

Shabnam Khan

When you've been out of the job market for a number of years raising a family, getting back into the paid workforce can be challenging. That's what Shabnam Khan of Richmond found when she wanted to find a full-time job after being at home with her two children, now aged 13 and 10, while they were younger.

"I had lost some of my skills," Shabnam said. "I needed help to get started again."

Shabnam went to the Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society (PICS) in Vancouver, where she got a hand getting back into the paid workforce through the PICS Wage Subsidy Program. "They helped me get organized, it was very helpful," she said.

Shabnam, who has a hearing disability, is now working full-time at the Richmond Disability Resource Centre as Administrative Office Assistant. Her employer has accommodated her disability by providing equipment such as phones with appropriate volume levels.

"I now have direct contact with the public in my new job," Shabnam said. "I always thought it would be difficult for me to deal with people but everyone here is very respectful and we all know each others' situation."

Shabnam says the wage subsidy program is an excellent stepping stone into the world of full-time work.

"It's a big help, especially for mothers who have been out of the workforce for a while. It's a great way to build up your skills. "

Shabnam is very happy in her new job and the fact she lives just five minutes away means she can finish work and get home easily to be with her family at days' end.



Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society (PICS) of Vancouver is a member of the Association of Service Providers for Employability and Career Training (ASPECT), a province-wide organization dedicated to community-based training. ASPECT's mandate is to promote and strengthen their members' capacity to provide services to people with barriers to employment.