

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2008HSD0027-001137
July 22, 2008

Ministry of Housing and Social Development

NEW SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

VICTORIA – The Ministry of Housing and Social Development and Community Living BC have awarded contracts worth \$1.1 million annually for three years to eight community-based service providers to deliver customized employment services to developmentally disabled British Columbians, announced Rich Coleman, Minister of Housing and Social Development.

The ministry and CLBC are each providing \$550,000 annually for a three-year Customized Employment Demonstration Project that will run from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011 in the Vancouver area, Fraser Valley and on Vancouver Island.

“We know that many adults with developmental disabilities have the motivation, education and abilities to be valuable members of our workforce, yet they still face multiple challenges when pursuing employment,” said Coleman. “We are pleased to be working collaboratively with CLBC and community partners on a project that will expand employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.”

Customized employment is an approach designed to help developmentally disabled people find and keep employment uniquely tailored to their individual needs.

The successful service providers, noted below, will work closely with individuals to fully understand their needs, strengths and interests and identify employment goals and then use this information to negotiate with an employer the ideal conditions of employment so that the needs of both the individual and employer are met.

Service Provider	Service Area
CBI Consultants	Vancouver
Delta Community Living Society	Delta and surrounding areas
Ladysmith & Area Community Link (Community Link)	Ladysmith, Cedar, Yellow Point
The Langley Association for Community Living	Langley
POLARIS Employment Services Society	Tri Cities
Powell River Association for Community Living	Powell River
Semiahmoo House Society	South Surrey and White Rock area
Vancouver Island Vocational & Rehabilitation Services (VIVRS)	Nanaimo and Port Alberni

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

The project will be monitored and best practices documented and shared with other service providers to serve as a blueprint for future services and improve overall employment services.

These services are part of government's \$20-million-a-year Employment Program for Persons with Disabilities (EPPD).

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