**Breakout 2 - Workforce Development for a Low Carbon Economy**

**Session at a Glance**

Session Time: 10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Room: Cartier A

Discussion Topics: Different aspects of a net-zero economy such as conservation, adaptation, cleantech, etc. and the range of supports needed to help workers develop skills to meet new workplace demands.

Panelists

* Moderator: **Isabelle Dubé-Coté**, President and CEO, Écotech Québec
* Panelist 1: **The Honourable Irek Kuzmiercyk**, Parliamentary Secretary, Employment and Workforce Development
* Panelist 2: **Ken Delaney**, Managing Director, Canadian Skills Training and Employment Coalition (CSTEC)
* Panelist 3: **Gil McGowan**, President, Alberta Federaton of Labour (TBC)

**Key Issues**

* Over the next 10 to 20 years, up to 400,000 jobs could be added across the low-carbon economy where an enhanced skill set will be critical.
* New opportunities and workforce shortages already exist in critical sectors, such as clean energy, green buildings, and zero-emissions vehicles.
* There is growing opportunity in some sectors such as critical minerals, battery supply chain, clean fuels and sustainable agriculture.
* Despite this, not all communities facing shifts away from carbon-intensive economic sectors may see equivalent new job creation or job quality without targeted support. Northern remote and Indigenous communities may also face distinct hardships given their unique circumstances.
* Canada stands to gain by being proactive to seize strategic opportunities, including electric vehicles, battery supply chain, renewable energy and carbon capture technologies.
* Aggressively lowering emissions across the economy, such as through electrification, industrial energy efficiency and clean technology, in line with Canada’s climate commitments, is both a competitive advantage and a source of sustainable jobs.
* A sustainable economy is green and inclusive by design. It is important to ensure access to a workforce with the skills and knowledge needed to support the green transition. Increasing diversity of the workforce will also help meet workforce gaps.

**Government Action**

* *Sustainable Jobs Plan* – Passed in June 2024, the Act outlines principles for GoC policies and programs, establishes the Sustainable Jobs Secretariat, creates a Sustainable Jobs Partnership Council to advise government, and mandates the Government of Canada to develop Sustainable Jobs Action Plans every five years with contributions from all relevant Ministers. The Interim Plan (2023) details a suite of 10 concrete actions to support workers in every part of Canada, including a sustainable jobs stream under the Union Training and Innovation Program and the Sustainable Jobs Training Fund.
* *Sustainable Jobs Training Centre / Sustainable Jobs Training Fund* – Through the 2022 Fall Economic Statement and Budget 2023 The Government of Canada announced a Sustainable Jobs Training Centre to help workers upgrade or gain new skills for jobs in the low-carbon economy. Now called the Sustainable Jobs Training Fund, it will support a series of training projects that will help 15,000 workers upgrade or gain new skills for jobs in the low-carbon economy. The Department launched a Call for Proposals that closed on May 15. Projects are expected to start in Winter 2025.
* *Canada’s Net Zero targets by 2050* – Achieving net-zero emissions is essential for economic competitiveness and to keeping the world safe and livable and is enshrined in the Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act. The Government of Canada is advancing systemic changes to support the net-zero transition and ensure workers and communities are positioned to thrive, including through the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan. The Government of Canada has committed over $160 billion in investments in clean growth and emissions reduction measures since 2015, to help deliver cleaner and more affordable energy and create good-paying, high-quality jobs.

**Points to Register**

* The transition to a low carbon economy is driving demand for new skills and creating new opportunities for good jobs with promising careers while ensuring Canada stays competitive globally.
* Enabling the transition to a net-zero economy by investing in clean energy, clean infrastructure and manufacturing sectors, and helping all sectors rapidly decarbonize is key.
* The Government of Canada’s economic policies aim to build a green, digital, and resilient Canadian economy through whole-of-government efforts.

**Questions to Raise**

* What are effective ways to help businesses, communities and employers identify new skills and employment opportunities as part of the transition to a low-emission economy?
* Where are we currently seeing significant challenges and workforce needs? Where do we need to focus our efforts to close workforce gaps over the coming five years of the low-carbon transition?