



NTAB ACTIVITIES & INITIATIVES

JANUARY 2006

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

TOP Update 2006...Community Action Plan

Niagara's labour market has changed dramatically over the past three decades with many of the changes being consistent with the provincial and national trends, while other changes have been more unique to Niagara. Critical trends impacting Niagara's economy include:

- Increased age of the regional population
- Continued transfer of jobs to the service sector
- Educational attainment lags in Ontario
- Increased participation of women in the labour force
- Transportation—Recruitment and Retention Barrier

The implications of these trends are visible in the workforce and workplace, including composition and skills of the workforce, the source of work and workplace arrangement and workplace learning.

If you wish to receive a paper copy of this report, please contact the NTAB office at 905.641.0801 or via email at: admin@ntab.org

It Takes a Community To Build a Workforce

This study was designed to enhance the Niagara community's understanding of how to promote and facilitate improved workforce transitions for the region's entire labour force, particularly the employment needs of the most disadvantaged members namely aboriginal people, displaced workers, persons with disabilities, visible minorities, women and youth.



Funding Source: Local Partnership Fund ~ HRSDC/MTCU

Upcoming..

- **Training Excellence Recognition Awards of Niagara 2006 ~ Feb. 10, 2006.** Winners will be presented with awards at the Business Education Council Annual Partners Breakfast at the Sheraton Fallsview.
- **Niagara Information Exchange/Job & Career Fair ~ Mar. 1, 2006.** Employment Agency and employer exhibits will be available to adults and students in the Niagara region for this job & career fair at the Lake Street Armoury in St. Catharines.
- **Mission Possible ~ Growing Up is Hard to Do ~ Mar. 29, 2006.** This evening conference for parents and educators is designed to raise awareness and improve practices and attitudes toward student career & life choices.
- **Women's Mentorship Program Development: Go Girl!** NTAB, in partnership with the YWCA working with Women in Niagara (WIN) will adapt a women's mentoring program design. This will match 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.

...Niagara's Workforce Development Board

Mission Possible Parent Conference supports Ministry of Education – New Parent Involvement Policy

NTAB in partnership with Business Education Council of Niagara, Niagara Catholic District School Board, District School Board of Niagara, Niagara College and Brock University will deliver the 6th annual “Mission Possible... Growing Up is Hard to Do” Parent Conference on March 30, 2006. This event targets parents and promotes participation in student education and career pathway selection and supports the recently announced Parent Involvement Policy announced by the Ministry of Education on December 1, 2005. A \$5.2 million investment to support parent involvement in the education system supports new resources including:

- A new school council outreach and grant program for special local initiatives to reach parents who may find involvement more challenging
- New grants for projects that support parent involvement at the local and regional level
- Regional parent forums with the Minister of Education
- A new Parent Advisory Board composed of and representing parents
- Ongoing support for provincial parent organizations
- New communication tools including a parent website portal, e-network and new parent handbook
- A provincial Parent Engagement Office and Ministry of Education regional offices will assume the role of mobilizing parents

Completed...

- **Accountants Breakfast ~ Dec. 1, 2005.** A breakfast presentation by the Ministry of Finance which promoted the Ontario Apprenticeship Tax Credit to local accountants in the Niagara Region.
- **Canada Career Week ~ Seek Change Find Direction ~ Dec. 2, 2005.** This one day career expo was a great opportunity for job seekers or those looking for a career change to participate in presentations, breakout sessions and displays offering career advice and assistance.
- **Niagara Regional Tournament 2005 ~ Lego Competition ~ Dec. 3, 2005.** This competition attracted 22 schools throughout Ontario with 14 local schools participating. St. Alexander Separate School from Fonthill were the winners of this event. NTAB sponsored the Photonics Workshop Award for the winning school
- **Destination Success 2005.** A 2 day conference for high school students aimed to help them make informed career choices through a series of interactive discussions and workshops focusing on Skilled Trades/ Apprenticeships, Health Care, Hospitality & Tourism and the Service Sector.

Ongoing...

- **Newcomers Employment Strategy Development and Implementation**
- **Opportunities Niagara:** Living Wage/Sustainable Income Sub-Committee
- **Niagara College:** Centre for Community Leadership Advisory Committee
- **YWCA Job Route:** Stakeholder Reference Group
- **Start Me Up Niagara:** Homeless Employment Access in Regional Niagara– Research Project

Publications available on our website www.ntab.org

- Annual General Meeting Presentation Niagara Labour Market Review 2005
- Niagara Workforce Focus
- Labour Market Utilization Study
- It Takes a Community to Build a Workforce

NTAB Committees

- Apprenticeship Strategy Group
- Education & Training Committee
- Health & Safety Committee
- Transportation Committee
- Women's Reference Group

Our Vision:

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