

## **INTRODUCTION**

**Thank you, Dr. Marchand.**

**It is a pleasure to be here to launch the Alberta Centre for Labour Market Research at the University of Alberta.**

**Thank you to the university for being excellent hosts!**

**And thank you to Dr. Marchand for your remarks and your leadership in establishing this research centre.**

**I am proud to speak to you all today on behalf of Alberta's Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade, the Honourable Matt Jones.**

**Although Premier Smith is unable to attend today, she shared her appreciation for the researchers and university leaders who have committed to this important endeavour.**

**We know this research centre will play an instrumental role in ensuring Alberta understands our labour market and how we can help Albertans succeed in the workplace.**

## **ROLE OF ALBERTA'S GOVERNMENT**

**The centre is the recipient of a \$1.2 million grant funded through the Alberta at Work Labour Market Information Enhancement Initiative.**

**One of the goals of the Alberta at Work initiative is for the government to support credible labour research that benefits Albertans and informs better decision making.**

**The grant will fund the Alberta Centre for Labour Market Research for the next three years.**

**Through this investment in our province's labour market research environment, Alberta's government is supporting research that will explore labour issues that directly impact Albertans.**

**In a rapidly evolving labour market, effective governance requires a solid foundation of evidence. Research provides the insights and data necessary to inform policy decisions that are both informed and impactful.**

**From economic development to social issues, research allows us to identify emerging trends, understand complex problems and develop innovative solutions.**

**Universities and research institutions in Alberta are uniquely positioned to serve as thought leaders and catalysts for change.**

**By engaging with public concerns and conducting research that is relevant and accessible, the centre can help bridge the gap between theory and practice.**

**Effective policymaking will only be enhanced with a collaborative effort between researchers and policymakers.**

**Academia can make a significant contribution by conducting relevant and accessible research and collaborating with policymakers.**

**Beyond academic expertise, incorporating the perspectives of industry leaders, workers and community organizations will be crucial for effective labour market research. This will ensure a more comprehensive understanding of the complexities at play in Alberta.**

**Businesses are at the forefront of experiencing labour market trends. Their experiences on skills gaps, emerging technologies and workforce needs are invaluable for informing policy and research priorities.**

**Understanding worker experiences can provide crucial insights into job satisfaction, challenges faced and desired skills development opportunities.**

**Community organizations often serve populations facing labour market barriers. Including their perspectives helps identify and address issues related to equity, diversity and inclusion in the workforce.**

**By fostering collaboration with these diverse stakeholders, the centre can ensure research addresses real-world problems and informs practical solutions. This collaboration will only further strengthen the research ecosystem within the province.**

## **CONCLUSION**

**I know that the researchers and organizations in this room are committed to building a strong labour market information ecosystem for Alberta. The ability to come together to pool our respective expertise and experience is such an advantage.**

**I look forward to hearing their presentations this afternoon and learning more about the insights, innovations and industry best practices they have studied.**

**Once again, congratulations to the University of Alberta and the Alberta Centre for Labour Market Research on this successful launch.**

**Let's carry forward the excitement and momentum from today's event and provide Albertans with the critical information they need to make informed decisions about their careers and government with the research it needs to develop effective labour market policies and programs.**

**I am confident that the Alberta Centre for Labour Market Research will play a leading role in advancing our understanding of labour market issues in this province. By working together, we can create a more prosperous and equitable future for all Albertans.**

**Thank you again.**