



Immediate Funding for Laid-Off Workers for Second Career Training

Laid-off individuals qualify for the Second Career Strategy funding (up to \$28,000), and are now able to study at either community colleges **or private career colleges**. With an increasing number of training options available to the public, 2009 is a good time to consider changes in your career situation!

“For unemployed workers seeking quality training in a relatively short time, there are some very effective programs that can get you back to work”, says Honey Crossley, Executive Director of WSC and A.C.E.S. Director. The Academy of Computer & Employment Skills (A.C.E.S.) is a registered private career college.

The Second Career Strategy was launched by the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities in June 2008 to help laid-off Ontarians identify and train for new careers. Eligible Second Career participants will receive up to \$28,000 to cover educational and living expenses. The program’s criteria were adjusted in November 2008 and now include:



- ◆ Workers laid-off as far back as January 1, 2005.
- ◆ Laid-off workers who have taken an interim or survival job.
- ◆ Short-term training (less than 6 months) for laid-off workers who are not eligible for Employment Insurance (EI).
- ◆ EI active or EI reachback clients.
- ◆ Non-EI eligible clients with the skill set for NOC level C occupations, (such as clerical, junior accountant, health services or real estate support worker, graphic design assistant, secretary, or administrative assistant).

To help meet the skill needs in the ever-changing economy, Working Skills Centre has developed several new programs in addition to the **Computerized Office Administration** and **Computerized Accounting Diploma Programs**; these new courses, which start in early 2009, include:

- ◆ Medical Administrator
- ◆ Administrative Assistant with Logistics
- ◆ Supply Chain Administrator

Working Skills Centre (WSC) has been providing skills training to individuals since 1978. In 2008 the WSC’s initiative called Academy of Computer & Employment Skills became a registered private career college under the Private Career Colleges Act, 2005. The diploma programs are approved by the Ministry and are designed to develop individual skills and capacity to successfully gain employment. **Free** Information Sessions are held every Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at WSC. To register, call 416.703.7770 x.333 (Ansuya Chetty, Intake Worker).

For more information on the Second Career Strategy, visit an Employment Ontario Assessment Centre, call 1-800-387-5656, or visit the website: www.ontario.ca/secondcareer or log onto the WSC website: www.workingskillscentre.com and click on “What’s New?”