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Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market
Development
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

PROVINCE INVESTS \$5.2 MILLION INTO SKILLS TRAINING

VICTORIA – The Province is investing \$5.2 million in training programs to help nearly 1,000 unemployed British Columbians acquire the skills they need to transition back to the labour force or into further education, announced Moira Stilwell, Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development.

“The Employment Skills Access Program is another example of how the B.C. and federal governments are working together to provide new options for the unemployed, helping them to find and maintain meaningful employment and further educational opportunities,” said Stilwell. “Our public post-secondary institutions are well positioned to provide British Columbians with a full range of training so they can transition to the work force with enhanced skills during this difficult economic period.”

British Columbia Institute of Technology, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, Royal Roads University, Simon Fraser University and the University of Northern British Columbia will offer a total of 17 intakes across 10 different programs that will provide unemployed workers with general employment skills or job-specific skills, such as industrial material handling and logistics and software systems development.

To be eligible for these programs, individuals need to be unemployed and non-Employment Insurance (EI) clients. The Province is providing a total of \$1.5 million to the five institutions.

“It is clear that the jobs of tomorrow will require additional skills and training,” said the Honourable Diane Finley, the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development. “That is why we are pleased to work with the B.C. Government and support programs that will help British Columbians come out of this economic downturn better prepared for the jobs of the future.”

Another \$3.7 million has been provided to fund a labour market consortium made up of 15 colleges and universities to fund training for at least 615 students across the province. The consortium model features a “hub” providing centralized co-ordination, support and shared expertise among the 15 member institutions that will deliver training in response to client and labour demands in their respective regions. The consortium approach supports government’s goal of enhanced system collaboration.

The B.C. government, working with academic, industry and other partners, is enabling British Columbians to gain the skills needed to successfully participate in our provincial labour market, and respond positively to changing workplace demands.

Under the Labour Market Agreement (LMA), the Government of Canada is providing the Province with approximately \$66 million annually until 2013-14. 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 EI clients, including, but not limited to those who are underrepresented in the labour market.

For more information on the LMA, visit www.WorkBC.ca.

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