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NEWS RELEASE

FROM: Pacific Region
Department of Manpower and Immigration
Local Initiatives Program

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Some 129 jobs at a federal cost of \$1.2 million will be created by projects in British Columbia approved under the Local Employment Assistance Program (LEAP).

Jack VanderLoo, Director General, Pacific Region, of the Department of Manpower and Immigration, said Manpower Minister Robert Andras has approved 13 new LEAP projects, including five on the Lower Mainland, five in the Vancouver Island area, one on the Sechelt Peninsula and two in the Interior.

The latest LEAP approvals bring the number of jobs created in B.C. and the Yukon to 258 through 23 projects funded with federal contributions of \$2.1 million.

The new projects include a cooperative textile cottage industry based in Victoria for women across the province, production of a standard distress signal flag by the physically handicapped in the Surrey-Delta area and operation of a newly-erected automotive wrecking yard on the Osoyoos Indian Band Reserve.

VanderLoo said that LEAP is a very different program from the Local Initiatives Program, both of which are managed by Manpower's Job Creation Branch.

"While LIP is intended to relieve seasonal unemployment," he said, "LEAP is designed for unemployed and disadvantaged people, to involve them in developing and managing innovative projects over a long term."

VanderLoo explained that LEAP-funded projects create jobs for people who are not likely to be employed through the regular or seasonal labour market.

Funding can be provided for up to three years, and there may also be a developmental period prior to a long-range contract with Manpower.

VanderLoo said that in LEAP projects, participants learn or update vocational skills; others acquire life skills to cope with new or changing day-to-day situations. All employment is geared to the future continuing self-sufficiency of the project participants.

He said LEAP project officers are working in the field to seek out groups of disadvantaged unemployed people and work with them to develop projects that will be staffed and managed by the project participants.

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51-0016-1 Slocan Valley Forest Use Winlaw
\$ 49,999 To research and develop a plan concerning the feasibility for community use of the Slocan Valley forest. Forest utilization, production, contract areas, ecology and salvage will be studied. The project will produce a report determining the costs and implementation and marketing possibilities that could provide permanent employment for local citizens.
Conrad Evans - 227-7621
Jobs - 9 Man Weeks - 221

51-0040-1 B. C. Textile Centre Victoria
\$ 25,866 To study the feasibility of developing a co-operative textile industry that will provide the organization and training experience for unemployed women in B. C. who wish to work seriously at crafts in order to provide a self-sufficient income. As a developmental project, workers will make further contacts with crafts people and buyers, analyze the feasibility of the cooperative, organize the Second Annual Fibres Festival and develop the organizational structure of the co-operative.
Mary Cook - 598-3739
Jobs - 4 Man Weeks - 104

51-0043-1 Distress Aid Signal for Handicapped (D.A.S.H.) North Delta
\$ 48,775 To produce a standard distress signal flag on a piece-work basis by the physically handicapped in the Surrey-Delta area. The flag will be universally recognized as a call for help by a handicapped person. The project can be undertaken by the home-bound, one of the most difficult groups for Manpower to help.
Mrs. Marjorie Kiiskila or Mrs. Sheila Lockert - 594-1356
Jobs - 7 Man Weeks - 340

51-0047-1 Brackendale Community Gallery Brackendale
\$ 32,811 To provide local operating staff for the centre's gallery and restaurant and train them on the job in the various revenue and community coordinating functions. The project will provide training and recreational programs for Squamish and Brackendale areas; and a coordinating point for community groups and local agencies.
Thor Froslev - 898-3333
Jobs - 3 Man Weeks - 156

51-0048-1 Comox Indian Band Lumber Operation Courtenay
\$ 40,716 Along with funding from the Department of Indian Affairs, this project will establish a logging and lumbering operation in Kelsey Bay on the Salmon River Reserve of the Comox Indian Band. The project will provide employment for native people who are currently seasonally employed or on unemployment insurance.
Norman Frank - 339-4545
Jobs - 7 Man Weeks - 182


51-0049-1 Cortes Island Wood Products Co-operative Cortes Island
\$ 153,472 To provide year-round employment for residents of an employment-depressed area in the production of shakes and shingle blocks. The project will create employment for local community members through a cooperative in which the participants can realize satisfaction of becoming self-supporting.
Jim Hansen - 935-6531
Jobs - 16 Man Weeks - 832

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- 51-0050-1 The General Store Victoria
\$ 41,080 To provide training and community exposure to ex-mental patients re-entering the labour market who need group support and the opportunity to develop new skills or reinforce former skills. The General Store is a retail outlet for groceries, crafts and baked goods as well as a coffee shop. Other than groceries, all items will be produced by handicapped individuals.
Mrs. Joan Dumka - 385-7758
Jobs - 6 Man Weeks - 312
- 51-0051-1 Inkameep Wrecking Yard Oliver
\$ 72,000 To develop a competent Native work force and operate a newly-erected wrecking yard on the Osoyoos Indian Band Reserve. Project aims to become self-sufficient by selling used automotive parts and performing mechanical and bodyshop work.
Chief James Stelkia - 498-3408
Jobs - 8 Man Weeks - 416
- 51-0052-1 Pacific Women's Graphic Arts Co-operative Vancouver
\$ 138,748 To develop a women's single parent cooperative to provide a layout advertising service for small merchants for publication in neighbourhood newspapers. Child minding services for project participants will be provided in or near the work situation so that the children under six years will be close by.
Lynn McKenzie - 685-7750
Jobs - 12 Man Weeks - 624
- X 51-0053-1 Incentive Crafts New Westminster
\$ 135,279 To rehabilitate ex-mental patients to the point where they are able to work regularly through the medium of crafts and retail sales. Ex-patients referred by Riverview Hospital will learn aspects of wholesale and retail business as well as office procedures common to any business. Work includes recycling furniture, sewing, weaving, wood carving, lapidary and silver smithing, resin crafts, painting and glass staining.
Jean Svennes - 581-1488
Jobs - 18 Man Weeks - 936
- 51-0054-1 Westernesse Production Centre Co-op Vancouver
\$ 199,960 To train representatives of community groups in media skills and production and to provide radio medium access on FM to groups which have severe problems in communicating their case to the community at large. Project is in response to new Canadian Radio & Television Commission policy encouraging community access to FM band broadcasting and program content.
Michael Barden - 738-7864
Jobs - 20 Man Weeks - 1040
- 51-0055-1 Champlain Heights Community Services Vancouver
\$ 145,855 To improve the total environment and quality of living for the residents of Champlain Heights. The project includes day care for children, training residents for home aide services, teaching and job counselling for new Canadians and information services. Sponsored by the Champlain Heights Community School Citizens Committee.
Mrs. P. Masih - 433-0638
Jobs - 19 Man Weeks - 988

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51-0056-1 House Savers Victoria
\$ 126,487 Relocating and dismantling of houses provided to the Spring Ridge Cooperative Housing Association by provincial government. Project emphasizes rehabilitation of as many houses as possible to be used as low-income housing in the Spring Ridge area. Workers chosen from Victoria Community Welfare Workers Pool with preference given to welfare recipients who reside in the Spring Ridge area.
Dana Weber - 385-7171
Jobs - 12 Man Weeks - 624

51-0006-1 Mental Patients Association Vancouver
\$152,242.00 To provide work experience and training for former mental patients in the area of para-medical work. Potential employment with various mental health facilities as well as funding for residence coordination through the aquisition of community care facility licenses.

Lanny Beckman - 738-5177
Jobs - 20 Man weeks - 1040

51-0010-1 Consumer Resource Service Victoria
\$85,002.16 To provide a day-by-day operation of a wholesale warehouse; training volunteer and welfare incentive workers; a boat service possibly, servicing coastal communities; and a recycling program for the people in towns and cities.
Mr. Paul Phillips - 385-7171
Jobs - 12 Man weeks - 624

51-0004-1 Vancouver Society for Total Education Vancouver
\$74,140.00 To employ young people to be of benefit to the community through direct service in home care, transportation information centre, support of various neighbourhood groups, and home maintenance and repairs if feasible.
Total Education Society - 879-6626
Jobs - 10 Man weeks - 520