

Perspectives on Local Workforce Development: From Best Practice Models to Workable Systems

**Wednesday, October 31, 2007, 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Metro Hall, 55 John Street, Rooms 308/309.**

October 11, 2007

Dear Colleague,

The Intergovernmental Committee on Economic and Labour Force Development in Toronto (ICE) and Toronto Social Services are co-hosting a forum on local workforce development on **Wednesday, October 31st 2007 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** The forum is called "**Perspectives on Local Workforce Development: From Best Practice Models to Workable Systems.**"

Come explore the "real world" of workforce development in Toronto. This event will provide an excellent opportunity to learn about a number of best practice examples in the US and Canada. It will also offer local perspectives, including those of service users, service deliverers, and business. **The agenda is attached.**

We are fortunate to draw on the knowledge and experience of two exceptional keynote speakers:

Tom Corbett, *Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is a renowned expert on service and systems integration. Tom will share his insights on developing locally integrated and coordinated employment systems based on his extensive research in the US.*

Kurtis Kitagawa, *Principal Research Associate with the Conference Board of Canada, will revisit the key criteria for a successful labour market transition practice/process from his 2001 Conference Board of Canada report, "Make the Skills Connection: Labour Market Transition Models that Work," from a 2007 labour market context.*

Following the keynote speakers, **Barb Simmons** *Director Central Region, Employment and Training Division, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities* will moderate a panel discussion among local experts who will provide different perspectives on how these best practice models relate to the "real world" of workforce development. The panelists are: **Kay Blair**, Executive Director, Community MicroSkills Development Centre; **Andrew Mitchell**, Research Co-coordinator, Social Assistance in the New Economy (SANE) Project, University of Toronto; **Stephen H. Diamond**, President, DIAMONDCORP and Chair, Partnership to Advance Youth Employment (PAYE); and **Deena Ladd**, Coordinator, Workers Action Centre. Members of the audience will be invited to participate in the discussion.

There is no cost to participate in this event.

I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, October 31, 2007 at what promises to be an informative and exciting session. Seating capacity is limited so **please RSVP by no later than Tuesday, October 23, 2007 by fax at 416-348-9930 or by email at eslack@esci.ca.** Feel free to call me directly at 416-348-9935 if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,
Enid Slack
Chair, ICE Committee

Agenda

- 8.30-9.00 Registration/Continental Breakfast
- 9.00-9.05 Welcome and Introduction: **Enid Slack**, Chair, ICE Committee
- 9.05-9.10 Opening Remarks: **Heather MacVicar**, General Manager, Toronto Social Services
- 9.10-10.20 Keynote Speakers
- 9.10-9.35 **Tom Corbett**, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin-Madison
9.35-10.00 **Kurtis Kitagawa**, Principal Research Associate, Conference Board of Canada
- 10.00-10.20 Questions and Discussion
- 10.20 – 10:40 Refreshments
- 10.40 – 11:55 Panel Discussion: Local Perspectives on the Real World of Workforce Development
- Session Moderator: **Barb Simmons**, Director Central Region, Employment and Training Division, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
- Panelists:
- **Service Delivery Perspective: Kay Blair**, Community MicroSkills Development Centre
 - **Employer Perspective: Stephen H. Diamond**, DIAMONDCORP & Partnership to Advance Youth Employment (PAYE)
 - **Labour Market Perspective: Deena Ladd**, Workers Action Centre
 - **Service User Perspective: Andrew Mitchell**, Social Assistance in the New Economy (SANE) Project, University of Toronto
 - **Audience Response and Discussion**
- 11.55-12.15 Keynote Responses
- 11.55- 12:05: **Kurtis Kitagawa**
- 12:05 -12.15: **Tom Corbett**
- 12.15-12.30 Closing Remarks – **Enid Slack**



Intergovernmental Committee for
Economic and Labour Force Development

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Yes, I will be attending

Regrets, I am not able to attend

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Dietary restrictions or special needs: _____

Please RSVP confirmation or regrets by fax or email to:

Enid Slack
Fax: 416-348-9930
Email: eslack@esci.ca

Thank you.