

The OECD Local Development Forum invites you to the following webinar:

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE OF WORK IN CANADA



23 July 2020



09:30 – 11:00 EST (Eastern Standard Time)



Zoom webinar

[Website](#) • [Webinar registration](#) • [Contact](#)

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

COVID-19 has led to a labour market shock in Canada and the immediate government response has been unprecedented in scale and scope. Between February and April 2020, employment fell by 15.7% (or 3 million jobs), exceeding by far declines observed in previous labour market downturns. As of May 2020, employment ticked up marginally by 290 000 jobs. The unemployment rate has continued to increase standing at 13.7%, the highest rate ever recorded. The crisis has affected some provinces more than others.

As the impacts of the COVID-19 continue to play out, there is the possibility that it could speed up the adoption of automation in the workplace. Consumer preferences may turn to automated services, while firms may look to expand their use of technology to pandemic proof their operations and reduce the number of workers that have to physically be at work. Some places and people are better positioned to be resilient in the face of accelerated technological change.

During this webinar, the OECD will launch a new report on *Preparing for the Future of Work in Canada*. The report features new estimates on the potential local impacts of automation across Canada, highlighting which provinces and cities are most at-risk. As economies begin to re-open, it also highlights actions needed to prepare people, places and firms for the labour market upturn. The webinar will provide an opportunity to learn about the findings of the new OECD report, while also hearing from a number of top thinkers and practitioners about threats and opportunities facing Canada from COVID-19 and the future of work.

09:30 – 09:35 **Introduction to the webinar (Moderator)**
John Buck, President and CEO, CEDEC

09:35 – 09:45 **Opening remarks**
Joël Lépine, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, Employment and Social Development Canada

09:45 – 10:00 **Presentation of new OECD report on local impacts of automation in Canada**
Jonathan Barr, Head of Employment and Skills Unit, OECD

10:00 – 10:40 **Panel discussion: the impacts of the future of work and COVID-19 in Canada**
Sunil Johal, Fellow, Public Policy Forum and Brookfield Institute
Diana P. Rivera, Senior Economist, Brookfield Institute
Wendy Cukier, Professor, Entrepreneurship and Strategy, Ted Rogers School of Management; Director, Diversity Institute
Debra Mountenay, Executive Director, Elgin Middlesex Oxford Workforce Planning and Development Board

10:40 – 11:00 **Q&A session**

Zoom connection details:

Please register for the Zoom meeting by completing this [form](#). Once submitted, you will receive an automated registration confirmation message containing a personalized link to join the meeting. Please save this link carefully, and check to ensure that it has not been sent to your junk mail folder. Please do not share these details on public websites or social media. Please note that this webinar will be recorded and made accessible online after completion.

About CFE

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities provides comparative statistics, analysis and capacity building for local and national actors to work together to unleash the potential of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises, promote inclusive and sustainable regions and cities, boost local job creation, and support sound tourism policies.

This event is part of the **OECD Local Development Forum**. The Forum gathers thousands of local practitioners, entrepreneurs and social innovators from around the world to discuss the latest OECD research and to share international good practice.

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