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CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

PRIME MINISTER STEPHEN HARPER HIGHLIGHTS NEW GRANT PROGRAM TO HELP CANADIANS PURSUE WELL PAYING JOBS IN THE SKILLED TRADES

Apprenticeship Completion Grant Program will provide financial support to Canadians who seek work in the skilled trades

EDMONTON – Canadians looking to upgrade their skills and job prospects by seeking a career in the skilled trades will receive additional financial incentive to do so, thanks to a new Apprenticeship Completion Grant Program contained in the Harper Government's Economic Action Plan.

"When Canadians complete apprenticeships and learn skilled trades they instantly improve their job prospects and earning potential," said Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who met with several apprentices during a visit to Edmonton. "Encouraging more Canadians to take up the skilled trades will both help Canada weather the global recession today and leave us better positioned to address the labour shortages that are expected in our future."

The Apprenticeship Completion Grant (ACG) will offer \$2,000 to eligible apprentices who successfully complete their apprenticeship training and certification in a designated Red Seal trade. The Grant will also boost worker mobility, as the Red Seal workers' credentials are recognized in most provinces and territories of Canada.

This new Grant complements the existing Apprenticeship Incentive Grant through which registered apprentices are eligible for a \$1,000 grant when they complete their first or second year/level of apprenticeship training in a designated Red Seal trade, to a maximum of \$2,000. By combining the two grants, apprentices can be eligible for up to \$4,000 upon certification in a designated Red Seal trade.

An estimated 20,000 completing apprentices could benefit from the Apprenticeship Completion Grant right away. Apprentices can begin applying for the Apprenticeship Completion Grant in July but their eligibility will be retroactive to January 1, 2009.

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Canada



Backgrounder

THE APPRENTICESHIP COMPLETION GRANT

As part of Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is promoting skilled trades and apprenticeships by investing \$40 million per year in a new Apprenticeship Completion Grant (ACG), which complements the existing Apprenticeship Incentive Grant.

It is estimated that approximately 20,000 apprentices who complete their apprenticeship program and become certified in a designated Red Seal trade will be eligible for the ACG each year.

About the Program

The Apprenticeship Completion Grant is a \$2,000 taxable cash grant designed to encourage apprentices registered in a designated Red Seal trade to complete their apprenticeship program and receive journeyman certification. Apprentices will be able to apply for the ACG in July 2009, with eligibility made retroactive to January 1, 2009.

How It Works

Upon successful completion of an apprenticeship program and receipt of their journeyman certification in a designated Red Seal trade, apprentices can apply to receive the \$2,000 ACG.

A Red Seal trade is one that is recognized under the Interprovincial Standards Red Seal Program and designated as such within a province or territory. The Red Seal Program represents a national standard of training excellence in the trades and provides recognition of tradespersons' qualifications.

Under the existing Apprenticeship Incentive Grant (AIG), apprentices are already eligible for a \$1,000 taxable cash grant when they complete the first and/or second level of their apprenticeship program in a designated Red Seal trade, to a maximum of \$2,000.

As a combined result of the new Apprenticeship Completion Grant and the existing Apprenticeship Incentive Grant, apprentices who complete their apprenticeship program and become certified in a designated Red Seal trade could be eligible to receive a total of \$4,000.

Who Is Eligible

Apprentices registered in a Red Seal trade that is designated as such in the province or territory in which they receive journeyman certification are eligible to apply. Apprentices must successfully complete their apprenticeship training in a Red Seal designated trade and become certified journeymen on or after January 1, 2009, to be eligible for the grant.

How to Find Out More

Detailed information on the ACG, along with the application form, will be available on the Service Canada website at www.servicecanada.gc.ca by July 2009.