

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Beacon Community Services will help Sidney and Gulf Islands clients find work as part of new Employment Program of British Columbia

VICTORIA – As a result of the Province’s new Employment Program of British Columbia, Beacon Community Services will deliver a comprehensive set of employment services in Sidney and on the Gulf Islands beginning in April 2012, Beacon CEO Isobel Mackenzie announced today.

“Beacon Community Services has a long history of helping local clients prepare for, and secure, meaningful employment,” Mackenzie said. “As the successful proponent in the Ministry of Social Development’s recent competitive process to select service providers for the Sidney and Southern Gulf Islands areas, we’re excited about the opportunity to help clients get and keep employment under the new Employment Program of British Columbia.”

The program will be delivered through WorkBC Employment Services Centres in communities across the province. Beacon Community Services will deliver a variety of employment services at its current location – soon to be a new WorkBC Employment Services Centre – on Third Street in Sidney and at a new Salt Spring Island satellite office for Gulf Islands clients. In addition, clients will be able to access services remotely. Saanich Peninsula and Gulf Islands clients will include all local unemployed Canadians, including those who receive employment insurance or income assistance, those who may require training or assistance with other issues to get work, and those who have disabilities or multiple barriers to employment.

“Our goal is to give unemployed British Columbians the supports and services they need to find and keep a job,” said Minister of Social Development Stephanie Cadieux. “These new WorkBC Employment Services Centres will provide easy access to supports and services to help unemployed people get back to work quickly.”

Clients will be individually assessed, provided with access to training and employment information and opportunities, and receive the supports they need for success in the world of work. Additionally, Beacon Community Services will help meet the employment needs of people with disabilities on the Westshore working with WorkLink Employment Society and will also assist people with multiple barriers in Victoria and Saanich working with GT Hiring Solutions.

Beacon is also proud to assist in the delivery of services to specialized populations through partnerships with:

- Amber Education Services;
- Bridges for Women Society;
- Victoria Disability Resource Centre;

- Intercultural Association (ICA);
- Island Deaf & Hard of Hearing (IDHHC);
- John Howard Society of Victoria;
- PEERS;
- READ Society
- Reger Group;
- TYES; and the
- Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS).

Beacon's new employment storefront and satellite offices are scheduled to open April 2, 2012.

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