

The proposed reforms also respect provincial responsibility for education and training. They will help reduce overlap and duplication of services with the provinces. They will improve the overall efficiency of the Canadian labour market and will make possible better service by all levels of government. In areas of high unemployment, partnerships with the provinces and the private sector will lever investment in sustainable employment.

### **Using technology and innovation to foster job growth**

Technology is being applied in a number of government initiatives to promote growth and job creation.

- The new Service Delivery Network provides access to the government's employment, unemployment and pension programs, as well as other services of Human Resources Development Canada.
- The Electronic Labour Exchange is a pilot Internet program that allows employers to quickly match job-seekers to vacancies. It is being pilot-tested as part of the Service Delivery Network.
- The Canadian Technology Network will provide firms with access to the business and technological information they need for success.
- Technology Partnerships Canada is a \$250-million investment fund designed to encourage research and development and high-technology projects, in partnership with the private sector. The aim is to help commercialize products with high potential for stimulating economic growth and job creation.

### **Promoting job opportunities in the knowledge-based economy**

Human Resources Development Canada undertakes projects to promote lifelong learning and to improve employment opportunities for Canadians in the emerging information society. National sector studies examine how changes in business and technology affect human resource development issues, particularly in high-skill and high-technology industries such as telecommunications.

The Department also funds sector councils, which bring together labour and employer representatives in a given sector to address the human resources challenges that they face. Some 20 councils have been funded for such sectors as the electrical, electronics, software and environmental industries.