

Workers: Our core concern

By providing significant assistance for workers and their families, the Government of Québec wants to support affected communities and forest industry businesses. The government's efforts to assist various groups are tangible ways of helping regional players participate fully in a revitalized economy.

The government's four levers for action will have a positive impact on the entire forest industry, by supporting older workers while benefiting their younger counterparts.

More information

For more information, contact the closest local employment centre (CLE) or telephone the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale at one of the following numbers:

If you are calling from the Québec City area
418 643-4721

Elsewhere in Québec, toll-free
1 888 643-4721

www.mess.gouv.qc.ca

Please note

This general information document may not be used for legal interpretation purposes.



Support for the Forest Industry

**Four levers to help workers
and their families**

The Government of Québec has prepared a support plan for the forest industry, aimed at helping affected workers, communities and businesses.

Four levers have been deployed:

- 1 Increased income support during training for workers who have lost their jobs
- 2 Targeted Initiative for Older Workers program
- 3 Greater financial incentive for early retirement, as part of the Aménagement et réduction du temps de travail (work time management and reduction) measure
- 4 Financial Support Program for Older Workers Who Have Lost Their Jobs in the Forest Industry

Lever 1

Increased income support during training for workers who have lost their jobs

Increased income support during training for workers who have lost their jobs is a measure aimed at forest industry workers who have lost their jobs, receive employment insurance benefits and want to enrol in training in order to improve their skills and find a new job in the same field or another industry.

Thanks to an enhancement to the Manpower Training measure, workers can benefit from the same level of income as when they were receiving

employment insurance benefits, during the full length of their training.

The increased income support measure is in effect until March 31, 2009.

Lever 2

Targeted Initiative for Older Workers program

Created under a Canada-Québec agreement, the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers program is aimed at helping workers aged 55 to 64 who have lost their jobs and live in communities affected by major economic changes.

Thanks to projects deployed under the Canada-Québec agreement, forest industry workers who have lost their jobs can call on customized support to help them re-enter the labour market.

The agreement signed with the federal government is valid for two years. Projects may be submitted since November 2006.

Lever 3

Greater financial incentive for early retirement

The financial incentive offered under the Aménagement et réduction du temps de travail (work time management and reduction) measure has been increased. Thanks to this incentive, employed older workers can opt for earlier retirement and, in so doing, help save jobs.

During difficult times, reducing the number of employees through early retirement can help save jobs for younger workers. The financial incentive for workers who decide to retire early has therefore been enhanced.

Work time management and reduction plans that provide for early retirement for forest industry workers must be approved by the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale by March 31, 2009. Benefits under the measure are available for a three-year period.

Lever 4

Financial Support Program for Older Workers Who Have Lost Their Jobs in the Forest Industry

The Financial Support Program for Older Workers Who Have Lost Their Jobs in the Forest Industry is aimed at forest industry workers aged 55 to 59 who have lost their jobs between May 1, 2006, and March 31, 2009.

Under this program, workers who are unable to find a new job may receive financial assistance up to the amount of the retirement pension paid by the Régie des rentes du Québec.

To apply for assistance under the Financial Support Program for Older Workers Who Have Lost Their Jobs in the Forest Industry, you must file an application with your local employment centre (CLE). The program is in effect until March 31, 2009.