

Marius Miklea

From: Natalie Szewczyk <Natalie.Szewczyk@opendoorgroup.org>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 4:09 PM
Subject: Provincial Wage Subsidy Program & Other WorkBC Programs
Attachments: WorkBC Wage Subsidy Infographic - Sea to Sky.png; Wage Subsidy Webinar Poster - Sea to Sky.png

Dear Mayor and Council

My Name is Natalie and I am the Program Manager for the sea to sky WorkBC Employment Services centre in our region. I am writing to the mayor and council with the hopes you may share and advocate for employment related services that are offered through WorkBC which are part of the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. In efforts to share vital information not only to job seekers, but for local employers. Recently, WorkBC has expanded a federally funded program of Wage Subsidy that normally required Employment Insurance attachment of an eligible criteria of a job seeker. This EI related Wage Subsidy program is geared towards prospective employers as an incentive to hire an individual who may lack some skills and/or education, where in turn the employer would have a portion of the new employees' wages subsidized for a period of time. In November of 2020, the BC Government, expanded the eligibility of this program considerably to address the labour demands that have been created during COVID. We are happy to share that most of the eligibility criteria as been amended to best support individual seeking employment and employers looking to hire new or rehire previously laid off staff.

As the regional employment service centre for the sea to sky area, we are working closely with the provincial government and provincial training institutions to offer more training opportunities to residents in the sea to sky area (Squamish to Mount Currie) – most importantly help people access services to gain employment. In addition to this, we are also members of some of the local economic groups who are also advocating for similar resources in our communities. There are a number of services that are available to support these initiatives with funding to be accessed. At this time, many of these initiatives are dedicated to COVID recovery efforts to help the labour force in our area, however have existed prior to COVID. Services such as:

- [Wage Subsidy](#)
- [Project Based Labour Market Training](#)
- [Job Creation Partnerships](#)

We are seeking to partner with our local municipalities to help champion and spread the word regarding these services to our community of residents and also business. We feel there are resources that can truly help communities regain some stability in the current labour market as well as growth in other areas of the economy. As the most tangible service currently available and in active demand is our Wage Subsidy service. This service can help local employers and also job seekers fill the vacancies that are so desperately needed in many areas which make our communities rich and vibrant. Below is information that may be of interest and we are happy to further discuss how we can better support our communities access the funding, support and resources which WorkBC can offer. We truly believe in cultivating community driven relationships and leveraging the support and advocacy of our local municipal government.

Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions or would like to further discuss how we can further assist.

Upcoming Event - Monthly Employer Information Sessions:

4th Wednesday of every Month at 3pm – see attached poster. Next session Wednesday Feb 24th

Key highlights about the program:

WAGE SUBSIDY

The WorkBC Wage Subsidy program covers a part of employee wages so employers can hire job seekers and provide work opportunities. Both unemployed individuals and employers in B.C. can benefit from WorkBC Wage Subsidy.

To learn more, please visit: <https://www.workbc.ca/Employment-Services/Wage-Subsidy.aspx>

Or contact your Sea to Sky WorkBC Centre at 604-639-1743 | centre-squamish@workbc.ca

Best regards,

Natalie Szewczyk | Program Manager

WorkBC Employment Services Centre – Squamish | Whistler | Pemberton | Mt. Currie

T: 604.639.1743

F: 604-898-1670

A: 302 - 37989 Cleveland Ave, Squamish, BC V8B 0A8

	www.workbc.ca	 
Operating on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), St'át'imc and Lil'wat Nations.	 This program is funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia. Ce programme est financé par le gouvernement du Canada et la province de la Colombie-Britannique	