



Canadians with disabilities improve their literacy and essential skills

ADULTS with disabilities who have low literacy will benefit from a federally funded project aimed at expanding access to literacy and essential skills training. Senator Yonah Martin made the announcement today on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development.

“Our government strongly supports partnerships with organizations like the Neil Squire Society to improve the literacy and vocational skills that disabled Canadians require to help them get jobs and build better futures,” said Senator Martin. “In today’s economic environment, it is more important than ever that all Canadians have the skills they need to participate in the job market.”

The Neil Squire Society will receive \$294,725 for its project entitled Distance Computer Comfort — Online Computer Tutoring for People with Physical Disabilities through the Adult Learning, Literacy and Essential Skills Program. Based on the Society’s in-class Computer Comfort program, this project aims to increase access to literacy and essential skills training for lower-skilled adults with disabilities in rural and urban areas across Canada.

“This funding is instrumental in our effort to reach out across Canada,” said Dr. Gary Birch, Executive Director of the Neil Squire Society. “In particular, this program will enhance our capacity to reach Canadians with disabilities, some of whom are the most marginalized people in our society. We are extremely grateful to

the Government of Canada for helping us to develop this program.”

Literacy and essential skills are key to ensuring that Canadians can fully participate and succeed in the workforce.

The Government of Canada’s Office of Literacy and Essential Skills works with partners such as provincial and territorial govern-

ments, employers and community organizations to provide Canadians with the tools and supports they need to maximize opportunities for themselves, their families and their communities.

Source: Government of Canada

Annual program offers employment to students

NOW is the time for not-for-profit organizations to apply to the Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP). New this year, STEP is only available to students — secondary, post-secondary and recent graduates.

Each summer the provincial government program creates summer employment opportunities for students, while subsidizing wages paid by employers to encourage higher salaries. The program offers employers a wage subsidy of \$7 an hour.

More than 2000 STEP positions will be available this summer. STEP provides students with unique learning opportunities and helps employers find enthusiastic employees with fresh ideas.

Employers must provide continuous, full-time employment between 30 and 40 hours

per week up to a maximum of 16 weeks. Priority will be given to employers offering full-time employment related to students’ education and training between April 26 and August 27.

Eligible employers include registered not-for-profit community organizations, First Nations bands, Métis settlements, municipalities, regional school divisions and post-secondary institutions.

Eligible employers must complete applications which are available online at www.employment.alberta.ca/step. The completed application form must be signed and mailed with a postmark of on or before February 28 to be considered.

Source: The Government of Alberta
