


# JOB CONNECT AND THE ONTARIO TOURISM EDUCATION CORPORATION



In 2003, the Ontario Tourism Education Corporation (OTEC), in partnership with local Job Connect offices, placed over 60 young people in Tourism occupations throughout the Province of Ontario. And this during the summer of SARS!

OTEC, through its national partner the Canadian Tourism Human Resource Council (CTHRC) has developed a skills training program entitled Ready-to-Work: Tourism Careers. This program provides youth with the skills and work experience for a career start in the tourism industry.

## **Program Details:**

- 3-weeks of in class employment training.
- Smart Serve, Service Excellence, WHMIS and National Sanitation Training.
- 6 months work experience.
- Standards-based training materials provided to participants and employers at no charge.

**Role of OTEC:** OTEC provides a developed skills training curriculum and structured National youth project. OTEC also provides funding for the project through National and Regional partners.

**Role of Job Connect:** The employment “piece” of the project is provided by Job Connect. This includes recruiting participants and employers and monitoring of the youth on the job.



**How We Work Together:** OTEC project coordinators work with Job Connect offices throughout the Province to deliver the program each spring. Youth participate in 3-weeks of classroom training including Entry-Level Skills training, Tourism Career Exploration, and obtain specific employability Certificates (Smart Serve, Service Excellence etc.). Successful participants then move on to employment in time for the busy summer tourism season.

**Benefits to Employers:** Employers are connected with skilled Entry-Level employees who are willing and excited to work. This limits the amount of introductory on-the-job training normally required. Job Connect screens participants on behalf of employers, saving valuable time and resources on recruitment. Training materials based on National Occupational Standards are provided free of charge, helping to create a consistent performance standard for the new employee and within the organization. Some employers may also be eligible for subsidized wages through the Job Connect program.

**Benefits to Youth:** The training component builds the self-confidence of the participants. The “no experience—no job” paradox is combated by providing training and employment in a one-stop-shop.

**Benefits to the Community:** Local youth and employers work together to improve the local and regional tourism economy.

**How Do I Get Involved?:** Speak to your YEJD Ambassador today about the partnership opportunities for your organization.

