



news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Government of Canada helps people with barriers to employment in Miramichi develop job skills

Miramichi, New Brunswick, December 2, 2011—People who face barriers to employment will get work experience through government support for two employment projects. The announcement was made by Tilly O'Neill Gordon, Member of Parliament for Miramichi, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development.

“Our government’s top priority is jobs and the economy and it is more important than ever that all Canadians have the skills they need to participate and succeed in the job market,” said Ms. O'Neill Gordon. “Through projects such as these, we are helping Canadians develop the skills they need so they can overcome barriers and maximize their potential.”

With assistance from the Government of Canada, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals will receive more than \$12,000 and Autism Resources Miramichi Inc. will receive more than \$18,000 in federal funding from the Wage Subsidy component of the Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities.

These projects will help individuals with disabilities enhance their work skills through hands-on work experience that will help them prepare for lasting employment.

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This news release is available in alternative formats upon request.

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backgrounder

The Government of Canada is committed to breaking down barriers that prevent Canadians with disabilities from reaching their full potential with a wide range of effective policies, programs and services.

The Wage Subsidy component of the Opportunities Fund is designed to help Canadians with disabilities who have little or no work experience and who are not eligible for Employment Insurance benefits. The Fund is available to employers to encourage them to hire people with disabilities.

These employment programs are also part of the Government of Canada's broader strategy to create an educated, skilled and flexible workforce. The Government highlighted its commitment to this strategy in Canada's Economic Action Plan. A key element of the Plan includes increasing and improving opportunities available to Canadian workers through skills development. To learn more about Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit www.actionplan.gc.ca.