

The Labour Market Partnership Project Backgrounder

What is it?

The Labour Market Partnership Project is a 14-month research project which will aim to identify the current and anticipated critical training and talent gaps in Sarnia Lambton, and then develop a locally-driven, forward-thinking workforce development strategy to address those gaps.

How will it be done?

The research project, slated to start in early 2009, will be completed in three phases:

Phase One: Based on existing data and secondary research, an up-to-date, community profile will be developed which gives community stakeholders a locally-relevant snapshot of the Sarnia Lambton labour market. This baseline analysis will provide the context for the next phase.

Phase Two: Under the guidance of a consultant, in-depth primary research will be conducted to identify and assess existing and anticipated skill gaps among employers. The consultant will also provide recommendations on how these gaps can potentially be addressed.

Phase Three: Through community stakeholder identification and focus groups among senior decision-makers, a workforce development strategy will be devised to address the most critical talent and training gaps.

Why is it being done?

While data and research exists on certain characteristics of Sarnia Lambton's workforce, the data tends to date itself quickly. The need has been identified for a current assessment of what exactly are the most critical training and skill gaps in the community, and developing a forward-thinking workforce strategy which receives support from senior members of the community.

Who is managing the project?

Under the direction of the Sarnia Lambton Workforce Development Board (www.slwdb.org), a Steering Committee with senior representatives from various business, economic development and educational organizations has been formed. While the committee will provide strategic advice and guidance on the development of the project, the SLWDB will be managing the work. Outside consultant(s) will be hired for certain phases.

Who is funding the research project?

The project is funded by Employment Ontario through the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities.