The **Youth Employment and Skills Strategy** (YESS) is a Government of Canada initiative led by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) and delivered in partnership with 11 other federal departments, agencies, and Crown corporations.

Through the delivery of 16 unique programs, the Strategy aims to provide youth (aged 15 to 30), including those who may be underrepresented or face barriers to employment, with meaningful opportunities to gain work experience, develop necessary skills and receive wraparound supports to help them and find and keep quality jobs. Programs under the YESS help remove barriers for young people to get ahead, reach their employment goals and thrive.

Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) delivers two programs under the Strategy:

* 1. The ESDC Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS) Program supports youth (aged 15-30) in overcoming barriers to employment, with a focus on those furthest from opportunity, such as those not in education, employment or training (NEET).

The program provides funding to organizations to deliver individually tailored supports and services with the goal of equipping youth with the tools needed to succeed on their employment journeys. For example, as part of their employment programming, youth may receive mentorship, skills development and training, wrap-around supports (e.g., dependent care support, mental health counselling) and/or paid work experiences.

Additionally, the program encourages cross-sectoral strategic collaboration and innovation to address new and emerging systemic challenges in the youth employment sector (e.g., employers, service providers, educational institutions) and increase organizational capacity to improve outcomes for youth across the country.

Youth who face barriers such as:

* Indigenous youth;
* Black youth
* Racialized youth;
* 2SLGBTQI+ youth;
* Youth with disabilities; and
* Youth living in rural, remote, Northern, fly-in and/or official language minority communities.

1. **Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ)** provides youth (aged 15 to 30) with opportunities to develop and improve their skills through quality jobs over the summer. It supports employers from not-for-profit organizations and the public sector, as well as private sector organizations with 50 or fewer full-time employees, to provide quality summer employment opportunities for youth.

For some youth, CSJ is a first job experience that informs future education, training, and career choices. The program is responsive to national and local priorities, as well as labour market needs.