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Investing in Innovation, Business and Youth

Our government has put in place a plan to grow the economy in a way that works for the middle class and those working hard to join it. In the past 18 months, we have cut taxes for the middle class, introduced a new, more generous Canada Child Benefit that gives more money to 9 out of 10 Canadian families and lifts hundreds of thousands of children out of poverty, and strengthened the Canada Pension Plan to help Canadians have the secure and dignified retirement they deserve.

And there are signs that it's working; in the last year, the Canadian economy has created a quarter of a million new jobs. In fact, in the first quarter of 2017 economic growth was 3.7% and the unemployment rate is down. But there is still work to do, and we will continue to support business, industry, growth and innovation.

Recently, our government has launched two new programs that will support our local businesses: the Strategic Innovation Fund, and the Global Skills Strategy.

Strategic Innovation Fund

Innovation is changing how we live and work, and bringing with it new challenges and new opportunities for good middle class jobs in our community. The nature of the economy is changing, and it is the responsibility of government to ensure that it works for all Canadians and that we are equipped with the tools to succeed in a changing workforce.

This is why our government is placing an emphasis on innovation and seeking to attract and support high-quality business investments across all sectors of the economy through the **Strategic Innovation Fund**.

This fund is open to all industries, and open to firms of all sizes and will support four types of innovation: research, development and commercialization of new products and services; growth and scale up of high-potential firms; attraction of new investments to Canada, which will expand business opportunities and create jobs for Canadians; and, public-private collaborations in the development and demonstration of new technologies.

The goal of the Strategic Innovation Fund is to encourage cross-sector partnerships by expanding support for high-growth sectors as well as emerging technology areas. I encourage you to look at the Strategic innovation Fund and consider projects that can fall within the Fund's four streams to accelerate the development of innovative and growth oriented initiatives. More information on applying for funding can be found [here](#).

Global Skills Strategy

Our government believes that when our companies are given the opportunities to thrive and grow, they will create good middle-class jobs. In order to succeed, companies need to have access to skilled workers. That is why our government has launched a new Global Skills Strategy, which will provide employers with a faster and more predictable process for attracting top talent and new skills to Canada ensuring they have the tools they need to succeed in the global marketplace.

Both employers and workers will benefit from this strategy, with workers benefitting from a faster processing of work permit applications and employers benefiting from a new dedicated service channel at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada as well as the new Global Talent Stream. Under this new strategy, 80% of applications for a work permit will be processed within two-

weeks, and there are new exemptions for workers coming to Canada for a short-term work assignment or research.

Find out how your business can benefit from the new Global Skills Strategy [here](#).

Canada Summer Jobs Program

2017 CSJ Newmarket-Aurora Funding Total: \$832,000 Total # of Jobs: 264

The Government of Canada continues to help young Canadians get the experience and develop the skills they need to get a strong start in their careers. The Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program provides funding to help employers create summer job opportunities for students in our community.

A summer job is an important way for young people to learn new skills and get valuable work experience for their résumés. Thanks to CSJ, young Canadians from across the country will be able to access thousands of summer jobs opportunities with small businesses, not-for-profit organizations and the public-sector. In 2016, the Government of Canada nearly doubled the number of jobs available through the CSJ program, from 34,000 jobs to roughly 65,800. Since its inception in 2007, CSJ has helped approximately 330, 000 students.

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