

EYE ON EDUCATION

A quarterly publication from the Education Policy and Programs Unit (EPPU), providing Youth Justice workers with updates on the education system, policy/program changes, and initiatives to assist youth with their educational goals.

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Introducing....

NEW!! Skilled trades and apprenticeship supports for youth in conflict with the law

Do you work with youth who don't know what they want to do with their life, and think that post-secondary education is not the right path for them?

Or other youth who know their skills are more suited to a trade and want to get a job where they can earn a good income and maybe even eventually start a business?

For many of you this kind of scenario may be familiar. Do you have the information you need to help youth attain their goals in the skilled trades?

Whether you're already well versed, or want to increase your knowledge we have you covered!

You asked for more information on skilled trades; we heard you and have developed two fantastic new tools that are **AVAILABLE NOW!**

...Flip the page for more details!



The Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship eLearning Series

We are excited to announce the recent launch of the Youth Justice Services Division (YJSD) Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship eLearning Series!

[Click here to check out the video!](#)



The eLearning series is an optional, self-directed training that can help you build knowledge about the trades and support youth to achieve their goals.

You can take this training individually, or work through it together with youth! You will learn more about the four trades sectors; the components of an apprenticeship; how youth can get started in the field; and how to engage youth to plan for the future.

The series is comprised of five modules, including three (indicated below with an asterix) that are designed to be used interactively with youth:

1. Understanding The Skilled Trades*
2. Understanding Apprenticeship*
3. Engaging Youth In Exploring Trades & Apprenticeship
4. Additional Considerations for Specialized Populations
5. Resources and Programs*

As well, the following **additional resources** can be accessed through the eLearning series or via the links below:

- [Facilitator Guide](#)
- [Youth Brochure](#)
- [Local Resources Template](#)



The eLearning series can be accessed by YJSD staff via the [Youth Justice eLearning Library](#) found on the YJ Intranet site. Agency partners can access the program via the links below:

[English - Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship eLearning Series](#)
[French – Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship eLearning Series](#)

We encourage all youth justice staff to explore this exciting new resource!

Community Learning HUB – Trade Up

Effective immediately, the new *Trade Up* program is available on the Community Learning HUB. This program has been developed by Springboard Services in collaboration with Youth Justice Services Division.

The new Community Learning HUB *Trade Up* program is a six session employment preparation program designed to enhance the essential skills and work habits of youth (high school aged, and youth in their twenties) who may not be well integrated into the labour market (i.e.: “N.E.E.T.” youth - those who are Not in Education, Employment, or Training). *Trade Up* provides youth exploring trades and apprenticeship options with 6 to 18 hours of structured, interactive learning to:

- increase participants’ awareness of career opportunities within the skilled trades;
- expand knowledge of key apprenticeship pathways;
- build job searching skills,
- deepen understanding of what it means to be a reliable worker, and
- train essential habits conducive to the development of robust work ethic and informed appreciation of workplace safety.

Transfer Payment Agencies using Community Learning HUB automatically have access to *Trade Up* using the Community Learning HUB online portal, www.communitylearninghub.com. Direct Operated Facilities will have Trade Up installed as part of the annual update to the locally installed Community Learning HUB versions currently used.

To support youth justice facilities to adopt the *Trade Up* program, Springboard Services has developed a program manual, imbedded facilitator notes, and facilitator training videos. Springboard Services will be conducting orientation webinars and ongoing in-person training. Sites are also reminded to complete and return the client tracking and surveying forms provided by Springboard Services or available at www.communitylearninghub.com.

Should sites require any support in accessing *Trade Up* or the Community Learning HUB, they are asked to contact Springboard Services at hubinfo@springboardservices.ca.

For questions regarding the Community Learning HUB as part of the continuum of youth justice services, contact Frankie Little, Team Lead/Senior Policy and Program Analyst at Frankie.little@ontario.ca.



Get ready – summer (employment) is around the corner!

In the depths of winter it's understandable to feel like summer is far away. But believe it or not, it will be here before we know it – long sunny days, outdoors activities, summer holidays, and yes – summer jobs! Did you know the application season for summer jobs is right around the corner? Many employers are already gearing up for their summer recruitment.

What can you do to help youth prepare? Here are some tips for helping youth prepare for employment, using strength's based approach:



- Discuss the value of employment. For example, a part-time or summer jobs offers opportunities to make money immediately, and also develop skills and experiences that will last a lifetime!
- Even if a youth has not yet specified long term goals, having some formal work experience will strengthen their options for the future, and provide insights about the type of work or industries where they may (*or may not*) want to pursue a career
- Browse “help wanted” ads with youth and discuss possible jobs or industries of interest
- Help youth prepare for employment by ensuring they have (and understand how to use) a bank account and Social Insurance Number (SIN)
- Help youth prepare or update their resume or Linked-In profile
- If applicable, help youth ensure their online presence is employer-friendly and have appropriate privacy settings applied
- Brainstorm or role-play interview questions and answers
- Youth may be concerned about how their youth record impacts employment options; discuss confidentiality requirements and how a youth can respond if an employer asks questions about involvement with the law.
- Complete the YJ Employment Preparation Toolkit with youth:
 - [Access for YJSD staff](#)
 - [Access for agency partners](#)

Not sure where to start? Here are some provincial programs to help youth secure employment:

[Youth Job Link](#) – for young people (15 to 29 years old) who need help planning their careers and moving from school to work

[Youth Job Connection](#) – for unemployed young people (15 to 29 years old) facing challenges (e.g. poverty, homelessness or mental health issues) finding work

[Job Programs for Youth](#) - A list of programs to help young people get ready for the job market, which include opportunities to get work experience, get training or learn from the experts.



Returning to or Starting Post-Secondary Education?

Remember OSAP is changing in 2017-18!

- Starting in September 2017, the new OSAP will cover the average cost of tuition for students, including mature students and adult learners, whose family income is less than \$50,000 per year.
- Starting in spring 2017, students can apply for the Ontario Student Grant by submitting an OSAP application; they will then automatically be considered for a number of loan and grant programs.
- There is no fee to apply for OSAP. The current 2016-17 school year OSAP application is open and students can apply directly online.
- Students can find out immediately whether they qualify for free tuition or other grants from the province! Check out the new online calculator at Ontario.ca/osap

What do you want to know?
Please share your voice on
topics you would like to see
covered in upcoming issues of
the newsletter. Send
questions and suggestions to
AskEPPU@ontario.ca

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