

PRESS RELEASE



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Millions of Canadians believe they need training and want to upgrade their skills according to a survey conducted by Senator Diane Bellemare

OTTAWA - February 6, 2020 - Millions of Canadians believe that they need training and want to upgrade their skills to adapt and take advantage of future technological changes.

This is one of the conclusions drawn by Senator Diane Bellemare from a survey¹ she conducted to better understanding the perceptions and needs of Canadians regarding the impact of technological change on their jobs and their willingness to train, as well as the usefulness of a personal training account.

The OECD estimates that on average over the next 15 to 20 years, 14% of jobs could be lost and 32% of jobs could be completely transformed by automation. In Canada, according to the OECD, more than 40% of jobs may be affected.

The highlights of the survey are as follows:

- **17.7%** of employed respondents, or approximately **3.4 million** employed Canadians, believe that technological changes threaten their jobs.
- **34.8%** of employed respondents think it is likely and somewhat likely that these changes will affect their work tasks and will require training. This represents an estimated of **6.6 million** people employed.
- **56.4%** of respondents, or approximately **11.4 million** active Canadians, wish to take training. Among those who wish to receive training, 40.4% of respondents, or approximately 4.6 million working Canadians, cannot neither financially afford nor have the time to pursue further learning..
- **Millions** of Canadians believe they need to improve certain essential skills such as their **reading skills** (10.5% or 2.1 million), their **math skills** (26.4% or 5.4 million) as well as their **computer skills** (48.4% or 9.9 million).
- More than **45%** of respondents think that they should undergo training to improve their professional skills (46.3% or 9.4 million).

¹ The survey was done by the firm Nanos on behalf of Senator Bellemare. This is a hybrid survey (by telephone and online) as part of a randomized omnibus survey of 1,010 Canadians aged 18 and over between November 29 and 2 December 2019.

- **28.9%** of respondents, or approximately **5.9 million** active Canadians, agree or somewhat agree that they need a skills assessment.
- More than half of the respondents also think that a personal training account in which the government and / or the employer would contribute would be useful for increasing training and **40.5%** of them are ready to contribute to it. This last result complements the results of a survey conducted in 2014 by Senator Diane Bellemare to the effect that a vast majority of Canadians (**83%**) would be very or fairly interested in taking training to develop their skills if the latter was funded by employment insurance.

"It is time to act to put in place lifelong learning strategies that will allow all Canadians to take full advantage of new technologies and adapt to incessant economic changes. So does the prosperity of all Canadians," said Senator Diane Bellemare.

That's why she invited to the Senate key labor market players from labor organizations, employers' associations, education and training to a round table on job and skills. This event took place on January 31, 2020, in collaboration with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Labor Congress and Colleges Institutes Canada.

"This roundtable was constructive and beneficial for all parties. The participants agreed that it was imperative to establish a cross-sector discussions in this area in order to define together the contours of a Canadian training strategy ", concluded Senator Bellemare.

Detailed results of the survey are now available on the senator's website at www.dianebellemare.sen.ca

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