

Skills Investment Strategy

The Skills Investment Strategy is a plan to ensure Albertans have the skills and supports they need to succeed in the labour market. The strategy is designed to set the direction for AHRE's programs and services for the next several years.

Implementation of the strategy is underway and will continue until the end of 2006. The Skills Investment Strategy strengthens our programs and makes them more responsive to client needs and to the skills requirements of a changing labour market, to keep Alberta's economy and workforce strong.

The strategy supports AHRE's three core businesses:

People Investments: Providing support for people in need.

Skills Investments: Helping people to be their best at learning and work.

Workplace Investments: Supporting workplaces to make Alberta prosperous.

A variety of clients are served, including low income individuals, Aboriginal people, immigrants, persons with disabilities, youth and older workers. Clients are responsible for providing the necessary information for their eligibility assessments and investing the time and energy to make successful changes in their lives. In return, clients benefit from increased flexibility to access skills programs and services on a full or part-time basis.

The four programs are:

- Career Information
- Work Foundations
- Training for Work
- Workforce Partnerships

Under the strategy, AHRE has consolidated the design and delivery of 19 previous programs into four. Training has been broadened to include:

- Occupational training opportunities for low income Albertans. These opportunities were previously only available to Employment Insurance (EI) recipients.

- Expanded part-time training opportunities that provide a broader range of programming and increased amount of financial support for those in need. These changes enable low-income Albertans learn while they earn, increasing potential for persons with disabilities.

Key outcomes will examine:

- improved employability
- improved employment situation for the client
- increased independence and return on investment

Stakeholders

The successful implementation of the Skills Investment Strategy and a highly skilled workforce in Alberta requires commitment, collaboration, and high-level coordination among all stakeholders. Employers, training providers, government and community organizations all have a stake in ensuring skills investments programs and services are responsive to client needs, helping Albertans become more successful members of the labour force, which in turn, benefits employers and creates a stronger economy for Alberta.

Accountability

The Skills Investment Strategy and the Skills Investment Programs require a diverse delivery system and an extensive network of partners and providers.

Accountability Framework Agreements between AHRE and training providers will ensure accountability and responsible financial management of the new skills investment programs and services, and create an understanding of the short, medium and long-term outcomes for clients.

For a copy of the Skills Investment Strategy:

Click: www.gov.ab.ca/hre/si/pdf/si_framework.pdf