



# Continuing to create jobs and skilled workforce: Canada leads G20 in recession recovery

**THE HONOURABLE** Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, led discussions at a meeting during which G20 ministers shared information about preparing their workforces for the post-crisis economy.

"As a result of the quick action undertaken by our Government through our Economic Action Plan, Canada is leading the G20 as we emerge from this recession," said Diane Finley. "Our Government's top priority is to continue creating jobs and a skilled workforce to lead our recovery."

Minister Finley noted that G20 countries are all at different stages of development and have different experiences. However, despite their differences, all countries would like to prepare their citizens for the opportunities and challenges of the future by helping them acquire the skills they will need to compete in the labour market. The meeting delegates agreed that their countries' future prosperity will depend on employment and enhanced productivity.

In Canada, the federal government's Economic Action Plan focuses on building the jobs and industries of the future. It provides enhanced support for skills development, apprenticeships and training for Canadian workers. Currently, the Government of Canada invests over \$4 billion annually for labour market training and since August 2009, the federal government has provided \$2.3 billion in loans and grants to nearly 400,000 students.

"We are confident that this will best help us to meet our goal of creating the best educated,

most skilled, and most flexible workforce," said Minister Finley.

In September 2009, G20 leaders directed labour and employment ministers to assess the evolving employment situation and the impact of policies their countries have already adopted, and the need for additional measures to create good jobs for citizens, now and in the future.

The objective of the meeting of labour and employment ministers was to develop a set of

recommendations for G20 leaders under three themes:

1. job creation and preservation initiatives;
2. quality of work and social protection; and
3. preparing the workforce for the post-crisis economy.

Results from the discussions will be forwarded for G20 leaders' consideration.

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Source: The Government of Canada

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## Provincial on-the-job injury rate hits record low

**FEWER** people were hurt on the job last year as Alberta's workplace injury rate hit a record low. Occupational fatalities were also down, from 166 in 2008 to 110 in 2009.

"We've made good progress reducing workplace injuries but we can still do better," said Thomas Lukaszuk, Minister of Employment and Immigration. "Today [April 28th] is the National Day of Mourning, when we remember those workers who didn't come home at the end of their shift. Behind the numbers being released today are thousands of Alberta families whose lives have been changed by a workplace incident."

The disabling injury claim rate decreased to 3.09 per 100 full-time jobs in 2009, from 3.63 per 100 in 2008. This includes injured workers who cannot work their next shift (lost time) or have to be placed on modified work to accommodate their injuries.

Lost-time claim rates were down across all major industry sectors, with the manufacturing, processing and packaging, and the mining and petroleum development sectors experiencing the biggest drops. The provincial lost-time claim rate for 2009 was 1.69 per 100 full-time jobs, down almost 10 percent from the previous year.

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Source: The Government of Alberta

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