



Agriculture and Agri-Food Workforce Action Plan

The **Workforce Action Plan** is a reliable national strategy for the agriculture and agri-food industry; a roadmap forward to address the sector's critical labour shortages. It is essential to maintain a strong agriculture and agri-food value chain and has been identified by industry as the number one business risk management issue across all commodities and the value chain. The agriculture and agri-food industry needs workers to remain **globally competitive**, to take advantage of **export opportunities** provided by the Federal Government's free trade agenda, and to ensure the **safety, sustainability and affordability of food** for all Canadians.

Some of the unique agricultural and agri-food labour challenges, which are identified and addressed within the **Workforce Action Plan** includes:

- Overall image of the agricultural sector
- Shortage of skilled workers
- Aging workforce
- Retention of skilled workers in the sector
- Requirements of sector, including: transportation, food processing, and accommodation
- Seasonality of work and the shorter Canadian growing and harvesting season vs other regions
- Lack of available training programs in Canada
- Regional disparity and competition for foreign workers (esp. from other sectors)

Labour Task Force represents Canada's diversity: all regions and aspects of the agri-food value chain - farmers and industry coming together. We will achieve more by working cooperatively to address the important labour issues facing the Canadian agriculture and agri-food industry.

"The Labour Task Force stresses that it is urgent and essential that this initiative begin immediately as the issues of labour shortage are pervasive, affecting current operational success and damaging to the future health of the industry and the economy" (Labour Action Plan, p. 8).

The Labour Task Force's consultative process has identified the need and how to address these labour issues through practical, achievable recommendations, and now the work needs to proceed.

The Task Force put forward two recommendations that meet the immediate and future requirements of our industry:

- 1. Increase the Supply of Labour** - for skilled and unskilled workers.
- 2. Improve the Knowledge and Skills** – of workers in the industry.

It's time for action!



Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council: Lead Organization to Implement the Workforce Action Plan

CAHRC continues to drive the implementation of the *Workforce Action Plan*, as prepared by the Labour Task Force (LTF).

CAHRC's on-going support of the *Workforce Action Plan* includes the following activities:

- Stakeholder Engagement
- Communications and Outreach
- Funding and Proposal Development
- Project Management and Administration

CALL TO ACTION

Help Support the Agriculture and Agri-food Workforce Action Plan

1 Provide your letter of support

Join the many organizations already involved and committed to the Workforce Action Plan



2 Make your contribution towards the Action Plan implementation activities

Select your desired level of commitment:

- BRONZE LEVEL - \$2,500
- SILVER LEVEL - \$5,000
- GOLD LEVEL - \$10,000
- PLATINUM LEVEL - \$50,000
- Other (Specify)

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