

# FACTSHEET

[October 2009]

Ministry of Housing and Social Development

## REVISED BRIDGING EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

VICTORIA – The Ministry of Housing and Social Development has secured 18 service providers for 21 contracts in 30 locations for the revised Bridging Employment Program (BEP).

The \$5-million BEP, which has been in place since the fall of 2003, provides services to help abused women and former sex trade workers overcome barriers to employment that prevent them from making successful transitions to independence.

The design of the revised Bridging Employment Program will build on the experience of the original program by applying lessons learned and best practices research, including valuable stakeholder feedback.

Changes include:

- Expanding provincewide and increasing capacity to help a further 418 women (from 562 to 880 women per year);
- Addition of a “healing” component that will complement the program’s employment-related services;
- Change to continuous participant enrolment with flexible and individualized services,
- Development of a Personal Plan with each participant; and
- Inclusion of suitable non-Income Assistance participants in the program.

The revised Bridging Employment Program began in January 2009.

Communities Served	Service Provider
Victoria	Bridges for Women Society PEERS Victoria
Duncan	Cowichan Women Against Violence Society
Nanaimo and Port Alberni	Vancouver Island Vocational and Rehabilitation Services
Courtenay, Campbell River and Powell River	Comox Valley Transition Society
Vancouver	Vancouver Eastside Educational Enrichment Society PEERS Vancouver Battered Women's Support Services
Surrey	DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society

Burnaby	SUCCESS
Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Hope	Mennonite Central Committee
Burnaby	SUCCESS
Surrey	Newton Advocacy Group
Kelowna	Central Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society
Vernon	Community Futures Development Corp
Kamloops	Kamloops YM/YWCA
Penticton	South Okanagan Women in Need Society
Terrace, Kitimat, Prince Rupert and Smithers	Northwest Training Ltd
Prince George, Burns Lake and Fort St. John	Prince George and District Elizabeth Fry Society