

# Customized Employment Demonstration Project



[www.communitylivingbc.ca](http://www.communitylivingbc.ca)

In July 2008, the Ministry of Housing and Social Development (MHSD) and Community Living BC announced the awarding of contracts worth \$1.1 million annually for three years to deliver customized employment services to British Columbians with developmental disabilities.

The Customized Employment Demonstration Project will work with individuals with developmental disabilities who typically find that the traditional labour market approach of matching people to existing job openings is not effective.

Over 60 per cent of individuals served will be young adults aged 15 to 30 who will receive assistance transitioning from an educational environment to a work environment.

Customized Employment is real work for real pay. It is an individualized employment relationship between employees and employers that is designed to meet the needs of both. It is based on an individualized determination of the strengths, needs and interests of each person, and is also designed to meet the specific needs of the employer.

Over the next three years, eight service provider agencies will not only deliver customized employment services, they are committed to sharing results, lessons learned and working together to establish best practices. The sharing of knowledge and building of leaders in the community will help develop a blueprint for services to assist people with developmental and other disabilities in the future.

The official launch of this exciting project was held on July 10, 2008. Representatives of the eight participating agencies, MHSD and CLBC met to discuss project objectives, the roles and responsibilities of each party and clarify expectations.

Over the first three months, participating agencies have been busy setting resources in place and working in their communities to identify individuals with whom they will work to achieve their employment goals, using the principles of customized employment. Over the term of the project, participating agencies will meet regularly to share information, celebrate their successes and increase their knowledge base on customized employment.

The project team's plan is to be open and visible to the community and share everything they learn. The Customized Employment Demonstration Project will be presented in one of the concurrent sessions at the 14th Annual Canadian Association for Supported Employment Conference, which will be held in Vancouver on November 13 and 14, 2008.

The Customized Employment Demonstration Project participants are:

*CBI Consultants*

*Delta Community Living Society*

*Ladysmith & Area Community Link*

*The Langley Association for Community Living*

*POLARIS Employment Services Society*

*Powell River Association for Community Living*

*Semiahmoo House Society*

*Vancouver Island Vocational & Rehabilitation Services*

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