

**Canada's new Government Announces Applications for \$1000 Apprenticeship Incentive Grant now Being Accepted**

**OTTAWA, ONTARIO, January 17, 2007**-The Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, today announced that applications for the \$1000 Apprenticeship Incentive Grant are now being accepted. The grant is available to registered apprentices who have completed their first or second year in a Red Seal trade program, on or after January 1, 2007.

It is estimated that, annually, up to 100,000 apprentices in Canada will be eligible to receive this taxable cash grant to cover the costs of tuition, travel and tools.

"Canada's New Government is delivering on its commitment to help make apprenticeships more affordable and more accessible to Canadians," said Minister Solberg. "We are working with our partners to get skilled tradespeople into the Canadian work force, when and where they are needed. In helping individuals do better, we are helping the whole economy prosper."

The Apprenticeship Incentive Grant is one of the measures introduced by Canada's New Government to assist apprentices, tradespeople and employers in the skilled trades sector. Effective May 2006, the government introduced a Tradesperson's Tools Deduction to help eligible tradespeople across the country save on the cost of work-related tools. It also introduced an Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit to provide employers with up to \$2,000 per apprentice for each of the first two years of their contract.

In Budget 2006, Canada's New Government invested more than \$500 million over the next two years to support apprentices and skilled tradespersons, including the new Apprenticeship Incentive Grant program investment of \$125 million.

Application forms will be available at Service Canada Centres and on the Internet. Service Canada will also be responsible for processing applications.

For more information on the Apprenticeship Incentive Grant, visit <http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca>, call 1-866-742-3644 (TTY 1-866-909-9757), or visit your local Service Canada office.

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