

Canada-Nova Scotia Agreement on a Framework for Strategic Partnerships

General Information	
Lead Department	Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC).
Partners	Government of Nova Scotia
Effective Date	January 1, 1998
Expiry Date	None. Labour Market Development Agreements are indeterminate agreements and are not subject to renewal. The agreement contains provisions for either party to give notice of termination.
Web Site	http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/ei/lma/ns/nsagre_e.html
Purpose	Recognizing their respective responsibilities in the areas of labour market development, economic development and social policy development, the objective of the agreement is to provide a framework for Canada and Nova Scotia to work jointly to find opportunities through strategic partnerships to benefit Nova Scotians. To this end, Canada and Nova Scotia will collaborate and coordinate efforts to improve their respective labour market programs and services.
Roles and Contributions	<p>The roles and contributions of each party are described in the LMDA available via the web-site noted above.</p> <p>Partners to the agreement work in concert on the delivery of Canada's Employment Benefits and Support Measures (EBSM) under Part II of the <i>Employment Insurance (EI) Act</i>.</p> <p>Canada remains responsible for the implementation of activities under its employment benefits and support measures that are pan-Canadian in scope, such as activities in support of inter-provincial labour mobility and national sectoral partnerships.</p> <p>Canada also retains responsibility for Employment Insurance benefits under part I of the Act (passive support).</p>
Resources	
Program Funding	<p>2001/02: \$ 80,205,000 confirmed allocation</p> <p>2002/03: \$ 80,462,000 projected allocation</p>
Tracking and Reporting	The Employment Insurance Monitoring and Assessment Report is available at: http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/ae-ei/loi-law/eimar.shtml . Chapter 3 covers Employment Benefits and Support Measures (EBSM) and the Labour Market Development Agreements under which these are funded and delivered.

Measurement and Reporting	
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of Federal and Provincial initiatives to minimize overlap and duplication • Reduction of dependency on income security programs, including employment insurance and social assistance by helping individuals obtain or keep employment • Cooperation and partnership among governments, employers, community based organizations and other interested organizations • A joint accountability framework is included in the provisions of the LMDA.
Indicators	<p>Key indicators include: Employment Insurance clients served, Clients who return to work, and potential Unpaid Employment Insurance Benefits, resulting from clients returning to work prior to exhausting their EI benefits claim.</p> <p>Client participation and key results indicators are tracked internally on a monthly basis</p>
Comparable Indicators	A Medium Term Indicators project is being implemented that will measure longer-term and incremental results of EBSM participation. The indicators and the methodology for their tracking have yet to be determined.
Evaluation/Third Party Assessments	The agreement provides for periodic evaluations of its provisions and of the programs and services delivered under its auspices. These evaluations are coordinated by a joint evaluation committee with representation from both parties.
Shared Information and Best Practices	An LMDA Working Group comprised of representatives from each regional office and NHQ shares information and best practices during regular conference calls and at annual conferences.
Public Reporting	The Employment Insurance Monitoring and Assessment Report is available at: http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/ae-ei/loi-law/eimar.shtml . Chapter 3 covers Employment Benefits and Support Measures (EBSM) and the Labour Market Development Agreements under which these are delivered.
Involving Canadians	
Provisions for Citizens to Participate in Developing Social Priorities and Reviewing Outcomes	<p>Canadians are involved in the Labour Market Development Agreement through the regular evaluation process – through client surveys and third party evaluations.</p> <p>The Skills Development employment benefit is entirely client-driven – the client chooses, arranges, and pays for training. Eligible individuals are reimbursed for their training expenses.</p>
Feedback Mechanisms to the Public	<p>http://www.hrdc.gc.ca/hrib/ebsm-pems/menu/contactus.shtml</p> <p>The Employment Benefits and Support Measures available under Part II of the Employment Insurance Act are high-visibility programs and services. The network of Human Resource Centres of Canada therefore represents a well known feedback mechanism for the public.</p>

Service Commitments	
Public Availability of Eligibility Criteria	<p>Eligibility criteria are contained in section 58 of the Employment Insurance Act available at: http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/ae-ei/loi-law/ei_act_entry_page.shtml.</p> <p>Other sites with the eligibility criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.hrdc.gc.ca/hrib/ebsm-pems/menu/programs.shtml • http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/ei/lma/ns/nsagre_e.html • EBSM eligibility criteria are also available through contact with a Human Resource Centre of Canada (HRCC).
Existence and Availability of Service Commitments	<p>In the Agreement, the parties agree that the following principles on service to clients will be respected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convenience of access • Courtesy, empathy and timeliness • Flexibility and innovation of approach to labour market and community needs • Optimization of individual potential and human dignity • Responsiveness and support to the needs of equity group members
Measurement and Public Reporting	<p>Client satisfaction with services received is measured through the regular evaluation process. Findings of evaluations are included in the Employment Insurance Monitoring and Assessment Report.</p>
Appeals and Complaints	
Existence, Availability and Communication of Mechanisms	<p>Under section 64 of the Employment Insurance Act, decisions of the Commission made in relation to employment benefits or support measures, are not subject to appeal.</p>
Tracking and Public Reporting	<p>Not applicable¹</p>
Mobility	
Existence of Measures	<p>Not applicable¹</p>

¹**Not applicable:** when the section does not apply.