

## Skills2Sector Project: Sector Based Workforce Development

*Building local capacity in the Agricultural and Mining sectors in Ontario  
to employ people who have a disability*

ODEN and a consortium of partners have launched Skills2Sector – a sector based, workforce development project to create labour market partnerships that will eliminate the barriers to employment for people who have a disability and who are under presented in the Agricultural and Mining sectors in Ontario.

This will be accomplished through meaningful partnerships that better align education, training and employment services with the needs of employers in the sectors. People who have a disability will be provided with the necessary skills and competencies for in-demand jobs, and those skills and competencies will be directly informed by industry-specific needs and forecasts trends. This model will easily be replicated to remove barriers for people who have a disability in other employment sectors.

### **Why these two sectors?**

The Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada, named Ontario the country's centre for mineral exploration and mining financing in 2019. More than 150,000 people are employed in mineral exploration and the economical value of mining production in Ontario is \$10.1 billion (<https://www.pdac.ca>). This industry will see a labour vacancy close to 80,000 workers over the next 10 years with some 60,000 a direct result of retirement. (Source: Mining Industry Human Resources Council, MiHR, 2020).

In Agriculture, over 800,000 people or 1 in 8 people are employed in the sector generating 37 billion dollars. The labour deficit will double by 2029, with a need for 123,000 workers. To illustrate the economic hardship of this labour deficit, in 2017, the sector had a short of 16,500 workers that cost the industry 2.9 billion dollars. (Source: Canadian Agricultural Human Resources Council, How Labour Changes Will Shape the Future of Agriculture: Agriculture Forecast to 2029, Aug 2019)

**Both sectors can look to nontraditional talent pools to address their labour needs.**

### **Why participate?**

There is a large talent pool of people who are ready and able to work, that identify as having a disability, and we want to connect you to them. Through a series of surveys and consultations, ODEN and the consortium of partners have identify how we can quickly skill-up the labour pool, address your hiring challenges, and help to create a pipeline of skilled, qualified, and ready to work job seekers for you, for the immediate and future needs of your business.

[Fill in the survey](#) to learn more about the project, to connect to job seekers and to participate in a series of events that will build capacity within your organization to hire people who have a disability.

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