



Jobs and Employment

Since the recession in 2008, employment trends such as long-term unemployment, increases in non-standard and temporary work, and the erosion of workplace benefits have become more commonplace.

Less than half of unemployed workers now qualify for Employment Insurance benefits. Precarious employment – characterized by insecurity, unpredictability, low wages, and few benefits – has increased by **nearly 50%** over the last two decades.

These trends disproportionately affect youth, Indigenous peoples, newcomers, persons with disabilities, and caregivers (who are predominantly women).

Suggested policy initiatives:

- ✓ **Develop a National Jobs Creation and Training Strategy** in collaboration with all levels of government, employers, labour representatives, education groups, representatives from groups facing barriers to employment. The strategy should ensure that all jobs have securities, including: occupational benefits, labour standard protections, and opportunities for post-secondary education and training.
- ✓ **Set national wage standards to a living wage** to ensure that no fully employed individual lives below the poverty line.
- ✓ **Increase funding to Statistics Canada** so that it can collect and analyze comprehensive labour market information.
- ✓ **Strengthen and fully implement federal Employment Equity legislation** to allow all groups equal opportunity for employment. Implement Pay Equity and set a minimum floor for EI benefits of 360 hours.
- ✓ **Offer opportunities to youth facing employment barriers**, such as: co-operative placements, work terms, summer jobs in the public sector, jobs in social enterprises with inclusive work settings, supported employment and job retention, targeted wage subsidies, and the enforcement of existing employment equity legislation.
- ✓ **Enforce and uphold provision of workplace accommodations** and consider providing financial incentives to employers to create inclusive workplaces.