



----- Rideau Environmental Action League -----

Box 1061, Smiths Falls, ON K7A 5A5

Oct. 24, 2023

Attn: Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities

Re: Study of the Canada Summer Jobs Program

As a successful recipient of Canada Summer Jobs grant in past years as well as having grant applications denied funding, our organization (Rideau Environmental Action League) would like to comment on several aspects of the program. As a non-profit organization, grants such as the Canada Summer Jobs Program are vital as we try to enhance our programs and introduce new components to our organizational activities.

Changes made to the program in the last five years have improved the application process and made it more flexible for smaller organizations such as ours. Changes to eligibility for employees allowing us to hire someone between 15 and 30 who was not returning to school was key as it increased the number of applicants applying for jobs while also addressing the need for young people not returning to school to acquire relevant work experience.

There are several changes to the Canada Summer Jobs Program that would be welcomed by those organizations applying to the program. These changes include:

- Notifying both successful and unsuccessful applicants earlier in the year. Notifications are coming so late that organizations struggle to find applicants in a short period of time and sometime are unable to have someone hired by the approved start date. In 2023, we were not notified that our application was unsuccessful until August.
- More equitable distribution of resources among applicants. We have noticed that some local organizations will receive funding for multiple summer jobs (between 5-10) while other local organizations will receive no funding for virtually the same job description.

- While the online process has streamlined the application process, there are some changes to the online form that could allow applicants to better describe their proposed jobs.
- Continue to monitor the workforce or work environment in order to make changes to the eligibility requirements of the 15–30-year-old group to ensure resources are used to benefit the greatest number of young people.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Canada Summer Jobs Program.

Karen Schecter

Vice President

Rideau Environmental Action League

Rideau Environmental Action League (REAL)

REAL has been active since 1989 offering programs to residents of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville Counties in the areas of waste, water, energy and climate change, as well as associated environmental education activities. While based in Smiths Falls, our group engages residents from all adjoining municipalities. REAL focuses on public education, public awareness and promotion of environmentally friendly programs and services.