



Government helps people with disabilities in Calgary prepare for labour market

JANUARY 7, 2010 — People with disabilities will get help preparing for jobs thanks to the Government of Canada's support for a local employment program. Mr. Deepak Obhrai, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Member of Parliament for Calgary East, made the announcement today on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development.

"In today's environment, it is more important than ever that all Canadians have the skills they need to participate and succeed in the job market," said Mr. Obhrai. "By supporting this project, our government is helping Canadians with disabilities maximize their potential and independence."

Prospect Human Services Society will receive \$200,407 under the Enhanced Employment Assistance Services component of the Opportunities Fund. This project will provide 48 persons with intellectual disabilities with a chance to gain the skills they need to obtain jobs.

"Studio C would like to thank the Government of Canada for its support in making Art Recruits possible," said Mr. Alexi Davis, Manager of Disability Services, Prospect Human Services Society. "This one-of-a-kind project will achieve employment outcomes for Calgary's mental health population, all through the process of community collaboration and the practice of art."

The federal government is working with the provinces and territories, community organizations and other stakeholders to help ensure that Canadians get the training, skills and opportunities they need to participate in the

workforce and contribute to the quality of life in their communities.

The Opportunities Fund helps support an array of activities, such as increasing employability skills, providing work experience and preparing individuals for self-employment. The Government of Canada is committed to 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 program 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.

Source: Government of Canada

Manual and training course for working safely on ice

A NEW MANUAL and training program are available to keep Albertans who work on ice safe. Also available is a pocket sized version of the manual made of tear-proof and water-proof paper, as well as an on-line, interactive course employers and workers can take to ensure they know how to stay safe.

"This best practice manual provides comprehensive knowledge for employers and workers to work safely," said Hector Goudreau, Minister of Alberta Employment and Immigration. "It is the first time that all the information needed to plan work on ice has been available in one package."

On January 7, 2005 a snowcat driver and his vehicle went through the ice while constructing an ice bridge on the Peace

River. The prime contractor at the site pleaded guilty to violating the Occupational Health and Safety Act, and was fined a total of \$300,375 by the court. The fine included a creative sentencing penalty of \$297,500 to produce a best practice guideline for working on ice in Alberta.

The best practices manual and electronic course can be accessed online at: www.employment.alberta.ca/icesafety

Copies of the best practices manual and field manual can also be ordered by calling the Occupational Health and Safety Contact Centre toll-free 1-866-415-8690 (in Edmonton and area (780) 415-8690).

Source: The Government of Canada
