



Canadian
Manufacturers &
Exporters
Manufacturiers et
Exportateurs du
Canada



York Region Highlights

Skills and Education

1) Priority Issue:

Life Long Learning

Local Initiatives – Current and Needed

- Informal measures
- Awareness of current issues is learning
- In-house training
- Incentives to learn
 - o Individual rewards
 - o Corporate investment vs. Expense
- Motivation is key
- Benefits beyond short term

2) Priority Issue:

Importance of Practical Experience

Local Initiatives – Current and Needed

- Co-op experience
 - o Look at Waterloo programs/others that have been effective
- Longer term expectations of students are key
- Incentives for teachers to stay current to “Shop Floor” trends

3) Priority Issue:

Immigrant Skills and Recognition

Local Initiatives – Current and Needed

- Exemption test
- Bridge training
- Access World Education Services (WES) equivalency standards
- Marketing/Awareness of initiatives that address the issue of employer outreach tax credits/TRIEC

4) Priority Issue:

Educating Parents about Manufacturing Sector as a Career

Local Initiatives – Current and Needed

- Understand parents perception
- Alternate pathways to achieve life long learning (applied degrees)
- What does your kid want to do
 - o Take someone else's kid to work
- Mentoring programs, find employers/trades to talk to kids and parents
- Introduce career awareness earlier in curriculum

Municipal Notes

1) Priority Issue:

Transportation: Access to Employment

Local Initiatives – Current and Needed

- Increased public transit to manufacturing areas

2) Priority Issue:

Better Dialogue

Local Initiatives – Current and Needed

- Awareness of support programs

- Tax credits
- Role of associations
- Cost factor to undertake dialogue

Innovation & Continuous Improvement

1) Priority Issue:

Innovation Incentives/Local Access to Expertise

Local Initiatives – Current and Needed

- Local workshops
- Chamber initiatives
- Cluster initiatives of ISCH
- Incubators
- Communication issues
- Government advocacy but need local message

Next steps from here – who needs to be involved

- Local organizations to get message across
- Team environment – innovation month
- Networking to appropriate contact
- More events – face to face
- Recognize SME's – eliminate intimidation factors – but are connected to "Big Guys"

Finance Services and International Development

1) Priority Issue:

Additional Sources of Capital

Local Initiatives – Current and Needed

- Municipal tax incentives
- Bank LOC's difficult to obtain
 - o EDC
 - o Local contact list for financial alternates

Next steps from here – who needs to be involved

- Local contact list for financial alternative
 - o Region
 - o Banks
 - o BDC
 - o Asset insurers
 - o CME
 - o Accountants/lawyers
 - o Industry/Trade Canada

2) Priority Issue:

Improve Integration of Ideas/Policy/Direction between Stakeholders

Local Initiatives – Current and Needed

- Fragmented now
- Defrag
 - o 9 chambers of commerce
 - o Canadian Bankers Association
 - o CME
 - o Any other major association
 - o YTA & Synergy centre
 - o York EDI
 - o 9 export seminars

Next steps from here – who needs to be involved

- Region facilitate meeting
- Seminars
 - o Government programs
 - o Concern about quality of information

3) Priority Issue:

Need for Greater Awareness of Changes Taking Place (by Major Influences)

Local Initiatives – Current and Needed

- Not sure what's being done now

- Define audience
- Determine message
- Recommended course of action
 - o Implies discipline/consensus
- Influence media

Next steps from here – who needs to be involved

- Region facilitate meeting
- Seminars
 - o Government programs
 - o Concern about quality of information