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## FACTSHEET

Sept. 23, 2009

Ministry of Community and Rural Development

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST ASSISTS B.C. WORKERS**

- Through the Community Development Trust (CDT) initiative, the Province of British Columbia's three-pronged approach is committed to helping more than 7,500 workers, their families and communities.
- The CDT was first announced in May 2008 and the programs were developed in consultation with industry, labour and associations to directly assist forest workers impacted by the recent downturn in the forest industry.
- The funding is divided into three programs: Transition Assistance, Tuition Assistance and Job Opportunities.
- The \$85.5-million Transition Assistance Program has assisted more than 1,700 forest workers with \$65 million in support for 2008. The goal of the transition program is to assist more senior workers to transition to new opportunities or retirement.
- A new window for receiving Transition Assistance applications opened July 1 and closed Aug. 31, 2009. In recognition of the remaining limited funding, workers aged 60 and up as of Dec. 31, 2009 were eligible to apply. Over 1,000 applications have been received. Over half of these are already processed and approved with applicants notified of the results, committing a further \$14 million.
- Through the \$17.25-million Tuition Assistance Program, more than 2,700 people have been provided with access up to \$5,000 for retraining. The tuition funding is for forest workers who are expected to be on layoff for four months or longer. Applications are continually accepted throughout this three-year program.
- The \$86.25-million Job Opportunities Program (JOP) provides stability for workers and their communities, maintains the workforce during the economic downturn and helps British Columbians gain new skills to be successful in the future.
  - This funding includes \$26.25-million first announced as part of the \$129-million Community Development Trust in May 2008,
  - As well as \$30 million announced by the Province in its 2009/10 budget,
  - And up to \$30 million, announced by the Government of Canada on July 13, 2009, through its Community Adjustment Fund. Funding is being assessed on a project-by-project basis.

- The Island Coastal Economic Trust has also contributed up to \$2 million for capital costs related to projects on the North Island and coastal communities.
- 540 JOP project applications have been received. Project applications were accepted until July 24, 2009 in order to ensure as many jobs as possible for the summer and fall 2009. Projects are rated and approvals decided based on the higher rated projects with attention to geographic distribution. There's a final application window anticipated for January 2010.
- The funding creates immediate employment and expands the JOP to assist workers in all resource sectors and rural communities impacted by the economic downturn, including those that have experienced significant job losses, loss of a major employer and lack alternative employment opportunities.
- The following table shows the breakdown of CDT funding that has been committed benefitting workers and communities in each of the province's economic regions up to Aug. 31, 2009:

<i>Economic Region</i>	<i>Transitional Assistance</i>	<i>Tuition Assistance</i>	<i>Job Opportunities</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>Vancouver Island/Coast</b>	\$20,723,714	\$4,315,000	\$4,322,759	\$29,361,473
<b>Mainland/Southwest</b>	\$6,475,387	\$540,000	\$1,405,259	\$8,420,646
<b>Thompson Okanagan</b>	\$9,500,419	\$845,000	\$6,965,347	\$17,310,766
<b>Kootenay</b>	\$9,514,414	\$1,125,000	\$8,283,336	\$18,922,750
<b>Cariboo</b>	\$13,047,619	\$5,917,151	\$18,034,765	\$36,999,535
<b>North Coast</b>	\$1,395,024	\$135,000	\$5,479,853	\$7,009,877
<b>Nechako</b>	\$3,606,584	\$355,000	\$3,482,204	\$7,443,788
<b>North East</b>	\$597,074	\$410,000	\$3,074,783	\$4,081,857
<b>Outside BC</b>	\$270,738	\$30,000		\$300,738
<b>Projects with a provincial scope</b>			\$8,250,000	\$8,250,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$65,130,973</b>	<b>\$13,672,151</b>	<b>\$59,298,308</b>	<b>\$138,101,431</b>

- For more information, visit [www.cd.gov.bc.ca/cdt/](http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/cdt/) or call toll free 1-877-238-8882.

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