



Government helps youth in Medicine Hat prepare for labour market

LOCAL YOUTH in Medicine Hat who face barriers to employment will get job-preparation training and work experience through the Government of Canada's support for an employment project. Mr. LaVar Payne, Member of Parliament for Medicine Hat, 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 youth develop the skills they need to participate and succeed in the job market," said Mr. Payne. "By supporting this project, we are helping youth in Medicine Hat develop the skills, knowledge and work experience they need to reach their full potential."

HR Solutions will receive \$207,317 in federal Skills Link funding to support its Kick Start 2010 project, which will help 15 youth facing employment barriers develop life and job skills to ease their transition to work or return to school.

Skills Link focuses on helping youth facing barriers to employment, such as single par-

ents, Aboriginal youth, young persons with disabilities, recent immigrants, youth living in rural and remote areas, and youth who have dropped out of high school.

"I would like to express my thanks to the Government of Canada for their renewed support in the Kick Start 2010 program," said Ms. Shila Sharps, President of HR Solutions. "HR Solutions and the Kick Start team are looking forward to providing another successful program that assists youth in Medicine Hat and better prepares them for the challenges that they face."

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.

Through the 2010 "Jobs and Growth Budget," the Government of Canada committed an additional \$60 million to the Skills Link and Career Focus programs. This additional one-time investment will enable more young Ca-

nadians to gain the experience and skills they need to successfully participate in the labour market while the economy recovers.

Skills Link 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.

The Skills Link program is delivered by Service Canada, which provides one-stop personalized services for Government of Canada programs, services and benefits. For more information about this program, visit www.servicecanada.gc.ca, call 1 800 O-Canada or drop by your local Service Canada Centre.

Source: The Government of Canada

Canada recognizes International Workers' Day

MARKING International Workers' Day, on May 1st, the Honourable Lisa Raitt, Canada's Minister of Labour, recognized the leadership of Canadian workers and the contributions that have been made in keeping the country's workplaces competitive and successful during the economic downturn.

"Canada has performed strongly in the face of the deepest global economic recession since the 1930s," said Minister Raitt. "This achieve-

ment is due in large part to our talented and dedicated workforce — a workforce which is key to ensuring our growth and prosperity in the future."

International Workers' Day is celebrated in many countries around the world with commemorative events such as marches and festivals. It marks the struggles and successes of the labour movement in improving working conditions.

The Labour Program promotes fair, safe, productive and cooperative work environments.

It continues to work with stakeholders to ensure that labour legislation and regulations remain relevant and effective in the 21st century economy.

Source: The Government of Canada
