

Skills Development is an employment program that provides financial assistance to eligible individuals to help them obtain the skills training they need to re-enter the labour market.

Program Objective

Skills Development provides funding to eligible individuals who require skills training to secure employment. Individuals arrange and pay for their own training, with the financial assistance provided by Skills Development.

Who can apply?

To be eligible for participation in Skills Development (SD), you must be an unemployed individual (“Employment Insurance (EI) Client”) as defined in the Canada – BC Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA). This means that you are an individual for whom:

- a. an unemployment benefit period has been established or has ended within the 36 months (3 years) prior to the date of requesting assistance; or
- b. a benefit period that included a maternity or parental claim has been established within the 60 months (5 years) prior to the date of requesting assistance, after which you remained out of the labour market in order to care for a newborn or newly adopted child and are now seeking to re-enter the labour force.

Other criteria may apply. For more information on which other criteria may apply for eligibility into this employment program, please contact Enquiry BC.

Financial Benefits

Eligible costs covered under Skills Development may include tuition costs, living expenses, dependent care expenses, disability needs, and transportation costs. Individuals are generally required to make a contribution towards the cost of their training. Funding levels to participants are negotiated, based on individual financial need.

Individuals approved for financial assistance who are currently on an active EI claim may continue to receive their regular EI benefits until the end of their benefit period.

How can I get more information?

You can get more information on Employment and Labour Market Services through your local Employment Assistance Service (EAS) Provider, or through **Enquiry BC**.

Hours of Operation for Enquiry BC are 7:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

Victoria: **250 387-6121**

Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD)

Vancouver: **604 660-2421**

Vancouver: **604 775-0303**

Elsewhere in BC: **1 800 663-7867**

Elsewhere in BC: **1 800 661-8773**

By Internet: Employment and Labour Market Services website:
www.labourmarketservices.gov.bc.ca