Falls Pathways to Employability...and community involvement opportunities exhibition.** ~ Thursday, May 18, 2006. 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Optimist Club in Niagara Falls. This full day event offered to approximately 2000 students will allow the students the opportunity to talk to individuals in different careers (trades/apprenticeship, hospitality, health services, etc) with local Career Awareness and Education Displays.
- **Employer Appreciation** ~ Wednesday, May 31, 2006. 4:00 pm at the Four Points Sheraton in Thorold. Local employers are recognized for their role in providing young people with the information and experience necessary to move successfully from the classroom to the workplace.

Recruitment & Retention Research Study

This study involves research to identify labour market composition and influences impacting maximum utilization to meet Niagara employers human capital needs. Identification of human resources practices and initiatives utilized by employers across four defined geographic areas, (a) Niagara, (b) outside of Niagara but within Ontario, (c) outside of Ontario but within Canada and (d) the United States, created the basis for a compare and contrast analysis of human resource practices cross-referenced between Niagara and Non-Niagara based employers. Additional variables cross-referenced include business type, size of company, and age of workforce. This information was compiled into a brochure which includes a checklist for employers to use as an internal evaluation tool on alternate offerings to promote and improve recruitment and retention.

Women's Mentorship Program Model Development

This project involved the development of a women's mentorship program. In partnership with the YWCA working with Women in Niagara (WIN) a women's mentorship program model will be developed to support the linkage of successfully employed business and professional women with women seeking to enter or re-enter the workforce to increase job placement and job retention among the client group. Deliverables will include a mentorship model that included curriculum for mentors, section criteria for mentor/mentee linkage, and the evaluation for the process.

Niagara Region Business and Employment Outlook Survey 2005

The Business Employment and Outlook Survey was conducted by Niagara Economic Development Corporation with funding through Service Canada and in partnership with Niagara Training & Adjustment Board. The purpose of this research initiative was to obtain information to assist in creating economic development and labour market strategies to promote regional economic growth.

Niagara Business Directory

NTAB, through the financial support of the local Service Canada office conducted a telephone outreach to businesses in the Niagara Region in an effort to create an on-line business database that will be a key component of the yourniagara.ca portal. The database will allow businesses to promote their products and services in a searchable Internet-based format. NTAB is playing an active role in the development of a sustainability plan that will support the ongoing data integrity of the database.

Completed...

- **Training Excellence Recognition Awards of Niagara. And the winners are...** Carpenters Local 18, Niagara Parks Commission, YMCA of Niagara and Walker Industries. **Wall of Excellence Winners...** Speedy Muffler Brake & Wheel Shop 0207 and Niagara Health System
- **Niagara Information Exchange/ Job & Career Fair** ~ 54 exhibitors and over 500 people attended this event on March 1, 2006 which introduced individuals to the programs and services Niagara offers along with the opportunity to explore careers options.
- **Mission Possible...Destination Success** ~ A well attended event with 170 parents registered for this evening symposium designed to give parents the opportunity to network and gain valuable knowledge and insight into actions and guidance they can provide their children.

NTAB Committees

- Apprenticeship Strategy Group
- Education & Training Committee
- Health & Safety Committee
- Transportation Committee
- Women's Reference Group
- Newcomers Employment Strategy
- Living Wage/Sustainable Income
- Centre for Community Leadership Advisory Committee
- Stakeholder Reference Group
- Homeless Employment Access in Regional Niagara

Our Vision:

NTAB will serve as the organization in Niagara promoting workforce development through stakeholder collaboration and partnership development.