



The Brandon-Souris Parliamentary Report

Mervin C. Tweed

Member of Parliament
Brandon-Souris
Chairman

Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities

Issue 11 - Spring 2007

ecoENERGY

The ecoENERGY Initiatives are a set of focused measures to help Canadians use energy more efficiently, boost renewable energy supplies and develop cleaner energy technologies. The suite of initiatives recently announced includes the:



1) **ecoENERGY Efficiency Initiative:** approximately \$300 million to promote smarter energy use, including the new ecoENERGY Retrofit Program to support energy-efficiency improvements in homes, and small buildings and industries;



2) **ecoENERGY Technology Initiative:** a \$230-million investment in energy S&T to fund the research, development and demonstration of clean energy technologies; and

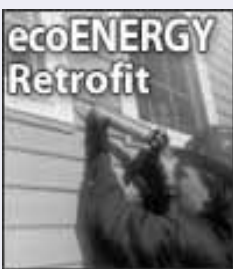


3) **ecoENERGY Renewable Initiative:** an investment of more than \$1.5 billion to boost Canada's renewable energy supplies.

ecoENERGY Efficiency Initiative

Helping Canadians use energy more efficiently, while saving money, is important to this new Government, and that's why it is investing approximately \$300 million in a new **ecoENERGY Efficiency Initiative** over the next four years.

Components



• **\$220 million Retrofit** will offer homeowners, along with smaller businesses and organizations, the support and information they need to retrofit their homes, buildings and industrial processes. The

new **ecoENERGY Retrofit** will be launched April 1, 2007. Watch for details as they become available at the Natural Resources Canada web site at: <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca>

• **\$60 million for Buildings & Houses** is a program to encourage the construction and retrofit of more energy efficient buildings and houses.

• **\$20 million for Industry** aims to accelerate energy-saving investments and the exchange of best practice information within Canada's industrial sector.

Dear Constituents,

For the first time in over a decade, Canadians are seeing action on the environment. Many new initiatives have already been announced and despite opposition obstructionism, our government is making progress on Canada's first-ever Clean Air Act, a comprehensive plan to tackle both greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.

We will continue our support and are more committed than ever to our agricultural producers, making our streets safe, managing taxpayers' money effectively and efficiently, and moving forward with child care that works for parents, not governments.

The Brandon Constituency Office has been very busy since the New Year. In addition to assisting with the typical office inquiries regarding immigration applications, farm programs, pension benefits, EI and other federal department issues, our staff has been kept extremely busy with passport inquiries. We have assisted several hundred constituents whose applications were delayed because of the increased volume experienced at Passport Canada due to regulation

changes in the US. Although a challenge to trace, track and expedite, our staff have achieved an almost perfect level of success in making sure people had their passports in hand for air travel to the US and overseas.

Canada's New Government is continuing to get things done for all Canadians in 2007. Our goal has always been focused on what's right for Canada and we will continue to Stand Up for Canadians.

On behalf of my family, I want to thank all those who sent condolences during our recent loss. It is very much appreciated

I invite all your inquiries, comments or concerns. Please feel free to contact any of my offices.

Sincerely

Merv Tweed, MP
Brandon-Souris

From the Photo Gallery - Out and about in the riding



Merv and the Hon. John Baird, Minister of the Environment toured the Kelleher Ford Dealership - a new environmentally friendly facility - during Mr. Baird's recent visit to Brandon



Merv presented the Prime Minister's Teaching Excellence Award to Coleen McKellar



Merv Tweed (on behalf of the Minister of Industry), announced that the innovative online project BizPal will soon be available



Leanne Rowat, MLA, Merv Tweed, MP, Vic Toews, MP, Souris Mayor Darryl Jackson, Scott Smith, MLA and AMM's Ron Bell, announced Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Projects in Souris to upgrade water and sewage treatment



Ninette Lagoon slated for \$1.1 million upgrade



BRANDON - February 20, 2007 – Merv Tweed, MP for Brandon-Souris, joined with the Honorable Minister Vic Toews recently to announce infrastructure funding for projects in the Brandon-Souris Riding.

Taking the lead at the announcement, Toews noted, "Canada's New Government is ensuring that our communities and environment remain healthy and prosperous for generations"

At that announcement the RMs of Riverside and Strathcona received government support for a \$1.1 million upgrade of the Ninette lagoon. The lagoon is utilized by the entire RM of Riverside, the west part of the RM of Strathcona, the cottage area around Pelican Lake and the community of Ninette.

"When there is a need for a project like this," said Tweed, "I'm glad the Canada Manitoba Rural Infrastructure Fund can share in the capital cost facing municipalities like Riverside and Strathcona."

RM of Riverside Reeve, Roger Renaud said, "The upgrade of the lagoon and collection system is something that benefits the entire area. It will not only allow improved treatment of the waste water, the project will upgrade the collection system for RM users and allow more connections to the current system."

Also on hand at the announcement was AMM President, Ron Bell who made note, "The AMM is pleased to be part of a successful partnership bringing much needed infrastructure investment to Manitoba Communities."

Tweed concluded by saying, "Municipalities across Canada have said they need support for local infrastructure and Canada's New Government recognizes that a healthy environment requires investments from all levels of responsibility."

Funding for this project was made possible through the Canada-Manitoba Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund that targets funding to 198 municipalities and other rural initiatives in Manitoba. For more information on the Canada-Manitoba infrastructure projects is available at www.infrastructure.gc.ca

RM of Whitehead gets approval for \$500,000 lagoon project



BRANDON - February 20, 2007 – Merv Tweed, MP for Brandon-Souris, joined with the Honorable Minister Vic Toews recently to announce infrastructure funding for projects in the Brandon-Souris Riding.

Toews made special note, "Today's announcement will deliver infrastructure for future growth, using sound environmental practices"

Tweed was pleased to inform the RM of Whitehead that it had \$500,000 for the installation of a synthetic lagoon liner to eliminate the risk of possible groundwater contamination.

"The Canada Manitoba Rural Infrastructure Fund shares in the capital cost of projects like this to ensure municipalities are able to meet the ever increasing demand for growth," said Tweed.

RM of Whitehead Reeve, Wayne Dobbie said, "We were happy to be able to access the Rural Infrastructure Fund. It's certainly a way to make projects like this affordable for our ratepayers."

The Village of Alexander, which is adjacent to the lagoon, as well as the increasing demand from acreage subdivisions in the municipality will benefit from the project. The project was identified by a review that deemed the liner should be installed to meet current environmental standards.

Also on hand at the announcement was AMM President, Ron Bell who made note, "The AMM is pleased to be part of a successful partnership bringing much needed infrastructure investment to Manitoba Communities."

Tweed concluded by saying, "This announcement is about keeping our communities clean, green and healthy. Communities like those in the RM of Whitehead are the lifeblood of Manitoba, and Canada's future lies in the success and safety of those communities."

Funding for this project was made possible through the Canada-Manitoba Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund that targets funding to 198 municipalities and other rural initiatives in Manitoba. For more information on the Canada-Manitoba infrastructure projects is available at www.infrastructure.gc.ca

Moving forward in Agricultural



Brandon - February 9, 2007 - Merv Tweed, MP for Brandon-Souris is working hard to ensure agriculture in Manitoba continues to be a strong and viable industry. "As we move into the creation of a new farm income insurance program, we must ensure that producers have the support from our Federal Government," said Tweed.

The New Conservative Government has increased support by over \$1.5 billion in the past year by introducing several initiatives. They include an additional \$900 million to allow revaluing of inventories for the CAIS years 2003 to 2005, \$550 million to the Farm Families Option Program, \$500 million to the Crop Cover Protection Program, changes in the negative margin calculations, increase in the spring cash advance loans and deferral of interest and penalties for any CAIS paybacks till January 2008.

As we make plans to ensure the viability of our farm community we continue to ask for input from our producers.

VOTE ON MARKETING CHOICE FOR BARLEY

Tweed was pleased with the official launch of the government's plebiscite on marketing choice for barley, which began February 7 and will end on March 13. "I am happy to announce the plebiscite on barley has begun with the mailing out of the voter package," said Tweed. "I have always maintained we should consult with farmers. Today the government is delivering on that commitment, and I encourage eligible producers to vote."

For a long time, the marketing of wheat and barley has been a very divisive matter for the farmers in western Canada. There is no one-sided position on this issue. Tweed commented, "Farmers, not politicians, should make the decision on how they market their commodities. As politicians, we have examined this issue very carefully with the goal of improving farm incomes for western producers," emphasized Tweed

Critics of the vote have stated farmers should not have the choice to have a vote. The CWB have convinced themselves and others it would be their demise without monopoly powers. "The CWB will survive either way," said Tweed, "but they will have to continue to adapt to an ever changing market and must certainly continue to serve those farmers who want to use their marketing services."

Eligible producers will have a total of five weeks to vote between now and March 13, the final day for ballots to be postmarked. Eligible voters who have not received a package by February 15 should contact the election coordinator before March 2 at 1-888-3BARLEY (1-888-322-7539). "I encourage all eligible barley producers to participate in the plebiscite to ensure that their voices are heard."

For more information on the plebiscite, please visit www.2007barleyvote.ca

\$400,000 project approved for Souris



BRANDON - February 20, 2007 – Merv Tweed, MP for Brandon-Souris, attended a news conference in Souris recently to announce the approval of several infrastructure projects approved for the Brandon-Souris Riding.

Attending with Tweed was The Honourable Minister Vic Toews, who commented, "Our New Government is getting things done for all Canadians, including the people of Manitoba. We are tying together our social and economic priorities by supporting projects like the one we're announcing today here in Souris."

Tweed said, "The residents of Souris will definitely benefit from the support of the Canada Manitoba Rural Infrastructure Fund with the approval of a \$400,000 wastewater treatment plant upgrade. Municipalities are under increasing pressure to keep their infrastructures upgraded to the needs of their communities."

Mayor Darryl Jackson agreed with Tweed saying, "Our engineer's evaluation indicated the first phase was critical to be done as soon as possible. This support enables us to start this spring."

The project, which is the first phase in a three part overall project, will allow the Town to upgrade their chlorination building, blower room/lab building and help with the installation of a new flowmeter. "The other two phases," said Jackson, "are not so time sensitive allowing the Town to stage these projects over the next few years."

Tweed was pleased to be part of announcing three projects in the riding at the Souris announcement. "It is good to see that through this project, the Town of Souris will be better equipped to meet both current and future environmental concerns for its citizens," said Tweed.

•Funding for this project was made possible through the Canada-Manitoba Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund that targets funding to 198 municipalities and other rural initiatives in Manitoba. For more information on the Canada-Manitoba infrastructure projects is available at www.infrastructure.gc.ca

Government Supports Community Action Programs



BRANDON, MB – February, 2007 - The Manitoba Community Action Program for Children

(CAPC) recently announced funding from the federal government to help community groups across the province meet the developmental needs of children living at risk.

The Brandon Women's Shelter and In a Good Way of Brandon will receive funding to supply the resources and support for their programs.

Merv Tweed, MP for Brandon-Souris said, "The Brandon groups have been recognized by the CAPC as the best way to develop and deliver programs that respond to the needs of the children in our area. They do great work and their expertise in providing community led, family-based intervention is commendable."

Project coordinator, Heather Block said, "CAPC programming is a powerful and effective use of federal dollars – dollars that are having a positive impact on children."

CAPC is a National program delivered by the Public Health Agency of Canada. The federally funded program provides long term funding to community organizations that enhance the well-being of children six years and under, living in high risk situations.

BizPaL launched in Brandon



BRANDON, MB – January 2007 - Merv Tweed, MP for Brandon-Souris, was part of a joint announcement recently in Brandon to launch the BizPaL program.

"Through BizPaL, the Government of Canada will help promote a more competitive and productive economy by providing easy access to essential information. This, in turn, will help to reduce due diligence costs for business," said Tweed.

The program is a joint initiative by Canada's New Government, the City of Brandon and the Province of Manitoba that streamlines and harmonizes access to information about licenses, permits and regulations that entrepreneurs need to start, operate and grow their businesses.

"I'm pleased all three levels of Governments have committed to work together to make this happen," said Tweed.

"Canada's New Government is getting things done for businesses and taxpayers by working with the provinces and territories. BizPaL is just one of those successes," said Tweed.

Youth Parliament of Manitoba

BRANDON COLLEGE

April 27th-29th, 2007

86th Parliament, Spring Session

The youth of Western Manitoba are being given a unique opportunity this coming April. For the first time in its history, the Youth Parliament of Manitoba will be hosting a legislative session in Brandon.

Youth Parliament of Manitoba is Manitoba's premiere youth-run organization that aims to educate youth about the parliamentary process in the Canadian democratic tradition. This session, known as the **Spring Session**, will allow Westman youth the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and public speaking experience right in their own backyard.

Youth attending the Youth Parliament of Manitoba's Spring Session will hear from many public figures, including Brandon-Souris MP Merv Tweed, Brandon University President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Louis Visentin, and more. They will also meet youth from all across the province, giving them a chance to build friendships that will last a lifetime.

The Spring Session of the Youth Parliament of Manitoba is taking place from 27-29 April 2007 at Brandon University. All youth ages 16-20 are eligible to attend. The registration fee is only \$35, and covers accommodations and food for the entire weekend. For more information about this exciting opportunity, contact Matt Bolley by e-mail at rural@ypmanitoba.ca. You can also visit us on the Internet at www.ypmanitoba.ca/sessions/spring. This is an opportunity the youth of Western Manitoba do not want to miss out on.

Photo compliments of <http://www.ypmanitoba.ca/>

The New Canada Food Guide

For 65 years, Canadians have relied upon Canada's Food Guide for information about the foods they eat. With the launch of the 2007 edition, Canadians can once again turn to this well recognized Government of Canada publication to sort out food facts from fiction.

The 2007 edition of Canada's Food Guide offers a reliable reference for making healthy choices

"The Food Guide isn't a diet and it transcends food fads," says Mary Bush, Director General of Health Canada's Office of Nutrition Policy and Promotion. "It's built on sound, evidence-based science and a wide range of expert opinions." Following the Food Guide, she says, can help people reduce their risk of developing obesity, type II diabetes, heart disease, some types of cancer and osteoporosis.

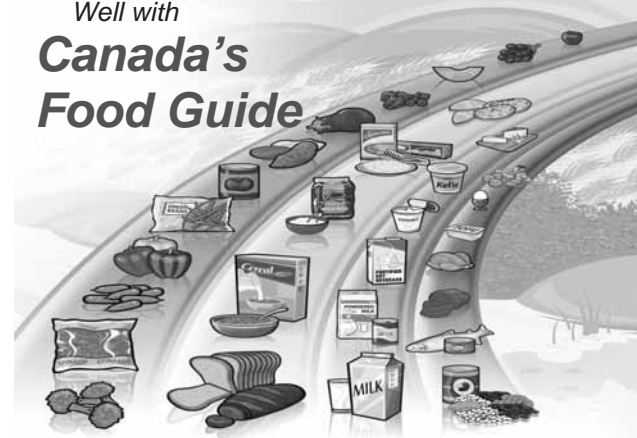
The revised Food Guide is the result of three years of work which included consultations with 7,000 Canadians – including dietitians, scientists, physicians and public health personnel – and it provides recommendations on what foods to eat and how much to eat each day.

New to this edition of the Food Guide are recommendations based on age and gender for the daily number of servings from each of the four food groups (Vegetables and Fruit, Grain Products, Milk and Alternatives, Meat and Alternatives) plus a small amount of added oils and fats.

Also new is the recommendation that men and women over the age of 50 need a daily vitamin D supplement. This is based on evidence that as we age we need more of this important vitamin than can be obtained from following the Food Guide.

Eating Well with

Canada's Food Guide



Create your own Food Guide

The 2007 version of the Food Guide goes an extra step by providing suggested daily food servings from the four food groups for Canadians 2 years and over at different stages of their lives. And with the interactive My Food Good, the online edition goes even further – allowing you to personalize the Food Guide to fit your life.

By inputting your food preferences and activity choices, you can create a one-page printable version of the Food Guide that recommends the quantities of food you should eat for your age and gender. It includes helpful suggestions on the types of foods to select to set up your own pattern of healthy eating. The idea is to help you to meet your nutrition needs and reduce the risk of chronic diseases. My Food Guide also includes a summary of the guidance on the types of food to help you achieve good health.

For information and to create your own personalized Food Guide visit

www.healthcanada.gc.ca/foodguide



Photos compliments of Health Canada website

More from the Photo Gallery

Out and about in the riding



Mr. Caldwell's Gr. 9 Social Studies Class, Deloraine School



Merv met with Tabitha Comeau at the Katimavik "Meet Your MP" reception on Parliament Hill



Merv attended a Farm Focus 2007 Mennonite theme dinner in Boissevain



The Opening Ceremonies (Irish Pavillion) at the Lt. Gov. Winter Festival in Brandon



Merv, Vic Toews, MP, Leanne Rowat, MLA dropped into the RCMP Detachment in Souris



Merv meets with producers in Deloraine

How To Contact Me



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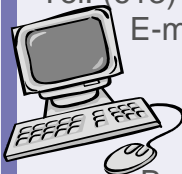
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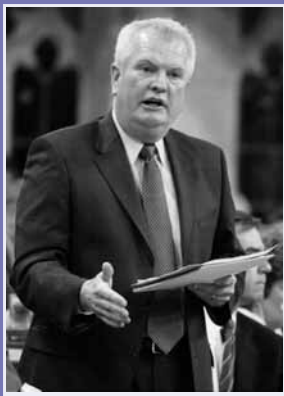
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Statement - House of Commons 100th Royal Manitoba Winter Fair February 22, 2007



Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring attention to a milestone event in my riding of Brandon--Souris.

The 100th Royal Manitoba Winter Fair will take place in Brandon on March 26 through 31. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II honoured the fair with her attendance in 1970 and officially declared it as a royal event.

The Royal Manitoba Winter Fair is one of just three fairs in the entire world to have the royal designation and is renowned as one of Canada's largest agricultural events. Activities at the fair include equestrian events, heavy horse competition, livestock displays and sales, awareness programs, entertainment and over 300 commercial and agricultural exhibits.

This year's event will highlight our region's rich heritage and history as the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair celebrates a century of agricultural excellence in the western Manitoba region.

Mr. Speaker, I want to invite you and all Canadians to visit the 100th Royal Manitoba Winter Fair in Brandon, Manitoba March 26 to 31. Plan to be there.



Merv at the Special Olympics in Wawanesa - February 2007

Vimy - Honour the Legacy Canadians Return to Vimy

The 90th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, on Monday April 9, 2007, will offer us an opportunity to remember and honour the brave Canadians who helped shape Canada as a nation. This significant anniversary will be recognized with ceremonies and youth-oriented events throughout Canada and in France.

On the afternoon of April 9, 2007, there will be an anniversary and dedication event at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial in France. Other public events in France will include an evening commemorative ceremony on April 7, as well as a "Freedom of the City" event in Arras, near Vimy Ridge, on the afternoon of April 8.

During the months leading up to the April 9 anniversary, a number of activities and events will take place across our country to celebrate the Battle of Vimy Ridge. This includes a National Ceremony at the National War Memorial in Ottawa, on Easter Monday, April 9, 2007.

All Canadians, especially youth and community organizations, can get involved by learning more about the great achievements of our country during the Battle of Vimy Ridge, and by participating in commemorative events in our communities.

For more information on the events surrounding the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and the dedication of the restored Canadian National Vimy Memorial, call toll-free 1-800-443-0394 (in Canada) or visit www.vac-acc.gc.ca. The Web site will be updated regularly as plans progress.



Merv with students attending his xmas open house



Merv with Sig & Janet Eiriksson in his Brandon Office

Skills Link projects receive funding



BRANDON, MB – February 20, 2007 - Merv Tweed, MP for Brandon-Souris, was pleased to receive word that projects qualifying under the Youth Employment Strategy program focused on Youth-at-Risk have been granted to two Brandon organizations.

"Our government has identified youth-at-risk as a priority," said Tweed, "and we must invest in young Canadians by providing them the skills so they may make informed choices about their future careers."

The Career and Employment Youth Services (CEYS) office in Brandon has entered into an agreement with Human Resources and Social Development. Project Coordinator, Richard Greer, said, "CEYS objective is to enable Brandon's youth at risk to enhance their skills, maximize their potential and market themselves effectively to prepare for, obtain and maintain employment. The Agency also works towards influencing Brandon's employers to utilize the skills and energy that youth bring to the workplace." CEYS works with the youth at risk group to identify strengths, weaknesses, barriers, and provide information, referrals, support and focus that will enable and encourage individuals to obtain employment or return to school. "As the youth are given the opportunity to enhance their employability skills, the community will see an increase in the number of skilled young Canadians in the workforce," said Greer.

The second project is a partnership with Brandon and Area Youth for Christ. Six youth will be provided with job skills development, life skills workshops and community service through a project, coordinated through the local group.

Dwayne Dyck, Executive Director of Youth for Christ in Brandon, says "It's not just about getting jobs for young people. It's about developing character and providing the ability and skills to maintain employment." The group has taken part in several initiatives in the past with positive results. "Of those that enter the program, we usually graduate 5 of 6 that have the opportunity to move into gainful, long term employment," said Dyck.

Under the Youth Employment Strategy program, the Skills Link program helps youth facing challenges to gain employment - such as single parents, Aboriginal youth, young persons with disabilities, recent immigrants, youth living in rural and remote areas and high school dropouts - obtain the knowledge and develop the broad range of skills and work experience they need to participate in the job market. Skills Link offers a range of programs and services that can be tailored to meet individual needs and provide more intensive assistance over longer periods of time.

Tweed said, "Programs like the Youth Employment Strategy deliver valuable resources for those who need guidance and advice. This will give youth the opportunity and training to make positive steps towards a promising career."



Useful Information

Service Canada Centre Rural Outreach Sites

For questions on CPP, OAS, Income Supplement, Employment Insurance, and Passports.

Please call the centres for the dates and hours of operation.

Killarney - Lakeland Regional Library
Tel: 523-4949

Deloraine - Prairie Skills Employment Services Project - Tel: 747-3598

Viriden - Employment Skills Centre
Tel: 748-6083

Carberry - Spruce Woods Training Centre
Tel: 834-3729

Canada Benefits

For Federal and Provincial services and programs
<http://www.canadabenefits.gc.ca/>

For Seniors living in Manitoba, please visit the Canada Benefits website at:

<http://www.canadabenefits.gc.ca/>

Under the heading "I am " click on "a senior" and a map will appear. Just click on Manitoba and the benefits programs for both the Federal and Provincial governments will be listed

Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security
1-800-277-9914
www.hrsdc-drhc.gc.ca

Employment Insurance

1-800-206-7218

www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/home.shtml - choose - "How do I apply?"

Veterans Affairs

1-866-522-2122

www.vac-acc.gc.ca

Canadian Agriculture Income Stabilization Program (CAIS)

1-866-367-8506

<http://www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram/main.html>

Passports

1-800-267-6788 - www.pptc.gc.ca

You may take your completed passport to the Passport Receiving Centre that is located at 1039 Princess Avenue in Brandon. The Service Canada Agents will ensure that the information is correct and will send your documents to the Processing Centre. Processing time is approximately 25 working days.

If you require your passport quicker, you may take your passport to the Passport Processing Centre that is located at 400-433 Main Street, Winnipeg. Processing time is 10 working days. Office hours are 8 - 4 p.m. In order to be processed immediately when appearing at the Winnipeg Passport Centre, you can pre-apply on-line prior to your visit.

Student Loans

National Student Loan Service Centre handles all student loans. For student loans for Public Institutions call 1-888-815-4514. For student loans for Private Institutions call 1-866-587-7452. The website for both areas is:

www.canlearn.ca/nslcs/index.cfm

Citizenship and Immigration

1-888-242-2100 - www.cic.gc.ca

For information on immigrating to Canada, work visas, visitors visas, permanent residency, permanent resident cards and Citizenship, please contact the numbers and website above.

1 800 O CANADA (1-800-622-6232) is the information number for the Government of Canada. The service agents answering the calls are able to give you information on the aspects and programs of the Government of Canada.

Service Canada Centre for Youth

They assist students and youth with job searching, resumes, cover letters and other employment related information. They also have access to information regarding summer employment opportunities.

Location: Unit 2, 1040 Princess Ave. Brandon, MB

Email: Brandon-seo@servicecanada.gc.ca

Call: (204)726-7799

Web site: www.youth.gc.ca