



NEWS RELEASE

GRANTS GIVE MORE OPTIONS FOR ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES WHO HAVE RECENTLY LEFT SCHOOL

Vancouver, February 13, 2007 – Community Living BC (CLBC) will provide four groups with funding to support young adults with developmental disabilities who have left school within the last three years to obtain employment or engage in meaningful community activities. The Young Adults Community Options Initiative provided \$156,000 for two one-time grants and one three-year grant to assist individuals in this age-bracket in an innovative way.

Gibsons Family Network will help up to six young adults create, own and operate two food kiosks in recreation centres in Sechelt and Gibsons. Summerland Community Support will assist two young men to set up a small business that focuses on yard clean up and paper shredding. The goal is for the businesses to be self-sustaining after one year.

A three-year grant was awarded to Theatre Terrific to support the Classic Project. A new play, featuring a cast of both disabled and non-disabled actors, will be created by using workshops, readings and research into the many disabled roles depicted in classical plays. The group hopes the play will be presented in 2009, during the Cultural Olympiad in 2010, and in follow-up tours. Actors with disabilities will receive classical theatre training, be paid as actors and perform in venues and festivals in BC and across Canada.

CBI Consultants Ltd. will conduct a research project in Surrey/Delta/Richmond on how to best support up to five people with significant disabilities to gain supported employment opportunities. This project is based on the work of Dr. Paul Wehman, an expert on employment, and will include a variety of community partners such as school district personnel and the Chamber of Commerce. Project outcomes will be shared province wide.

CLBC's commitment to innovation will help pave the way for sustainable, person-focused approaches to developing, funding and implementing needed supports and services. CLBC has also developed an innovation framework designed to promote innovative thinking and practice within CLBC, the community living field and the broader community.

In April, CLBC is co-sponsoring an Innovations Expo – an open forum of discussion in which information, ideas, and success stories will be shared amongst social service organizations, individuals, self-advocates, family members and loved ones of persons with disabilities.

Community Living BC is the Crown agency responsible for providing support and services to people with developmental disabilities, children with special needs and their families in British Columbia. It has a board of self-advocates, family and community members, as well as staff located throughout the province. It believes that people with developmental disabilities and their families know best when it comes to their needs, goals and planning for the future.

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