



I.E.Canada Members on FITT Steering Committee

FITT, the Forum for International Trade and Training, is beginning the pre-assessment phase of a sector study of the international trade sector. The pre-assessment is the first step taken in determining whether a comprehensive international trade sector study is warranted.

The Pre-Assessment study will focus on developing a comprehensive labour market picture of the Canadian international trade sector and identify gaps in labour market information. Generally, research into the international trade sector has focused on business and policy needs, or tracked metrics, but little research has been done into the skills and training needed within the international trade sector.

International trade is vital to the Canadian economy. Over 70% of Canada's GDP is trade related, with 1 in 5 Canadian jobs directly linked to trade. Many jobs in the international trade arena tend to be cross sectoral, meaning that individuals may be working in areas such as accounting, compliance, technology, marketing, sales, etc. Additionally, these individuals may also be required to understand the language, business requirements and cultural norms of the different countries with which they trade. As such, there is a need for employees with the proper mix of skills needed to succeed in the international trade market, and a need to understand what this mix of skills looks like.

The Sector Study Pre-Assessment project will be lead by a National Steering Committee that will provide overall guidance and advice to the researchers. The Steering Committee will be comprised of business and trade leaders from across Canada and have been selected as a result of their expertise on the Canadian and global economies, their understanding of international trade and the international trade labour market. I.E.Canada is well represented on the FITT National Steering Committee with Joy Nott, I.E.Canada president; Quebec chapter member René Morrissette, CCS, training manager, Canada District, UPS Supply Chain Solutions, UPS; and I.E.Canada board members Greg Gerritsen, manager, Customs & Trade Compliance, Plains Midstream Canada and Molly Zito, managing director, Customs & Compliance, Avnet International, have all agreeing to serve on the Steering Committee. The Pre-Assessment will assess the content of existing research, highlight any gaps in the current research, and determine which areas warrant further study.