



Evaluation of the Youth Employment Strategy – Career Focus stream



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The former Horizontal Youth Employment Strategy consisted of three program streams: Summer Work Experience, Skills Link and Career Focus. These streams were merged under a new and modernized Horizontal Youth Employment and Skills Strategy that came into effect in June 2019.

Career Focus targeted youth between the ages of 15 and 30 who were completing or had completed their post-secondary education. Under Career Focus, local and regional organizations from various sectors received funding to provide youth with work experiences to gain employment experience and skills related to their field of study or career goal.

In 2017-2018:

- Approximately 6,300 youth participated; and
- \$93M was provided to organizations in funding.



MAIN FINDINGS

- Immediately after completing a Career Focus initiative, a larger share of youth participants were still employed, compared to those who returned to school.
- Through Career Focus, youth enjoyed a positive and lasting impact on their labour market attachment. On average, participants earned \$5,535 more per year than non-participants.
- Over a 10-year period, Career Focus yielded a positive return on investment for individuals and society as a whole.



OBSERVATIONS

- Youth interventions, taking the form of a wage-subsidy, can play a role in facilitating the entry of post-secondary graduates into the labour market with associated positive long-term impacts.
- Youth targeted by Career Focus typically faced less barriers to employment relative to youth targeted by Skills Link.

The full Evaluation of the Youth Employment Strategy – Career Focus Stream is available at:
www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/reports/evaluations/horizontal-career-focus.html

