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Service to people with disabilities expands

Laura Walz -- Peak Editor

A provincial organization teams up with a Powell River group to complement existing program

A Powell River organization mandated to ensure people with disabilities receive all necessary services has formed a new partnership with a provincial organization.

Model Community Project (MCP) is partnering with Triumph Vocational Services, the largest service delivery association for the province's new Employment Program for Persons with Disabilities.

The new partnership offers expanded service to people with disabilities in Powell River. MCP will be providing on-the-job coaching, work experience and place-and-train support to complement Triumph's existing services in Powell River.

Triumph has been providing service in Powell River one day a week, explained Laurie Marshall, MCP employment program coordinator. "We'll help them to provide further services," she said. "Participants typically have disabilities or have barriers to employment due to lack of experience and skills."

Currently, Triumph has about 30 participants in Powell River and MCP has 45 participants in its own program. "Some of our participants are already mutual," said Marshall.

Participants will first be assessed by Triumph, then if they need work experience or more skills, MCP will find an employer for them and provide job coaching, said Marshall. "The job coach will be skilled in the area in which the participant is training," she said. "We'll match people with folks who need training."

For example, a coach skilled in the trades will help a participant gain entry-level skills, Marshall added. "Skilled individuals will job coach participants. I expect that job coaching opportunities may be available in the future."

The work experience part of the program places participants in a business or an area to help them gain experience leading to employment.



ON THE JOB: Catherine Young [left] recently received cashier training at Wal-Mart, where staff, including Rosemarie Beer [middle], assistant manager, and Chris Darbyshire, customer service manager, assisted her. The work experience came about through a new partnership between Model Community Project and Triumph Vocational Services.

The first work experience under the new partnership had a participant receive cashier training at Wal-Mart. Catherine Young received the training two hours a day, twice a week. "Wal-Mart staff provided the training," said Marshall. "We provided the job coaching when needed to assist them."

MCP, established in 1987, is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating a community of inclusion that is accessible to all, and grounded in the principles of equal opportunity and environmental stewardship.

In collaboration with Back in Motion Rehab Inc. and the ministry of employment and income assistance, Triumph creates opportunities in the workplace for people with disabilities in 19 communities throughout BC. It has helped clients attain more than 2,400 placements in the workforce and has facilitated more than 14,400 workshops. Its services include career exploration and employment planning, assessment, workshops and training, disability supports, work/volunteer experience and paid job placements.



The banner is a horizontal strip with a dark red background. On the left, there is a photograph of two women smiling. To their right are two property listings. The first listing shows a house with a price of \$369,000 and a 'More photos' link. The second listing shows a beach scene with a price of \$888,000 and a 'More photos' link. At the bottom of the banner, there is a dark red bar with white text containing phone numbers and a website URL.

4758 Quebec Avenue \$369,000 More photos →	6929 Victoria Street \$888,000 More photos →
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