



People with mental health disabilities gain employment skills and avoid homelessness

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES will get help preparing for jobs as a result of the Government of Canada's support to Potential Place Society. Mr. Devinder Shory, Member of Parliament for Calgary Northeast, made the announcement on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development.

"Our government is helping those seeking to break free from the cycle of homelessness and poverty," said Mr. Shory. "Through this investment, 20 Canadians with mental health disabilities will gain the skills they need to participate and succeed in the job market and to maximize their potential and independence."

With a federal investment of \$240,000 from the Homelessness Partnering Strategy and the

Opportunities Fund, Potential Place Society will help 20 people with mental health disabilities who are homeless or at risk of homelessness make a successful transition into the job market, by providing essential job and life skills training, job matching, work experience and long-term support.

"We would like to thank the Government of Canada for its support of this innovative and collaborative project," said Mr. Gordon Young, Executive Director of Potential Place Society. "Moving Forward has the potential to become a model for helping those with mental illnesses to regain self-respect and renew their sense of hope through attaining meaningful work opportunities."

The Opportunities Fund supports activities that increase employability skills, provide

work experience and prepare people with disabilities for self-employment. The Government of Canada is breaking down barriers that prevent Canadians from reaching their full potential with a wide range of effective policies, programs and services tailored to people with disabilities.

The Fund is part of the Government of Canada's strategy to create the best educated, most skilled and most flexible workforce in the world. The Government underscored its commitment to this strategy in Canada's Economic Action Plan. A key component of the Plan is to create more and better opportunities for Canadian workers through skills development.

In September 2008, the Government of Canada announced \$1.9 billion over five years for housing and homelessness programs for low-income Canadians. This commitment provides the Government with the flexibility to work with the provinces and territories, municipalities and organizations to develop ways to improve the effectiveness of federal spending on housing and homelessness.

This ongoing funding will ensure that the Government can continue to assist those who need support, including homeless people and those at risk of homelessness—low-income Canadians, seniors, persons with disabilities, recent immigrants and Aboriginal people.

Canada's Economic Action Plan is building on these investments by making an additional one-time investment of more than \$2 billion over two years in new and existing social housing, and by making available up to \$2 billion in loans to Canadian municipalities over two years for housing-related infrastructure improvements. To learn more about Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit www.actionplan.gc.ca.

For more information on the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, please visit www.hrsdc.gc.ca/homelessness.

Action to increase labour mobility for acupuncturists

Ms. Alice Wong, Parliamentary Secretary for Multiculturalism, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, recently announced help for acupuncturists to increase their labour mobility across Canada.

"Our government has taken action to help make full labour mobility a reality," said Ms. Wong. "We're offering workers a wider range of opportunities, and giving employers a larger and richer pool of qualified candidates."

The Government of Canada is investing \$94,005 in the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of British Columbia. This funding will help develop common skill sets, registration exams and educational expectations for acupuncturists. It will also enable freer movement for certified workers

between the provinces and territories.

While the main focus of this project is to help Canadian-trained acupuncturists, full labour mobility will also apply to internationally trained workers once they are certified to work in Canada.

The Prime Minister and Canada's premiers and territorial leaders endorsed revisions to the Agreement on Internal Trade in January 2009 to help facilitate labour mobility. The new provisions eliminate many internal trade barriers and enhance labour mobility in Canada. The Government of Canada is committed to helping Canadians work anywhere in the country without any additional training, examinations or assessments.

Source: The Government of Canada

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