

For immediate release
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\$175,000 Boosts Specialized Employment Services

SURREY—Fifty-one Surrey residents with employment barriers will benefit from new local services worth \$175,000 annually. These services are now available through Back in Motion Rehab for persons with learning, developmental, mental health and other neurological disabilities.

"I'm pleased to help announce support for those who have difficulty entering the workforce due to a disability," says Surrey-Panorama MLA Stephanie Cadieux. "The LMA agreement will allow for new opportunities in part-time and full-time employment, as well as encourage self-employment. This is a great demonstration of our commitment to the economy and to the growth of our community."

"The work of Back in Motion is a great asset to Surrey and the Lower Mainland," says Surrey-Tynehead LA Dave S. Hayer. "Through their efforts and this agreement, we are working to create the best chance of success for our residents with disabilities and their future employers. Our government is once again showing its support for innovative approaches to strengthen Surrey."

Under the Labour Market Agreement (LMA), the Government of Canada is providing the Province approximately \$66 million annually until 2012/13. Through a variety of programs, these funds will increase training for individuals who are low-skilled and require essential skills, or who require recognized credentials to reach their full potential in the current marketplace. They will also help increase access to training for unemployed individuals who are not currently Employment Insurance (EI) clients including but not limited to those who are underrepresented in the labour market.

A total of 11 contracts serving various locations throughout the province have been awarded and signed. In 2009, a contract was awarded to Back in Motion Rehab to help serve the City of Surrey.

"Back in Motion, in partnership with Pacific Community Resources and the Ministry of Housing and Social Development, is pleased to announce the start of this exciting new program—Customized Employment," says Dr. Debbie Samsom, President of Back in Motion. "This is a specialized employment service for persons with significant disabilities who require more individualized, intensive resources than are typically offered in traditional employment programs. I'm thrilled this funding will assist this vital service, placing special emphasis on youth with disabilities, transitioning from school to work."

Province wide it's expected approximately 568 individuals will benefit from these services over the three year contract term, which commenced on July 1, 2009.

Service providers will work with the individual, their family and the community to create employment situations that embrace the individual's "ideal conditions of employment," and provide necessary workplace supports, both to the individual and employers.

These new employment services support the Ministry's commitment to provide British Columbians with access to the best system of supports in Canada and meet a stated goal that clients achieve sustainable employment through flexible and individualize employment programming.

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