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Hon. Diane Bellemare, Ph. D.
Sénatrice indépendante – Québec
Independent senator – Quebec

**Canadian labour market leaders virtually discuss the economic recovery from COVID-19
and agree on the need for a concerted strategy on skills training and employment**

OTTAWA - May 27, 2020 - Through the initiative of Senator Diane Bellemare and with the participation of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Labour Congress and the Colleges and Institutes Canada, labour market stakeholders met virtually today for the second Jobs and Skills Roundtable, the first of which was held in January of this year.

Noting the extent of the current economic crisis associated with COVID-19, the parties reiterated the importance of a modern employment insurance system adapted to the new realities of Canada's labour markets and accompanied by training and employment support measures. They call on governments to invest in workforce training and active employment measures to ensure a sustainable economic recovery.

They also reaffirmed the importance of their role in the definition and effective implementation of employment policies.

In this regard, Senator Bellemare welcomed the agreement to continue the social dialogue in the context of the Employment Insurance Commission with the active participation of the Commissioners representing workers and employers.

"We have adopted a statement of principles for the continuation of our work on employment policy which we hope will be shared by all governments," said the Senator.

The statement of principles and the list of organizations can be found in the appendix.

Diane Bellemare, Ph.D., is a Senator from Quebec. With both an academic and practical career, she has notably been a member of the Economic Council of Canada, CEO of the Société québécoise de développement de la main d'oeuvre, President of the Commission des partenaires du marché du travail.
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