
Employment and Immigration Canada also funds Outreach projects, operated by community agencies, which provide employment services to women.

The *Employment Equity Act*, proclaimed in August 1986, is designed to assist women and other designated target groups in overcoming the barriers facing them in the workforce. The Act applies to Crown corporations and federally-regulated businesses with 100 or more employees.

Agricultural Adjustment Programs

The Canada Agricultural Employment Services (CAES), sponsored by Employment and Immigration Canada, facilitate the operation of the agricultural labour market. CAES are composed of the Agricultural Employment Services (AES) Offices, Agricultural Day-Haul Transportation Assistance (ADTA) and Federal/Provincial Agricultural Employment Agreements.

The AES Offices and ADTA promote the efficient operation of local agricultural labour markets by recruiting, selecting and transporting agricultural workers needed by employers. The AES also provide human resource planning assistance to farmers and the agricultural industry.

Federal/Provincial Agricultural Employment Agreements provide federal-provincial cost-sharing arrangements for activities such as interprovincial exchange programs, development of agricultural

labour market policies and programs, housing for seasonal workers, research and promotion.

The Canadian Rural Transition Program (CRTP) assists farmers and their families during the transition period between farming and alternative employment. CRTP is funded by Agriculture Canada and delivered through the facilities of Employment and Immigration Canada (with the exception of Manitoba, where the Western Agriculture Research Centre delivers the program). Assistance under the CRTP can include exploratory and relocation assistance, wage subsidies to employers who hire members of farm families and self-employment grants to farm family members who establish a self-supporting business. Women are eligible, as farm owners, partners or spouses of farmers, to apply and receive financial assistance under CRTP. If either spouse has been accepted under the program, all other family members are eligible for individual elements of the program.

Industrial Adjustment Programs

A number of federal government programs are in place which Canadian businesses can use to capitalize on the new opportunities created by the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.