

**NEW WEST PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC DIRECTION ON ABORIGINAL  
WORKFORCE ENGAGEMENT**

Over the next decade, the Aboriginal population will account for a growing share of the young adult population in Canada. By 2026, over 600,000 Aboriginal youth will enter the labour market, while the 15-29 year old population is expected to grow by 37 per cent across Canada (compared to six per cent of the general population in the same age range).

This trend is most pronounced in NWP provinces where 45 per cent of all Aboriginal people in Canada live. NWP provinces share a common interest in engaging Aboriginal people in the economy.

Premiers agree that NWP jurisdictions will focus on engaging with business and Aboriginal communities within their jurisdictions in five strategic directions:

1. Encourage and support employers to hire and retain Aboriginal workers.
2. Promote a continuum of holistic supports ranging from essential skills training to job coaching for Aboriginal people to increase retention in education, training and employment.
3. Engage youth to develop leadership skills, increase educational attainment and increase their knowledge of career options.
4. Encourage and support Aboriginal entrepreneurs.
5. Support Aboriginal people to make successful career transitions.

NWP provinces will share best practices and facilitate the building of new partnerships among Aboriginal communities, industry and employers. The NWP activities are meant to complement rather than replace the existing Aboriginal workforce development activities, strategies and projects already underway in each jurisdiction.