

Federal Budget 2024 highlights for trucking and logistics employers

The federal government tabled its 2024 budget in the House of Commons on April 16. The budget contains a few mentions relevant to trucking and logistics employers:

Budget Mentions	Industry Impact/THRC Role
<p>Student Work Placement Program (SWPP)</p> <p>The budget proposes to provide \$207.6 million in 2025-26 to create more work-integrated learning opportunities for postsecondary students.</p>	<p>THRC is one of 18 program delivery partners – ensuring trucking and logistics employers have access to wage incentives that help employers identify and recruit skilled talent.</p> <p>This program is a key stream in our Career ExpressWay Program – to date we supported over 200 employers in providing work placements to over 1,100 students.</p>
<p>Employment Equity Act</p> <p>The budget announces the government’s intention to propose legislative amendments to modernize the <i>Employment Equity Act</i>, including by expanding designated equity groups.</p>	<p>As a leader in supporting our federally regulated employers – we will continue to provide information and support for all employers impacted.</p>
<p>Immigration Levels Plan</p> <p>Starting this fall, for the first time, expansion of the Immigration Levels Plan to include both temporary resident admissions and permanent resident admissions.</p>	<p>For employers accessing temporary foreign workers, this broadens a key labour pool.</p>

<p>Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS)</p> <p>The budget proposes to provide \$351.2 million in 2025-26, for the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy. These include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) \$200.5 million in 2025-26, for Canada Summer Jobs to provide well paying summer job opportunities, including in sectors facing critical labour shortages, such as housing construction; and, 2) \$150.7 million in 2025-26, for the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy Program to provide job placements and employment supports to youth. 	<p>Our youth stream of Career ExpressWay, funded through YESS, has supported the onboarding of over 800 young workers to our sector, including paying for the cost of driver training. Over 500 employers have been supported.</p> <p>We will work to access continued funding from this program.</p>
<p>Sectoral Workforce Solutions Program</p> <p>The Sectoral Workforce Solutions Program will receive \$50 million over four years, starting in 2025-26, to support workers who may be impacted by AI.</p>	<p>THRC has delivered on one of the largest programs yet through the Sectoral Workforce Solutions Program, and will continue to seek funding where applicable for our sector.</p>
<p>Talent for Innovation Canada</p> <p>The budget announces the government's intention to work with Talent for Innovation Canada to develop a pilot initiative to build an exceptional research and development workforce in Canada. This industry-led pilot will focus on attracting, training, and deploying top talent across four key sectors: bio-manufacturing; clean technology; electric vehicle manufacturing; and microelectronics, including semiconductors.</p>	<p>THRC will monitor progress on this pilot, and identify any sector specific opportunities.</p>
<p>Global clean economy/transition to net-zero — six major economic investment taxes totalling \$93B in federal incentives (focus includes Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage; Clean Technology Adoption; Clean Hydrogen; Clean Technology Manufacturing; Clean Electricity; and, new in Budget 2024, EV Supply Chains)</p>	<p>Many employers already participate in federal incentives, and we will work to ensure employers are aware of what is available to them.</p>

<p>Canada Labour Code The government proposes to amend the Canada Labour Code to improve job protections for federally regulated gig workers by strengthening prohibitions against employee misclassification.</p>	<p>This aims to address industry concerns as they relate to the Driver Inc. issue.</p>
---	--

The budget also contains a quote that specifically mentions the critical role the trucking industry and supply chain play in Canada's economy:

*On Canada's attractive to build electric vehicle (EV) batter supply chains..... **From resource workers mining the critical minerals for car batteries, to union workers on auto assembly lines, to the truckers that get cars to dealerships, Canada's advantage in the supply chain is creating high-skilled, good-paying jobs across the country, for workers of all ages.***

-30-

Trucking HR Canada is a national, non-profit organization and the trusted source for labour market intelligence and advancing industry-leading HR solutions for our national trucking and logistics workforce. We collaborate, partner, and work with a dynamic national-provincial-territorial network, including industry associations, government, and industry professionals to ensure Canada's freight transportation network has the skilled workforce required for today and into the future.

For further information, contact:

Rebecka Freels
Director, Communications, and Marketing
rfreels@truckingHR.com