



# Evaluation of the Youth Employment Strategy – Summer Work Experience stream



## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The former Horizontal Youth Employment Strategy consisted of three program streams: Summer Work Experience, Skills Link and Career Focus. These streams were merged under a new Horizontal Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS) that came into effect in June 2019.

Summer Work Experience, which included the Canada Summer Jobs program, provided funding to organizations from various sectors to create summer work opportunities for students between the ages of 15 and 30.

In 2017-18:

- 77,000 + students participated; and
- \$256M was provided in funding.

Under the new YESS, the Canada Summer Jobs program became a distinct stream.



## MAIN FINDINGS

- High levels of satisfaction among organizations (79%) and students (89%).
- Over 90% of students indicated that their experience helped them develop key competencies and traits linked to addressing complex challenges and adapting to a changing environment.
- The average duration of work placements provided to students slightly decreased from 2016 to 2018.
- On average, students were paid above the minimum wage and most summer students felt that it helped pay for school expenses.



## RECOMMENDATION

- The department should explore ways to better leverage administrative and participant data to inform policy and design of the program.

The full Evaluation of the Youth Employment Strategy – Summer Work Experience Stream is available at:  
[www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/reports/evaluations/horizontal-summer-work-experience.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/reports/evaluations/horizontal-summer-work-experience.html)

