



Evaluation of the Youth Employment Strategy – Skills Link 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 Youth Employment and Skills Strategy that came into effect in June 2019.

Skills Link targeted youth who faced barriers to employment. Under Skills Link, local and regional organizations from various sectors received funding to provide youth with opportunities to gain employment experience and acquire knowledge and skills.

In 2017-2018:

- 19,000 + youth participated in Skills Link; and
- \$170M was provided to organizations in funding.



MAIN FINDINGS

- Immediately after participating in Skills Link, more than 70% of youth were employed or had returned to school, exceeding the program target of 60%.
- Overall, the magnitude of the incremental impacts on participants' labour market attachment was limited, suggesting challenges associated with helping youth with barriers to employment.
- Youth who received “work experience interventions” through the program resulted in stronger labour market attachment relative to youth who received “group-based workshop” interventions.
- Although the incremental impacts of interventions involving a workshop approach were generally negative, analysis suggests that workshops were relatively more effective for youth who had a lower level of education.



OBSERVATIONS

- Findings suggest that there are potential challenges associated with the group-based workshop approach when applied to a mixed group of youth facing various barriers to employment. This points to the benefits of better tailoring interventions in line with the needs of the different segments of participating youth.

The full Evaluation of the Youth Employment Strategy – Skills Link Stream is available at:

www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/reports/evaluations/horizontal-summer-work-experience.html

