



FOR RELEASE
November 19, 2015

New agency opens to serve job seekers with disabilities

WHITEHORSE—The Workforce Information Networking Hub opened today to provide employment services to Yukoners with disabilities. Challenge Disability Resource Group will receive more than \$1 million through the Labour Market Development Agreement over the next three years to operate the new agency.

"The Yukon government is committed to helping Yukoners find and maintain jobs," Minister of Education Doug Graham said. "The Workforce Information Networking Hub will build on Challenge's expertise in job coaching and vocational planning to deliver employment services for job seekers with disabilities."

The Hub will provide a variety of services to Yukoners with disabilities, including employment counselling, case management, and referral to funding sources for disability accommodations, skills training, and work experience programs. The Hub will also provide job search services such as resume development and interview preparation, as well as public access to computers, photocopiers and fax machines.

"We are fully committed to ensuring greater accessibility and opportunities for Canadians with disabilities," federal Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities Carla Qualtrough said. "We will work closely with all provinces and territories, and provide funding to organizations, such as The Hub, that have been instrumental in helping people with disabilities find employment."

The Hub is one of five agencies in Yukon receiving funding to provide employment assistance services. Funding for these agencies comes from the Government of Canada through the Labour Market Development Agreement.

"Organizations such as The Hub are cornerstones in helping Canadians get the training they need to improve their skills and to find and keep good jobs," federal Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour MaryAnn Mihychuk said. "We are committing \$500 million more in Labour Market Development Agreement funding each year to help those receiving Employment Insurance rejoin the workforce. We're proud that we can help in this way."

"We at Challenge are envisioning the Workforce Information and Networking Hub as the much-needed link needed between specialized supports and mainstream labour market services," Challenge Disability Resource Group executive director Rick Goodfellow said. "We are very excited about our partnership with the Advanced Education branch and the opportunity to work with our community partners and local businesses to help our clients reach their full potential in the labour market."

The Hub is located in downtown Whitehorse at #203, 204 Black Street, down the hall from Employment Central.

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