

March 13, 2009

Re: Celebrating Community-Based Trainers Week –2009

March 22-28, 2009 has officially been proclaimed as the second annual **Community-Based Trainers Week** by the Government of British Columbia. This week celebrates the contributions that community-based trainers make to empowering individuals and enriching communities throughout the province.

Community-based training (**CBT**) predates most other forms of education and training. Our goals are to assist all people in their efforts to become employable in jobs that are meaningful to them, and to provide relevant skills for the future.

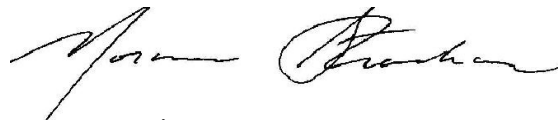
It is in times of adversity that community-based trainers truly demonstrate their value and expertise. When business and industry needs fluctuate, community-based trainers are there to help individuals reassess their goals and realign their skills, and to assist in maintaining workforce stability in communities by providing human resource solutions to businesses. Further, the community-based training (**CBT**) sector contributes to the overall economic development of British Columbia by assisting people with career assessments and planning, language training, preparation for work, employability skills, work search and job retention training. It isn't training from a textbook—it's individually focused training rooted in the community where clients live. It's flexible, culturally sensitive and cost effective for all. Most importantly, it simply makes sense.

The Community-based training (**CBT**) sector assists the Government of British Columbia achieve its goals to help people find and keep jobs. It also helps the province's most vulnerable residents obtain employability skills that enhance the quality of life for these employment disadvantaged individuals.

In these challenging economic times, community-based training (**CBT**) is more important than ever. Community-based training (**CBT**) agencies throughout BC remain ready to assist the government meet the workforce development challenges that lie ahead.

Please find enclosed an awareness ribbon. We encourage you to wear this ribbon from March 22 – 28 to celebrate the successes of the sector and demonstrate your support for continuation of community-based training (CBT) in British Columbia.

Yours truly,



Norma Strachan

Chief Executive Officer

The Association of Service Providers for Employability and Career Training (**ASPECT**)

BC's Community Based Trainers