

# Canadian Supply Chain Sector Council

## Update Report February 2007

### Reports from the Asia-Pacific Gateway Skills Shortage Challenges & Solutions Workshop

In early December, Kevin Maynard and Lesley Smith, of Wal-Mart Canada, participated in an industry roundtable on the Asia-Pacific Gateway, sponsored jointly by Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC) and the B.C. Ministry of Economic Development. Dialogue at the meeting focused attention on key priorities to address the skills shortages that accompany the infrastructure challenges associated with Canada's Gateway to the East, and critical issues related to our transportation corridors and gateways to the U.S. market. We expect to hear more about specific action items over the next few months.

For more details, see the "Summary Report" and the "Situational Analysis of Projected Asia-Pacific Gateway Investments," found in the Reports section of our website's Resources page.

### Labour Market Information or Labour Market Intelligence?

The Council recently participated in a series of meetings dealing with labour market information (commonly referred to as LMI). The purpose of our participation was to provide us with information about best practices we can utilize in developing our own labour market tools and resources to serve the needs of our key stakeholders. The development of these LMI tools is the focus of one of our two major current projects.

At a recent meeting of the Forum of Labour Market Ministers (FLMM) ([www.flmm-lmi.org](http://www.flmm-lmi.org)), considerable discussion took place on the usefulness of labour market information, or pure data, versus the development of the capability to analyze and interpret that data, or to transform labour market information into labour market *intelligence*. FLMM defines LMI as "the information required to help individuals make informed decisions about the labour market and the transitions that impact their lives. This includes information on: careers, occupations, learning, the labour market (in general) and information not generally associated with the labour market but which has an impact on decisions related to it."

In essence, an effective LMI system must not only involve data (employment projections, salary data and training requirements), but must also provide some aspects of interpretation that asks the question, "So what does this mean to me?" to be effective in helping:

- People who...
  - Are looking for a job
  - Must make a career choice
  - Want to improve their employment situation
- Organizations that...
  - Are interested in the labour market situation
  - Are seeking skilled workers
- Career development professionals (such as career coaches and guidance counsellors) who...
  - Support these people and organizations

### In Brief

#### CSCSC's Website: A Resource to Bookmark

The CSCSC's website, at [www.supplychaincanada.org](http://www.supplychaincanada.org), is constantly updated with event information, news and links to useful information on other sites. Right now, areas of interest are:

- **Thomas Friedman's lecture, "The World is Flat," given at MIT.** This interesting lecture, followed by a Q&A session, provides some fascinating facts about globalization, outsourcing, collaboration, "supply chaining" and more; find it on our "What is a Supply Chain?" page.

- The project pages, where you can **discover how to participate in the Council's coming focus groups in cities across Canada**.
- A **quick survey to determine your interests**, on the Labour Market Information project page. If you want to receive ongoing reports on what we're learning about HR and LMI or participate in a workshop, submit answers.
- The events page, which lists numerous **educational events throughout 2007** and across Canada. Here you'll see a broad range of the offerings of associations and professional-development organizations in the sector, giving you a one-stop information resource of educational opportunities.

And, if you're **looking for new suppliers**, note that we have several directories of suppliers included in the Internet Resources list on our Resources page.

### Labour Market Information Project Update

Our project consultant and Executive Director met in Ottawa on February 7 with staff of numerous other sector councils to examine their best practices in developing similar LMI systems, tools and resources. This exercise provided valuable insight into the LMI development process, making requirements clear and enabling us to leverage the work done previously by others, while avoiding the pitfalls that they experienced as they "blazed the LMI development trail." This initial workshop provided our project with the essential learning to take the next step, which will involve sector partners from the supply chain world.

Plans for workshops to establish what stakeholders need to be efficient and effective in today's economy are now being finalized. Workshops are scheduled for:

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| ▪ April 18 – Toronto | It is expected that the workshops will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.                                 |
| ▪ April 25 – Calgary | Anyone wanting to attend should contact Project Manager Dale Ross, at                                       |
| ▪ May 2 – Vancouver  | 905-897-6700 or by email, at <a href="mailto:dross@supplychaincanada.org">dross@supplychaincanada.org</a> . |
| ▪ May 9 – Moncton    |   |
| ▪ May 16 – Montreal  |   |

### Education/Certification Project Update

A draft compendium listing all post-secondary supply chain courses has been completed and is now being reviewed for accuracy and completeness. In addition, an employer survey on training programs has been completed. Information is currently being analyzed and summarized for further review.

Focus groups are to be held:

- **In Winnipeg** – March 22, 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a. m., at Viewpoints Research Ltd., 404 - 115 Bannatyne Avenue
- **In Toronto** – March 23, 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., at ACCE, 2575B Dunwin Drive, Mississauga
- **In Montreal** – March 28, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., by teleconference

If you're interested in participating in one of these sessions, advise Project Manager Dale Ross: phone 905-897-6700 or email [dross@supplychaincanada.org](mailto:dross@supplychaincanada.org).

### Design Competition

The CSCSC's competition for the design of a logo and other branding elements closes on March 30. Information can be accessed from the Council's homepage, at [www.supplychaincanada.org](http://www.supplychaincanada.org).

Judges for the competition are:

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|---|---|
| ▪ Chrissy Aitchison, CITT                                     | ▪ Peter Jackson, George Brown College                         |
| ▪ Claude Chouinard, Le Camo-route                             | ▪ Al Norrie, SAP Canada Inc.                                  |
| ▪ Carolyn Clark, Larter Advertising                           | ▪ Alison Toscano, Supply Chain & Logistics Association Canada |
| ▪ Sharon Ferriss, Purchasing Management Association of Canada |   |