

Labour Market Hot Sheet

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JobDevelopment.org/PrairieLMR

April 23, 2026



Supporting young workers

in Manitoba and Saskatchewan



[Canadian Job Development Network](#)

Survey reveals what early career workers need to succeed

[Career Planning / Job Search](#)

New research from **Robert Half Canada** reveals what today's professionals say matters most for early career success. According to a survey of 1,005 experienced workers, 40 per cent say candidates should be prepared to demonstrate knowledge of AI tools when applying to roles. At the same time, 36 per cent of respondents caution against using AI to overstate skills or experience.

Youth unemployment has been a major barrier on the Canadian Prairies. According to **Statistics Canada**, in March 2026 the unemployment rate for young men (15-24) in Saskatchewan was 10.0 per cent and for young women 9.6 per cent. This compares with the unemployment rate for core age adults (25-54), where the unemployment rate was 3.8 per cent.

In Manitoba, unemployment for youth was quite a bit higher at 12.0% for young men and 11.0% for young women vs. just 3.8% for core-age men and 5.3% for core-age women.

Hard skills make the difference in employment

This week for **#MotivatingMondays**, we talked about how hard-skills are the best path to employment. Here's a breakdown for skills that would have the most positive impact in the workplace:

- (1) **Technical, practical or job specific**, 30.7%;
- (2) **Customer service**, 10.2%;
- (3) **Critical thinking**, 9.6%;
- (4) **Problem solving**,

Young workers on both provinces need to better understand the expectations of employers and ways in which work is changing.

Survey respondents point to foundational workplace behaviours as key areas where new professionals require the most guidance, including:

- *Time management and punctuality (71%)*
- *Communication and responsiveness (51%)*
- *Effective meeting participation (49%)*
- *Reviewing and refining AI-generated work for accuracy (31%)*

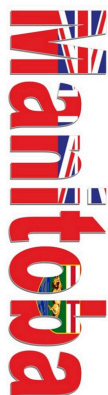
“AI skills are quickly becoming table stakes in today’s workforce,” said Koula Vasilopoulos, senior managing director, Robert Half, Canada. *“What truly sets early career professionals apart, however, is their ability to think critically, make sound decisions, and take ownership of outcomes.”*

A first professional role can set the foundation for long-term success, and according to Robert Half survey respondents:

- *80 per cent recommend evaluating opportunities based on long-term potential*
- *68 per cent advise being open to in-office work to accelerate learning and relationship-building*

“No one expects someone starting out to have all the answers on day one,” Vasilopoulos added. *“What makes a difference is showing genuine curiosity, understanding professionalism, and being intentional about building skills and relationships over time.”*

According to Robert Half, employers aren’t necessarily expecting deep technical expertise. Instead, the organization states that workers should demonstrate familiarity with AI tools — particularly the ability to review AI-generated content, recognize its limitations and take responsibility for the final product.



Manitoba invests \$7.6M to create 1900 summer jobs for youth **Job Creation / Youth Employment**

Young Manitobans will have more opportunities for summer employment in 2026. Up to \$7.6 million is going to be invested by the Manitoba government to help create 1,900 summer jobs for young Manitobans. The Urban/Hometown Green Team program supports 624 projects in over 170 communities provincewide.

The grant will cover 100 per cent of wage costs plus \$250 per position for non-profit organizations, while covering 50 per cent of wage costs for municipalities on a cost-shared basis. Non-profit organizations, education

9.6%; and (5) **Team working**, 6.0%

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Next Topic:
Mastering the art of 'Discovery'

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authorities, Northern Affairs Community Councils and municipal governments can receive the grant to hire youth between the ages of 15 and 29 to work on community projects between May and September.

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Saskatchewan

New report confirms Indigenous participation strengthens Saskatchewan's economy

Manufacturing / Construction

A new report released by the Indigenous Manufacturing and Contracting Network (IMCN) confirms what Indigenous communities and businesses have long known: when Indigenous peoples are meaningfully included in the economy, the benefits extend far beyond individual projects—to families, communities, and future generations.

The report finds that Indigenous economic activity in Saskatchewan's manufacturing and construction sectors generated \$2.6 billion in total output and supported more than 5,100 full-time equivalent jobs in 2022. Indigenous-owned businesses were also shown to create stronger local employment outcomes and retain more economic value within the province.

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Prairie Labour Market Report

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Major labour market stories from the past week

Breaking Labour Market News for Manitoba and Saskatchewan

- Canada's farm leaders encouraged to create common solutions for all agriculture ([Click Here](#))
- Yorkton shelter sees rising demand as gaps in services persist ([Click Here](#))
- Manitoba Expands Temporary Foreign Worker Program Access For Rural And Northern Employers ([Click Here](#))
- Southeast College hosting Career Fair and Open House next week ([Click Here](#))
- Leading the Way in Manitoba Tourism: Careers That Shape the Province ([Click Here](#))
- Future Aircrew Training expansion secures decades of jobs in Portage area ([Click Here](#))
- Nishnawbe Aski Police Service is recruiting far and wide ([Click Here](#))
- Young entrepreneurs shine at 3rd annual Chamber Challenge in Steinbach ([Click Here](#))
- Wastewater Infrastructure to Support More Housing Across the Province ([Click Here](#))
- Mining forum highlights one of the province's economic drivers ([Click Here](#))
- SREDA closely tracking labour as well as export markets ([Click Here](#))
- Mining Supply Chain Forum Showcases Saskatchewan's Global Leadership ([Click Here](#))

- Local First Nations receive tiny homes through BATC training project ([Click Here](#))
- Saskatchewan Job Growth 2026 Drives Strong Employment ([Click Here](#))
- Manitoba signs agreement with feds to streamline process for major projects ([Click Here](#))
- Sask. continues search for international physicians to specialize in family medicine ([Click Here](#))
- Another 30 layoffs bring SaskPolytechnic total to 180 ([Click Here](#))
- Manitoba adds nearly 11000 jobs in March ([Click Here](#))

This Week on LinkedIn

Please take the time to 'like' or follow:

[Prairie Labour Market Report on LinkedIn](#) [Christian Saint Cyr on LinkedIn](#)

Check out our new Podcast: [#MotivatingMondays](#) which looks exclusively at the Job Development Sector.

- Advancing the Manitoba Advantage in Ottawa ([Click Here](#))
- Record turnout for Mining Supply Chain Forum in Saskatoon ([Click Here](#))
- Manitoba expands work permit access for rural employers and workers under TFWP measures ([Click Here](#))
- Saskatchewan's economy picks up steam with strong March labour stats ([Click Here](#))

On our social media feeds we only post labour market and job search information, research and the occasional ironic observation. You can trust our **LinkedIn** feeds. We carefully evaluate social media posts to see if they would be valuable to you.

We don't want to waste your time. We're not going to delve into breaking news stories like: [Philippine President Marcos does jumping jacks to disprove health rumors](#). *Wait a minute, the standard test of presidential competency isn't telling the difference between a whale and a camel? In all future elections, politicians should have to do 100 jumping jacks in order to seek high office.*

Your time is valuable and we wouldn't want to waste it, follow us on [LinkedIn](#) :-)

Community Calendar

Career Development Events

Prairie Strong: 16 ways trade is changing our labour market

The 2026 Prairie Labour Market Conference, LMC26

June 11th and 12th, 2026

30% Discount for Registrations Received by May 14, 2026

Hosted online by the Prairie Labour Market Report

Learn More: [Conference Website](#) | [Information Sheet](#) | [Registration](#)

#MotivatingMondays for Job Developers

Monday April 27th at 9:30am Saskatchewan / 10:30 Manitoba

Topic: Mastering the art of 'Discovery'

Hosted by the Canadian Job Development Network

Free for All Attendees

Start your free membership to get your weekly link

For more info: www.JobDevelopment.org

Job Postings

Career Development Employment

To post a job here, please email: admin@labourmarketsolutions.ca
(When you write your cover letter, please mention you saw this advertisement in the Prairie Labour Market Report)

[Student Support Assistant \(Eight-week contract\)](#)

Youth Employment Services Manitoba
Winnipeg, MB
Closes: May 1, 2026

[Direct Support Worker](#)

Transforming Supporting Empowering Networking (TSEN)
Winnipeg, MB
Closes: Unknown

[Employment and Training Counsellor](#)

Manitoba Metis Federation
Brandon, MB
Closes: May 3, 2026

[Pre-Employment Supports \(PES\) Coordinator](#)

Southeast Resource Development Council
Winnipeg, MB
Closes: Apr. 30, 2026

[Manager, Contact Centre](#)

Ministry of Immigration and Career Training
Regina, SK
Closes: Apr. 24, 2026

[Instructor, Essential Skills Development](#)

Saskatchewan Polytechnic
Saskatoon, SK
Closes: Unknown

[Independent Living Transition Facilitator/Family Enhancement Facilitator](#)

Marymount Inc.
Winnipeg, MB
Closes: Unknown

[Direct Support Staff – Employment Services/Diversity Works](#)

WASO Inc
Winnipeg, MB
Closes: Unknown

[Employment Assistance Service Coordinator](#)

Flin Flon Aboriginal Friendship Centre Inc.
Flin Flon, MB
Closes: Unknown

[Job Developer & Employment Liaison](#)

Regina Open Door Society
Regina, SK

Closes: Unknown

Did you know?

Fascinating Facts

Military recruitment hit a three-decade high when the Canadian Armed Forces brought in 7,310 new members over the past year. That's 600 more than the previous year, when the military brought in 6,710 recruits. The armed forces received more than 44,000 applications to join the regular force over the past year, 62 per cent more than the year before.

- Canadian Armed Force

Quote of the Week

Career Inspiration

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