

OLC Provincial Budget Information Updates

Finance Minister Dwight Duncan released his fall economic statement this afternoon.

The deficit is predicted to come in significantly higher than budgeted (now at \$24.7 billion), but it doesn't look like any in-year expenditure reductions are seen to be in order at this moment. Rather, the Government continues to focus on people and jobs. We do need to be concerned about the program review, now underway, which will lay the groundwork for a significant plan of action in the spring 2010 Budget.

As anticipated, this document also begins the pre-budget consultation process. Communities where round tables will be happening will be announced in November. We can also encourage literacy stakeholders to participate in the electronic on-line consultation.

The following is the excerpt related to literacy from today's fall economic statement. It puts some numbers around number of people the Province calculates it has served through literacy programs.

Training and Skills Investment

Ontario's highly educated and skilled workforce is a significant economic and competitive advantage. The Province is building on this advantage through investments in the skills of Ontarians. It has laid a solid foundation for future prosperity through: the \$6.2 billion Reaching Higher Plan for postsecondary education, over \$1 billion in annual Employment Ontario training investments, and additional investments under the Skills to Jobs Action Plan announced in the 2008 Budget.

In the 2009 Budget, the government announced further investments worth more than \$750 million over two years for new skills and enhanced training and literacy initiatives, supported by enhancements to Canada-Ontario labour market agreements. These investments are already having the desired impact, including more than 104,000 employment opportunities for students this past summer.

As part of Employment Ontario, the Second Career program, along with the Rapid Re-employment and Training Service (RRTS), were designed to provide \$355 million over three years to help 20,000 laid-off workers access the extensive training they need to succeed in new jobs. The Second Career program has already exceeded its three-year target in just 16 months, helping nearly 21,000 people receive training.

Ontario offers a number of other training and employment services to help unemployed workers meet the economic challenges facing them. For example, since April 2008, over 27,000 Ontarians have participated in the Ontario Skills Development program that provides short-term training and return-to-employment assistance for unemployed workers. The RRTS Service has provided timely counselling assistance to over 110,000 workers affected by layoffs and plant closures since the program began in 2007.



Table 2
Over One Million Ontarians Use Skills Training Annually

Selected Programs	Clients Served	Time Period¹
Second Career Program	20,939	Since June 2008
Summer Jobs and Services	104,140	April 1 to August 31, 2009
Rapid Re-employment and Training Services	110,000	Since January 2007
Ontario Skills Development Program	27,291	Since April 2008
Literacy and Basic Skills	83,984	Since April 2008
Apprenticeship Registration	40,900	Since April 2008
Employment Assistance Services ²	299,305	Since April 2008
Job Creation Partnership ²	1,712	Since April 2008
Job Connect ²	426,714	Since April 2008
Self-Employment Benefit	5,178	Since April 2008
Targeted Wage Subsidy ²	4,091	Since April 2008

- ¹ Based on the most recent data available.
- ² Employment Assistance Services and Job Connect help clients prepare for, find, get and keep jobs. Ontario Job Creation Partnership provides work experience through local employers and community groups. Ontario Targeted Wage Subsidies are used to encourage employers to permanently hire eligible unemployed workers.
- Source: Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.