

# **BCEP**

## ***BULLETS . . .***

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Bullet #12

April 2010

### **Information on the Economic Recovery Training Program & Implications for BCEP Clients**

To: MHSD Staff /BCEP Contractors

**Purpose:**

To provide information on the 'Economic Recovery Training Program' (ERTP) funded through the Canada – BC Labour Market Agreement. No action is required by BCEP funded contractors or EAWs.

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**Background:**

The ERTTP is a pilot program funded under the Strategic Training and Transition Fund, part of Canada's Economic Action Plan, to provide funding support for labour market skills training to eligible clients that are employment-ready, non-EI eligible and are legally entitled to work in Canada. This could include Ministry of Housing and Social Development income assistance clients. ERTTP is administered by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development through existing organizations that manage skills development funding programs in the communities where it will be delivered.

The program is expected to serve approximately 1,100 clients during its 17 month duration. The program will be piloted in communities that have been specifically identified as having significant populations of non-EI eligible unemployed job seekers. Services will be provided in North Vancouver Island, Thompson-Okanagan, Southern Cariboo (serving Williams Lake, Quesnel, 100 Mile House, Bella Coola) and the Kootenays.

Employment Assistance Services (EAS) offices are the **sole referral** source for the ERTTP pilot program and will assess client employment needs to determine if labour market skills training is a necessary and appropriate response to the client's labour market employability need. If through the assessment and development of a mutually agreed to Return to Work Action Plan labour market skills training is confirmed as necessary to support the client in obtaining suitable employment, the EAS will assist the client to apply for the program and provide ongoing support to help the client complete his/her Return to Work Action Plan.

**Procedures:**

The ministry's priority for all Expected to Work (ETW) clients is to assist them to acquire jobs as quickly as possible. For all ETW applicants, BCEP remains as the only referral option. It is expected that suitable clients with no employment obligations and others who

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have previously completed employment programs may be suitable candidates for ERTTP program acceptance.

Ministry clients who are accepted into the ERTTP will normally have their income assistance files closed as funding for living supports and program costs will come from LMA programming.

While the ministry will not be referring ETW applicants to the EAS for ERTTP assessment, it is likely that a small number of clients currently in BCEP may take the personal initiative to seek program admittance. In these cases, BCEP contractors may return/release clients who provide confirmation of acceptance into the ERTTP.

Questions relating to this *Bullets* may be sent to [BCEP@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCEP@gov.bc.ca).