

The Prairie Labour Market Report's

Labour Market Hot Sheet

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FREE TRIAL, WEEK 1 OF 5

JobDevelopment.org/PrairieLMR

April 2, 2026



Welcome to the Prairie Labour Market Report

Having published **Canadian Labour Market Reports** for more than 25 years, we're excited to officially bring you the **Prairie Labour Market Report**, serving both Manitoba and Saskatchewan. For the month of April 2026, we're providing our weekly newsletter for FREE to give readers a sense of what they can expect in this weekly publication. A subscription to the Prairie Labour Market Report is just \$19.95 per month. Until April 30th, everyone who subscribes will receive a 10% discount on their subscription.

Sincerely, Christian Saint Cyr
Publisher, Prairie Labour Market Report

[Click here to learn more about the Prairie Labour Market Report](#)



Research outlines generational divide in the agricultural sector in Manitoba and Saskatchewan

Agriculture / Workforce Development

Over the past 10 years, the overall number of employed individuals has increased across the country and across Western Canada. However, the share of those working in agriculture has decreased. This is not a new problem,



[Canadian Job Development Network](#)

Transactional vs. Relational Networking

This week for **#MotivatingMondays**, we explored how

according to Stephany Laverty, a Senior Policy Analyst with the **Canada West Foundation**.

For the 2022 season alone, the **Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council** (CAHRC) estimates that unfilled positions led to a loss of \$3.5 billion in sales for the sector and that the labour gap will continue to widen. While automation helps, such innovations can be cost prohibitive, take time for wide-scale adoption and require talent who understand both the technology and how to apply it in an agricultural context.

With the industry now facing increased pressure to diversify products and trade partners in the face of market uncertainty with Canada's two largest agricultural trading partners, China and the U.S., this has become a pressing problem. The sector needs a robust labour force to be able to meet current and future challenges. While immigrant labour has helped address shortages, understanding the domestic workforce context and labour flows, and why people are not entering or staying in the sector is also important.

Previous Canada West Foundation research on talent attraction in Saskatchewan and Manitoba shows that there are a range of contextual, economic and social reasons, alongside quality of life, that can help explain why people may choose to stay in a particular job or location.

Location and sectoral context influence whether individuals want to enter or remain in a particular job. Rural youth aged 15-24 may want to stay close to family or friends, so they may opt for a school that is close to home and continue to work on the farm while pursuing their studies. Others may choose to move to larger urban centers or even to other provinces for social reasons, quality of life, or post-secondary options.

Once they complete school, youth may choose another path if they cannot understand the full economic picture of what a farm career could mean or what career progression will look like. For those 24-54 who are set to take over or in a position to expand farm operations, they may be more influenced by economic factors, such as property values, rather than quality of life or other social considerations.

For farmers who want to retire, they may need to sell their operations to ensure they have the liquidity that they need to support their next stage of life. Land values and debt loads can be a significant factor in that decision.

While conversations involving both family and business dynamics can be difficult for people of any generation, these strategic planning sessions are essential to mapping out the best path forward for farmers, families and the farms themselves. Just like in other businesses, lack of succession planning can lead to talent loss as *"the next generation is left in limbo [...] and may be forced to sell because an agreement can't be reached."* There are also significant taxation implications, which earlier planning can help address.

networking is becoming more transactional. It seems as though both employers and job seekers have a low opinion of how networking is evolving. According to a recent survey by Harris Poll, 70 per cent of Canadian hiring managers and 76 per cent of job seekers say networking today feels more like a business transaction than a genuine personal connection. We discuss this and how job seekers can convert networking opportunities from being transactional and make them more relational.

IN CASE YOU
MISSED IT

[Read the Mar. 30th Job Development Pulse](#)

[Watch it on Youtube](#)

We make these sessions available EVERY WEEK on **YouTube** and most podcast platforms for people who can't attend in person. This could be a great diversion from wondering why Mark Carney was at the Junos and why was he sitting with Joni Mitchell?

Email:

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www.JobDevelopment.org

Next Topic:

For individuals who are not taking over farm operations, these strategic conversations can also help them think about where they might best contribute to the wider sector with their skills and interests.

Strategic planning is just one way to help individuals choose or remain in agricultural careers. Governments, industry associations and educators are also taking steps to help youth understand what a future in agriculture career can look like, especially for those who are new to the sector.

Together, these efforts are all helping bridge that generational gap which is contributing to labour challenges across the sector. Mentorship can support the younger generations as they explore career opportunities on the farm, but also in business and investment, research and innovation, transportation and logistics, and governance and policy. This type of support would go a long way toward ensuring the next generation is well positioned to help the sector meet current and future challenges.



Manitoba increases investment in post-secondary education, announces new commission in 2026 budget

Education / Skills Development

The Manitoba government is touting an “historic investment” in its post-secondary sector, with \$882.6 million in operating funding for universities, colleges and adult learning programs across the province. Overall spending by the **Department of Advanced Education and Training**, responsible for higher education and vocational training, will rise by 3.2 per cent, or \$66 million, from 2025-26.

The province has increased its investment in student loans, with an additional \$12 million in 2026-27. The **Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative** will stay level this year at \$10.5 million, to be distributed through partner organizations that include universities and student associations. The **Business Council of Manitoba Indigenous Education Awards**, which provides financial assistance to Indigenous post-secondary students, can expect \$800,000 by the province in 2026-27.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Saskatchewan Workforce Investment 2026 Focuses on Skills Training and Economic

9 ways you can use LMI to connect with employers

Join us
TUESDAY
Apr. 7, 2026

[Start Your Free Membership in the CJDN](#)



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Growth Workforce Development

The **Saskatchewan Workforce Investment 2026** is allocating nearly \$125 million to training, education, and employment programs. This initiative is part of the province's broader plan to prepare residents for emerging job opportunities and support economic growth.

Major funding allocations:

- \$21.8 million for essential skills training
- \$22.2 million for post-secondary training programs
- \$25.9 million for pre-employment services
- \$10.4 million for disability employment support

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Major labour market stories from the past week

Breaking Labour Market News for Manitoba and Saskatchewan

- Manitoba Government Hosts Provincewide Hiring Forum to Help More Nurses Enter Workforce ([Click Here](#))
- New Farm Stress Line Partnership Expands Mental Health Support for Saskatchewan Agriculture ([Click Here](#))
- Negotiating a Workplace Adjustment Plan to Address an Organizational Change or Technological Change ([Click Here](#))
- Manitoba Hydro cuts remote work days, union warns of impact on staff ([Click Here](#))
- Saskatchewan boasts Canada's lowest unemployment-to-job vacancy ratio despite cooling hiring market ([Click Here](#))
- CFIB wants Saskatchewan to give the nod to federal changes for the Temporary Foreign Worker Program ([Click Here](#))
- From farm kids to tech specialists ([Click Here](#))
- Doctor recruitment efforts in Manitoba continue ([Click Here](#))
- Manitoba Hydro cuts remote work days, union warns of impact on staff ([Click Here](#))
- Federal infrastructure plan could apply to Saskatoon arena district ([Click Here](#))
- Ottawa to provide \$15.6M for Saskatchewan workers, employers affected by tariffs ([Click Here](#))
- 'Move to make Manitoba more competitive' ([Click Here](#))
- Alberta, Manitoba budgets put focus on jobs, training, regional growth ([Click Here](#))
- Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan partner to protect tariff-impacted workers and strengthen the workforce ([Click Here](#))
- Sask health care workers push for strike ([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.

- Construction industry flags “red flags” in Manitoba Jobs Agreements ([Click Here](#))
- Sask DLC offering introductory health care course ([Click Here](#))
- Regina Hosts 2026 Skills Canada Saskatchewan Provincial Competition ([Click Here](#))
- What’s in the 2026 Manitoba Health Care Budget? ([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. For instance, we're not going to share an article like: ['Thieves steal 12 tons of KitKat bars in Europe chocolate heist'](#). *Oh, give me a break! Give me a break! Break me off 12 tonnes of those Kat Bars! (Sorry Millennials, no hints this week.)*

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

Tuesday April 7th at 8:30am Pacific Time

Topic: 9 ways you can use LMI to connect with employers

Hosted by the Canadian Job Development Network

Free for All Attendees, Monday at 9:30am in Saskatchewan / 10:30 in Manitoba

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)

[Career Information Officer](#)

Government of Saskatchewan

Prince Albert, SK

Closes: Apr. 10, 2026

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

WASO Inc

Winnipeg, MB

Closes: Unknown

[Career Development Worker](#)

SIIT
Saskatoon, SK
Closes: Apr. 7, 2026

[Employment Assistance Service Coordinator](#)

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

[Employment Counsellor](#)

YWCA-Saskatoon
Saskatoon, SK
Closes: Apr. 3, 2026

[Job Developer & Employment Liaison](#)

Regina Open Door Society
Regina, SK
Closes: Unknown

[Employment Coordinator, Connections to Employment](#)

Inclusion Selkirk
Selkirk, MB
Closes: Unknown

Did you know?

Fascinating Facts

Starting April 1, 2026, the federal minimum wage will rise to \$18.15 per hour. This represents a total cumulative increase of 21% since the introduction of the standalone federal minimum wage in 2021.

- Employment and Social Development Canada

Quote of the Week

Career Inspiration

It's just a theory really, but I have always thought that your physical surroundings can shape your voice and personality."

-- K. D. Lang

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