



Press Release

Funding Approved: Three New Projects in 2008

September 2, 2008, Mississauga, Ontario – The Canadian Supply Chain Sector Council (the CSCSC) has received approval from the Government of Canada's Sector Council Program for funding of three projects in 2008. Another three proposals are currently under consideration.

The three approved projects are:

1. Education/Certification Standards Development Project

This Phase II project is based on the results of the Industry Research and Analysis Project (the Phase I Education/Certification project) completed in 2007 by the CSCSC, which resulted in the compilation of a compendium of Canadian supply chain programs and an expression of support for the Council to develop a standardized approach to post-secondary training, education and certification.

A consultation process with a broad group of representatives from the sector's associations and academia will establish:

- a set of standards outlining commonly understood and accepted education and training requirements in the sector; and
- a marketing plan to promote the standards and accreditation approach to the sector.

A voluntary submission process by learning-program providers (professional associations, post-secondary educational institutions and private providers of programs) to have their programs reviewed will identify:

- those programs that meet the standards defined by industry stakeholders as crucial to the needs of the sector, and can thus be accredited by the CSCSC; and
- any gaps that exist in submitted programs in order that the institution can work with the sector to revise programs where required.

In addition, this project will publicize the availability of education and training resources through the development of:

- a portal on the CSCSC website that will house the compendium of recognition tools and resources developed in the Phase I project;
- a feature on the compendium that recognizes those programs that have been accredited by the CSCSC; and
- a process to enable the annual updating of the compendium to ensure its ongoing relevance and currency.

2. Labour Market Information Project

This is also a Phase II project; information resulting from the Phase I project, completed in 2007, will be utilized to design and implement the initial framework or elements of a labour market information

system that will enable the supply chain sector to effectively deal with its principal human resources issues in a pan-Canadian context, taking regional realities into account. Elements of the LMI system will be dependent upon the recommendations of Phase I, and may include:

- Compensation surveys completed on a metropolitan, provincial or regional basis;
- Clarification related to occupations, and NOC and NAICS codes that are associated with each sub-function within the sector;
- Essential skills and workplace/language competency requirements for occupations in the sector;
- Trends and forecasting relating to supply and demand issues for occupations in the sector; and,
- Creation/identification of distinct career paths within the sector to encourage recruitment and retention.

A key element of this project is the establishment of a number of Regional Labour Market Information Working Groups that will be responsible for the identification and development of a key product or service that meets their needs. These Working Groups will be part of a pan-Canadian network that will utilize local perspectives to define the products, and develop useful responses that will be shared with stakeholders across Canada.

3. Development of Occupational Profiles

Through this project, the Council will develop a foundation for the process of creating occupational profiles for the sector. The process will aim to achieve representation of the sector's functions, and prioritize high-demand occupations or those that require an increased emphasis on training or skills development due to, for example, the impacts of technological change. Utilizing a best-practices approach, the Council will develop a model in which occupational profiles can be written and validated more quickly than is normal through consultation with key stakeholders in the sector. With stakeholder input, we will develop a prioritized list for each of the sector's seven functional areas to identify which among the 26 occupations in the supply chain sector are most in need of occupational standards to assist in developing job descriptions, competency profiles and job-performance tools that will help to address our labour shortages. Resources will be applied first to the development of profiles of those occupations.

These projects began in March and April 2008, and will range in duration from nine to 18 months.

The Council requires stakeholder input in each of these projects. Anyone interested in participating, as a member of either a working group to lead a project or a research-validating roundtable, is encouraged to contact the Council.

The Canadian Supply Chain Sector Council is an all-stakeholder, not-for-profit organization responsible for the human resources strategy for the supply chain sector in Canada. The CSCSC is funded by the Government of Canada's Sector Council Program.

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