



Skills development and training in a rural Canadian context

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The Government of Canada recognizes that:

*“talented, creative people are a critical contributor
to a successful national economy”*

– Advantage Canada



Overview of Responsibilities

- No integrated national education system.
- Education is a provincial and territorial responsibility.
- Federal funds support provincial and territorial efforts.
- Direct federal government role limited to First Nations peoples and military personnel.
- Strong role in non-traditional education – skills development and training.

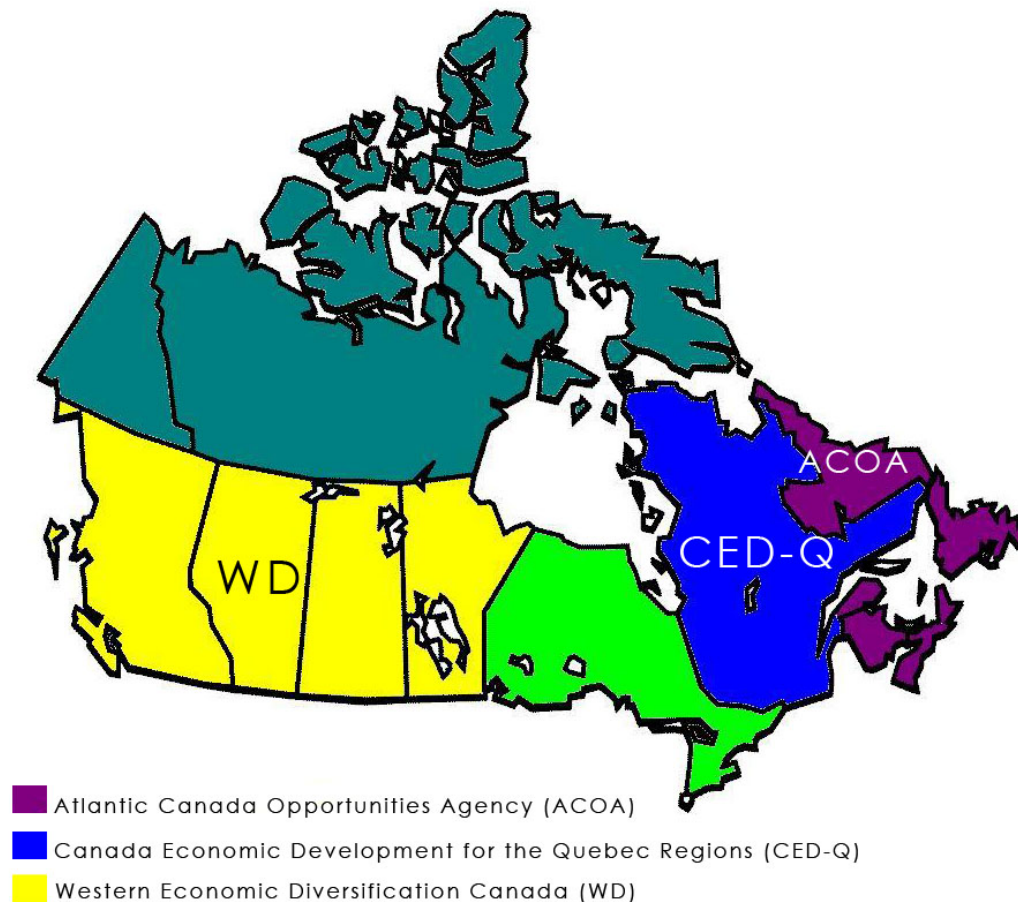


Federal Role

- Lead federal department in skills and development is Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC)
- Labour Market Development Agreements with provinces provides funding for skills development activities



Regional Agency Role





Western Canada

- WD supports the skills development efforts as it works to develop and diversify the western Canadian economy
- Three strategic outcomes
 - Innovation & Entrepreneurship.
 - Community Economic Development
 - Policy, Advocacy and Coordination



Skills Development Support

- Funds skills development projects that support its strategic priorities.
- Supports projects that provide skills training to residents in rural and remote communities.



WD Role in Rural Skills & Training

- Training and skills initiatives that fill gaps in the system.
- Helping rural residents and other under-represented groups become full participants in the workforce



Methods

- Mobile Labs to support skills development in trades
 - Enables students to complete apprenticeships right in their own community.
 - Local skills training can be customized to meet the specific needs of a community.



Methods

- E-Distance Learning
 - Enables participants to take part in meetings and training sessions without being in the same physical location.
 - About 14,000 small business owners have participated since 2004.



Conclusion

- A skilled workforce is critical to economic growth and productivity.
- WD is committed to supporting targeted programs to strengthen the skills of Western Canadians.

Western Economic Diversification is contributing to a stronger West and a stronger Canada.