

We have participated in the application process for the Canada Summer Jobs Program and here are some thoughts.

1. The timeliness of awarding of the successful applicants is too late when considering hiring university students. University students are actively searching for and accepting jobs way ahead of the time that Canada Summer Jobs is announcing successful applicants. If applicants knew January or February that they have been successful in acquiring Canada Summer Jobs funding, they could have access to a larger pool of students.
2. The dollar per hour and total number of weeks that the funding is awarded for is inadequate per application. In our experience when asking for 16 weeks of funding, we have only been awarded 8 weeks.
3. The return on time invested for the process of applying, administering and finalizing paperwork for the Canada Summer Jobs program is not very good when hiring 1 student.
4. Specifically referring to agriculture, there should be greater access for funding for primary industries- these are backbone industries that are having difficulty attracting workers often due to lower wages and physical labour requirements. We try to hire a summer student annually, however, there are some years when even that is a financial burden. A higher dollar grant for this industry would aid in attracting more students.
5. Re-evaluate the scoring system so that physically demanding jobs are not penalized. Sort out those that scow their applications when there is no intention of hiring high scoring students. This would include applicants from religious organizations which would not hire 2SLGBTQ+ students. Many religious organizations are all inclusive, however many are not and the latter should be screened out during the application process.
6. It is important that this program continues but it must be improved to help both applicants and students. We have hired and mentored students for over 40 years.