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Third-Party News Release: Inclusion Powell River Society

New project asks inclusive employers in B.C. to share practices

POWELL RIVER – In time for Disability Employment Awareness Month, a new research project is asking inclusive employers to share how they are providing disability-inclusive employment options to British Columbians.

The New Inclusive Economy research project will produce a set of promising practices for employers and entrepreneurs who want to be more inclusive and equitable. The two-year project is hosted by Inclusion Powell River Society, a non-profit charitable organization founded in 1954, which promotes a safe, inclusive community where everyone belongs.

“It is essential that employers throughout B.C. are exposed to the opportunity that this project brings to light. With staff shortages, retention and recruitment issues being prevalent today, every potential solution warrant consideration,” said Arlette Raaen, board director and governance committee member for Inclusion Powell River Society. “The New Inclusive Economy presents a solution that provides mutual benefits between employers and their prospective employees.”

Inclusive employers are looking for new possibilities around workplace accommodations, and the results of this project will help provide answers. Research results of this project will be published and shared in the summer and fall of 2023.

“This is a very exciting project that draws on the existing practices of inclusive employers in B.C. to understand how other employers can become more equitable and inclusive of individuals with disabilities,” said Nicholas Simons, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and Powell River-Sunshine Coast MLA. “In addition, this project will help us understand what supports employers need to create and maintain a disability-inclusive workplace.”

The New Inclusive Economy project is funded through the Sector Labour Market Partnerships program, which is providing \$803,014 towards this project.

“We are proud to fund research that will advance inclusive practices for B.C.-based employers through the Sector Labour Market Partnerships program, which invests in projects that help industry and employers understand and respond to labour market changes,” said Anne Kang, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training. “By investing in research like this, we gain valuable insight into how to make workplaces equitable, accessible, and meaningful for individuals with disabilities in British Columbia.”

All B.C.-based employers are encouraged to participate in the project and take the online survey:

<https://newinclusiveeconomy.ca/take-the-survey/>. The survey is open online from September until mid-October 2022.