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## FACTSHEET

June 22, 2009

Ministry of Community and Rural Development

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

- Through the \$129-million Community Development Trust initiative, the Province of British Columbia's three-pronged approach has been able to help about 5,700 forest workers, their families and communities.
- The Community Development Trust 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. The goal of the transition program is to assist more senior workers to transition to new opportunities or retirement.
- A new window for applications for Transition Assistance will open July 1 and close Aug. 31, 2009. Workers aged 60 and up as of Dec. 31, 2009 are eligible to apply.
- Through the \$17.25-million Tuition Assistance program, approximately 2,200 people have been provided with access up to \$5,000 for retraining. The tuition funding is for workers who are expected to be on layoff for four months or longer. Applications are continually accepted throughout this three-year program.
- Under the \$26.25-million Job Opportunities program, more than 164 projects have been approved to date by the Ministry of Community and Rural Development, worth more than \$35 million. Once they are underway, these projects are anticipated to employ more than 1,610 people. Project applications will be accepted until July 17, 2009 in order to ensure as many jobs as possible for the summer and fall 2009.
- In addition, about 265 jobs have been created in Fort St. James and Mackenzie, two of the hardest hit forest communities in the province. This employment was provided by \$4 million, (\$2 million for each community) committed when the Community Development Trust was launched in May 2008, as well as an additional \$600,000 committed in April 2009.

- The Job Opportunities program provides stability for workers and communities, maintains the workforce during the economic downturn and helps British Columbians gain new skills to be successful in the future.
- The following table shows the breakdown of CDT funding that has gone to workers and Job Opportunities projects in each of the province's economic regions up to May 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>	\$20,903,002	\$3,155,000	\$1,564,257.58	\$25,622,259.58
<b>Mainland/Southwest</b>	\$6,476,783	\$385,000	\$239,989	\$7,101,772
<b>Thompson Okanagan</b>	\$9,375,020	\$670,000	\$3,208,677.53	\$13,253,697.53
<b>Kootenay</b>	\$9,016,989	\$925,000	\$5,829,017.36	\$15,771,006.36
<b>Cariboo</b>	\$13,052,088	\$4,925,000	\$5,401,814.25	\$23,378,902.25
<b>North Coast</b>	\$1,237,649	\$80,000	\$2,241,816.97	\$3,559,465.97
<b>Nechako</b>	\$3,622,217	\$260,000	\$1,532,682.44	\$5,414,899.44
<b>North East</b>	\$597,074	\$380,000	\$1,428,787.13	\$2,405,861.13
<b>Outside BC</b>	\$185,872	\$20,000		\$205,872
<b>Projects with a provincial scope</b>			\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$64,466,694</b>	<b>\$10,800,000</b>	<b>\$22,697,042.26</b>	<b>\$97,963,736.26</b>

- Through Budget 2009, the Province committed an additional \$30 million in funding for Job Opportunities projects. Staff are working to leverage an additional \$30 million from the federal Community Adjustment Fund based on the Provincial commitment.
- 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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