

Employment Profiles

www.communitylivingbc.ca

Mike Palitti had always dreamed of owning and operating his own business.

Mike participates in Pacific Developmental Pathways in Abbotsford. The program, which also has offices in Langley and Chilliwack, focuses on paid employment, volunteer work, community access and life skills.

In 2003, Mike used to wash Pathways supervisor Cherlyne Colling's car. He also washed his father's car on a regular basis and was always told he did a terrific job.

At the time he was looking for employment options and decided to start a carwash.

To promote his new business, Mike created flyers and delivered them to people he knew in the community and at Pathways. Through advertising and word-of-mouth, the business soon took off.

Mike was so busy he took on Derek Duncan as a partner.



Depending on the weather, the business is usually open from March until November. The service includes an exterior wash, rinse and dry; window cleaning; interior vacuuming; Armor All for the dash board and door panels; and washing of the door frames. The trunk can be vacuumed on request.

Costs vary depending on the vehicle: cars are \$14, minivans are \$20 and trucks or vans are \$24.

Two dollars from each wash goes back into buying equipment and supplies. The rest is split between Mike and the people who helped wash the vehicle.

Being a businessman, Mike is always looking for more cost effective ways to run the car wash. For cleaning the windows, he switched from paper towels to micro fibre cloths which he finds are less expensive and do a better job.

Mike is also meticulous about his work and expects the same from his employees. He inspects every vehicle before it leaves the lot to make sure it has been cleaned to his standards.

In the future, Mike hopes to move on to other work and leave the car wash to others. His big dream is to open a restaurant. With his personal drive and experience, this dream is sure to come true.

To learn about Pacific Developmental Pathways, please visit www.pacific-pathways.com.

For more information on employment, visit the CLBC website under [What We Do > Employment](#).

If you have any questions, please contact your local CLBC Community Living Centre. The contact information for these centres can be found on the CLBC website under [Your Community > Community Contacts](#). You can also contact Barb Penner, CLBC Employment Initiative Project Manager, at 250-861-7369 or by e-mail at Barb.Penner@gov.bc.ca.