

REGION OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
RÉGION D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf.
 Your File/V/Réf.

DATE	25 April 2000
TO/DEST.	Co-ordinator Community Services Committee
FROM/EXP.	Social Services Commissioner
SUBJECT/OBJET	PARTNERS FOR JOBS: PROGRESS REPORT

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION:

That the Community Services Committee and Council receive the Partners for Jobs Progress Report for information.

BACKGROUND

In January 1999 the Task Force on Employment was established by Regional Chair Chiarelli. The Task Force was co-chaired by John Kelly and Andrée Lortie, community leaders representing the business sector and the educational/training sector. The Task Force, and the Working Group supporting the Task Force, had broad representation from all sectors of the community including: employers, boards of trade, education/training, community agencies, labour, economic development agencies, francophone community, three levels of government and advocacy groups.

The mandate of the Task Force was to develop an Employment Strategy within a six month timeframe. The strategy included both short term projects and longer term initiatives targeted to unemployed and under-employed persons, with a primary focus on social assistance clients.

The Task Force and Working Group members developed nine pilot initiatives, nine strategic directions and thirty-four priority actions intended to address various barriers and issues related to employment and workforce development. The Final Report was released to the public in September, 1999.

PARTNERS FOR JOBS ACTION PHASE

In October 1999 the Partners for Jobs Action Phase was established with a mandate to implement the Strategic Directions and Priority Actions as identified in the Final Report. In addition, the mandate included the preparation of a Progress Report.

The Action Phase included representation from: employers, community agencies, labour, advocacy groups, education/training, economic development agencies, boards of trade, francophone community, advocacy groups and three levels of government. In addition, the Action Phase included representation from the cooperative sector, the aboriginal community, and the disabled community.

Overall, this working group has been very successful in developing effective linkages across sectors, and sharing information and expertise in the area of workforce development. The Progress Report attached summarises the status of each Strategic Direction and Priority Action.

The Action Phase has made **significant progress** in the following areas:

- identifying policy and program rules that need to be changed
- development of an Emergency Assistance and Employment Transition Fund
- technology efficiencies related to labour force information
- marketing and communication related to workforce development
- outcome data related to training and customized training requirements
- quality assurance standards for training
- implementation of the 9 pilots
- development of job retention strategies
- initiation of new partnerships
- coordination of alternative funding : micro loan funds and individualized development funds

The Action Phase has made **moderate progress** in the following areas:

- information exchange with l'Outaouais and local politicians on workforce development
- review of Regional services to reduce barriers
- a local labour force information system which includes core competency information
- strengthening the links with the educational sector
- advocating for adequate funding of local adult education programs
- promoting broader access to training and employment services
- developing more work experience/placement opportunities
- ensuring that training is tailored to meet the changing needs of the labour market
- integrating labour force development and economic development

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

A wide variety of employment development initiatives have been implemented during the past year to support people to be employed. The Progress Report highlights 28 different initiatives.

It is estimated that 350 + unemployed people receiving Ontario Works and under-employed persons have secured employment as a result of these partnerships. In addition, more than 200 people have increased their skills through customized training as a result of Partners for Jobs.

It is estimated that savings of \$1.6 million + (gross to the Region) have been achieved as a result of 200 Ontario Works participants securing employment.

NEXT STEPS

The Action Phase members and various partners have made significant contributions in developing local, practical, solutions to unemployment and under-employment in this community. The Action Phase members will meet in September and December 2000 to identify actions related to the workforce development recommendations contained in the Economic Generators Report which is being prepared by ICF Consultants on behalf of the Region. In addition, members will continue to build on the essential momentum of workforce development in this community.

CONCLUSION

The Partners for Jobs Progress Report summarises the status of the Strategic Directions and Priority Actions that were contained in the Final Report of the Task Force on Employment. In addition, the Progress Report highlights new partnerships that have been formed and the impact of the various employment supports that have been developed during the past year.

*Approved by
Dick Stewart*

DS/CH

Attach. (1)