



Colin Carrie MP Oshawa

Conservative Government Helps Unemployed Canadians Develop New Skills

OSHAWA, Monday May 25, 2009 - Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Diane Finley announced today at Durham College how the Harper Government is strengthening Canada's Employment Insurance (EI) program to help workers who are in transition. Long-tenured workers who have lost their jobs due to the global recession will receive additional support through the Conservative Government's Economic Action Plan.

"Under Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Government is taking quick action to inject immediate stimulus, promote long-term growth and help unemployed Canadians gain the skills required for tomorrow's jobs," said Minister Finley. "Through Career Transition Assistance, the Government of Canada will provide an estimated \$500 million to help laid-off long-tenured workers with many years of experience to upgrade their skills."

A long-tenured worker is someone who has been in one type of job for a long time and requires new skills to transition to a new field. Career Transition Assistance consists of two initiatives to provide additional support to long-tenured workers. One initiative will extend the duration of EI benefits for eligible workers who participate in longer-term training for up to two years. Approximately 40,000 individuals are expected to benefit from this measure. Workers who are investing in their own training using all, or a portion of their severance packages, will also benefit through a second initiative that will see those eligible be able to access EI benefits earlier.

As part of the EI program, the Federal Government provides other employment programming and services to Canadians through Labour Market Development Agreements with provinces and territories under Part II of the *EI Act*. Career Transition Assistance will be implemented in partnership with provinces and territories, who will have responsibility for the assessment and referral of clients to training.

"Measures in our Economic Action Plan demonstrate the Government's commitment to improving the EI program to help Canadians adjust to the changing economy," added Minister Finley. "By working with the provinces and territories, through this and other programs, we are providing Canadians with easier access to training tailored to the needs of our country's different regions."

"Today's announcement is welcomed news for the residents of Oshawa. We have to protect those workers that have helped build our city as Oshawa continues to expand and evolve into new technologies and industries", stated Dr. Colin Carrie, Member of Parliament for Oshawa and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health. "This program will allow those workers that have given so much the opportunity to expand their training and land leading edge jobs within our community" added Carrie.

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Government is enhancing support to Canadians during the global recession, and is investing in the country's long-term growth. The Government is investing an unprecedented \$8.3 billion in the Canada Skills and Transition Strategy to support workers and their families, including measures for income support, skills and training.

To learn more about Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit www.actionplan.gc.ca.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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