



## Observatoire Jeunes et Société Newsletter- Call for Short Articles

### Obstacles to Youth Employment in Canada: a better understanding for better results

As announced in Budget 2016, the Government of Canada is seeking to re-open the debate on youth employment in order to **assess obstacles faced by youth aged 15 to 19 in Canada** (particularly vulnerable youth) **when looking for and trying to retain employment. The discussion is also aimed at examining innovative practices** to improve employment opportunities for youth. Alongside an announcement of extra funding for the Youth Employment Strategy (YES), a national consultation of various stakeholders (services, businesses, universities, communities) is under way.

In this respect, the findings of the research carried out by universities, private research and consulting firms and public and community organizations on these issues are valuable in providing guidance and evidence for the development of youth employment policies. Based on a variety of goals and with the benefit of a longer timeframe than is usual for government projects, the knowledge resulting from the research and studies is valuable in that it gives us a different perspective on official statistics and political realities.

This call for articles is in line with the above-mentioned issues: we are looking for short texts describing recent research and lessons drawn from the research that enable us to better understand the difficulties experienced by youth in finding or keeping a job, as well as possible solutions to these difficulties. Obstacles to finding or retaining employment vary, have an impact on many aspects of young people's lives and involve numerous stakeholders; these obstacles may include a lack of professional experience, a lack of information on and contacts in the labour market, socio-professional uncertainty, a lack of qualifications or a degree, a disability, poor mental or physical health, discouragement, anger or frustration in the face of unmet expectations, negative experiences on the job or in training, membership in an ethnic or cultural minority, the difficulty of balancing work, education and family responsibilities, social or physical isolation, vulnerable living conditions, limited job offers, a mismatch between qualifications and positions, a lack of employment security and protection, low wages, employer perceptions and attitudes...to name but a few.

**We invite researchers to reflect on both obstacles to youth employment and measures/programs to overcome them.** The articles submitted could focus on:

- a) specific, current obstacles, with an in-depth discussion of how they hinder transitions or progress in employment for young people; aspects of young people's lives that are particularly affected; current and future consequences of the obstacles; needs, expectations or values that are negatively affected; and how the obstacles relate to a specific youth category or sub-population.
- b) how employment and training assistance measures can be tailored to meet the needs of youth and better equip them for the labour market; innovative practices used elsewhere that could be implemented in Canada; examples of successes or programs in which specific methods are used to promote employment integration.

We invite you to submit your (English or French) proposals **before January 15, 2017**, in the form of a **short article (1,500 words)** describing empirical or critical analysis or evaluating a promising program, experience or method. The articles selected for this newsletter will contribute directly to the work being done by the youth employment expert group ([www.canada.ca/comitejeunesse](http://www.canada.ca/comitejeunesse)) responsible for coordinating the national consultation. This newsletter may also be used as an initial step in the creation of a national network of experts and researchers on youth employment in Canada. **Chief scientists: María Eugenia Longo (INRS), Sylvain Bourdon (Université de Sherbrooke), Marco Alberio (UQAR).**

**Send your proposals to:** [obsjeunes@ucs.inrs.ca](mailto:obsjeunes@ucs.inrs.ca)