



# People with disabilities to develop job skills

**PEOPLE** with disabilities will get help preparing for jobs as a result of the Government of Canada's support for Calgary Alternative Support Services (CASS). The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment and Member of Parliament for Calgary Centre-North, made the announcement 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 Minister Prentice. "By supporting this project, our government is helping Canadians with disabilities maximize their potential and independence."

CASS will receive \$188,061 under the Enhanced Employment Assistance Services component of the Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities. This project will help 23 peo-

ple with disabilities gain the skills they need to obtain jobs.

"CASS provides support and assistance for people with disabilities to explore, choose and achieve sustainable career goals," said Mr. Sean McEwen, Career Development Manager for Calgary Alternative Support Services. "The workforce inclusion of those we serve strengthens business through diversity and new perspectives, and it is our direct experience that employers are extremely satisfied with the employees they find through our services."

The federal government is working with the provinces and territories, community organizations and other stakeholders to provide Canadians with the training, skills and opportunities they need to get jobs and contribute to their communities.

The Opportunities Fund helps support an array of activities, such as increasing employ-

ability skills, providing work experience and preparing individuals for self-employment. The Government of Canada is committed to breaking down barriers that prevent Canadians with disabilities from reaching their full potential with a wide range of effective policies, programs and services.

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. To learn more about Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit [www.actionplan.gc.ca](http://www.actionplan.gc.ca).

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Source: The Government of Canada

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## Highlighting importance of health and safety in the workplace

**THE HONOURABLE** Lisa Raitt, Minister of Labour, delivered opening remarks at the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety Forum III: Leading Workplace Change. Minister Raitt highlighted the Government of Canada's action on health and safety in the workplace.

"Our government is committed to improving the health and safety of our workplaces," said Minister Raitt. "By improving the well-being of workers, we can ensure that Canadian

workplaces become more efficient, innovative and productive."

In her remarks, Minister Raitt also stressed the importance of preventing injury and illness in the workplace to keep Canada's labour force strong and healthy.

The Forum is a two-day national event that brings together workers, employers and governments to share their knowledge and experience on occupational health and safety issues.

The Labour Program develops, administers and enforces workplace legislation and regulations, such as the Canada Labour Code, which covers industrial relations, health and safety and employment standards, and the Employment Equity Act.

These laws cover federally regulated workers and employers.

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Source: The Government of Canada

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