



## ***We are looking for 20 energetic, positive youth for YAK's My Career! Youth Employment Readiness Project 2016-2017***

Over a 42 week period, from September 19, 2016 to July 7, 2017 the Youth Action Kommittee of Perth and District (YAK Youth Services) will provide 2 Employment Readiness projects for youth. Each project will include 3 weeks of Group-based Employability Skills (GBES) and 16 weeks of Employability Skills through Work Experience (ESWE). 10 youth will be selected to participate for each project. These projects are targeted towards youth between the ages 16 to 29, who are employment ready but who have experienced barriers to employment. The project will provide an opportunity for participants to gain employability skills, training certifications, work experience and the knowledge necessary to make a successful transition to the labour market or return to school.

The first 3 weeks of the project will take place in Perth (transportation arrangements can be made). The work placement locations will vary depending on the youth selected. YAK is accepting applications from youth from Perth, Smiths Falls and the surrounding rural areas including Maberly, Lanark Village, Westport, North Leeds, Beckwith, Port Elmsley, etc.

**GROUP-BASED EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS (3 weeks)** - Participants will be engaged in project activities 7 hours per day, 5 days per week, for a total of 35 hours per week. Participants will be paid an allowance equivalent to the Ontario minimum hourly wage while in the workshops.

All workshops will be tailored to the needs of the participants. Workshops will focus on employability skills and workshop topics such as: job search skills; resume and cover letter writing; interview techniques; networking; workplace etiquette; workplace communication skills; public speaking, decision making and problem solving; team work; conflict resolution and an introduction to negotiations skills. Networking in the local business and volunteer communities will be a key focus as well.

Participants will also receive the employment certifications including Standard First Aid and CPR, Smart Serve, WHMIS, Safe Food Handling, Working in Confined Spaces, Working at Heights among others.

**EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS THROUGH WORK EXPERIENCE (16 weeks)** - Participants will undertake 16 weeks of ESWE activities. This phase will consist of 35 hours per week of on the job work experience for 16 weeks. Project staff and the participants will work together with a Job Developer to find a placement that interests the youth. Work experience placements will be geared to the participants' employment needs and interests as outlined in their Employment Action Plan. Every effort will be made to ensure that the work experience component will occur in the youth's home community and surrounding rural communities. Employment may take place a private sector and not for profit employers.

The work experience connects the workshop learning with experiential learning in the workplace. The Program Coordinator will assist the participants in making this connection through on-the-job coaching, support, and problem solving. During the work experience, YAK will provide ongoing support to the participants in order to help them adjust and thrive in their work placements. YAK will also help to provide transitional planning to participants to assist them in returning to school, transition to employment or continue with job searching.

10 youth will be selected for each session:

Project Session 1: October 2, 2016 to February 10, 2017

Project Session 2: February 20, 2017 to June 30, 2017

Youth interested in applying to either project session can apply via YAK's webpage  
[www.YAKyouth.ca](http://www.YAKyouth.ca)