



March 2007

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**PAT BELL**
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and Make a Difference
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### ROCKY MOUNTAINEER VACATIONS ADDRESSES THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

On March 26, Ian Robertson of Rocky Mountaineer Vacations will be speaking to members of the Chamber of Commerce at a luncheon located at the Royal Canadian Legion from 12:00-1:00.

Mr. Robertson will be providing an overview of what to expect in 2008.

Tickets are \$10 for Chamber members and \$12 for non-members and can be purchased at the Quesnel Visitor Information Centre Tuesday- Saturday 9am-4pm. This event may sell out early so purchase a ticket in advance to ensure a seat.

## “Agriculture Plan” for BC

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, the Honourable **Pat Bell, Minister of Agriculture** will address Chamber Members from 11:30-1:30 at the Billy Barker Casino Hotel. Tickets are \$12 and must be purchased in advance at the Visitor Centre (992-8716). This plan is based on 2 years worth of work by Val Roddick and her MLA Team and I think we have really hit the mark. It's based on growing for the local market as well as taking advantage of environmental stewardship, small Family niche operations, First Nations capacity and building stronger linkages between Urban BC and our Farmers. If you would like a complete copy please go to [http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/Agriculture\\_Plan/Agriculture\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/Agriculture_Plan/Agriculture_Plan.pdf).

Some of the 69 action items include:

1. Contribute \$1.0 million/year to promote local agricultural products and develop a B.C. brand.
2. Fund with \$1.0 million/year and implement a "Food Miles" project to reduce GHG emissions associated with food purchases.
3. Support direct farm sales through Farmers Markets Directory (brochure), Farmers Markets Newsletter and Farm Fresh Guides (in four regions).
4. All public schools will have an opportunity to apply for the School Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program by 2010. (364 schools to date.)
5. Increase adoption of Environmental Farm Planning program with investment of \$2-3.0 million for 2008/09.
6. Fund \$4.0 million/year (seeking federal matching funds of \$6.0 million/year) to implement a new Provincial Agriculture Zone Wildlife Program, which will integrate prevention, mitigation and compensation strategies.
7. Integrate silvopasture into rangeland tenures.
8. Regional invasive plant initiatives undertaken by local weed committees
9. Transfer responsibility for delivery of Agri-Stability (CAIS) program to the Province.
10. Provide material and staff support to the Western Agriculture Labour Initiative (WALI) to provide a single window approach to employers for the provision of temporary foreign workers.
11. Work with Advanced Education to establish priorities for agricultural curriculum in B.C. colleges.
12. Increase extension staff (\$500,000/year). E.g. Summer Extension Assistance Program and "Greenhouse" positions strategy.



## Five Ways to Get Ahead AND Make a Difference!

If you're an employer looking to grow your team *and* make a difference in your community, JobWave has 5 easy hiring solutions you may want to consider.

Let us help you choose the best fit for your company:

- 1) Full-time paid employment
- 2) Part-time paid employment
- 3) Job Shadowing
- 4) Volunteering
- 5) Work Experience




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### Did you know?

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People with disabilities:

- Represent 300,000 working age people in BC.
- Rate average or better than their non-disabled colleagues on attendance, job performance and work safety.
- Represent \$25 billion in spending power in Canada.
- For the most part, cost less than \$500 to accommodate.

Community Living British Columbia

Dave Sutton  
992-4104  
Or

Bonnie Fallowfield, Open  
Doors Committee  
992-3155

By thinking outside the box when it comes to hiring, you can create an opportunity for someone who has been under-employed and is motivated to get back into the workforce. We make sure that the best fit for you is also the best fit for our candidate; together, we create win-win opportunities.

Whether you're looking for part-time or full-time help, volunteers or trainees, we have a match for you!

For more information, call us today at **1-888-JOBWAVE**

ESP Consulting

250-392-4446

1-866-392-4446

or

Walter Marin,

Employment Solutions Representative

1-888-562-9283

***JobWave is delivered by WCG International HR Solutions in partnership with the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance. WCG has helped employers fill over 68,000 job openings since 1995.***

## Finding The Untapped Labour Force

Where can you find the employees that you need? Tired of never knowing where your employees come from? Want to connect to a whole new labour pool, give back to your community, and save money at the same time?

Come meet Quesnel self-advocates who would like to show you their value as employees.

Quesnel Employment Skills Fair  
Thursday, March 27, 2008  
12:30 pm to 4:30 pm  
Quesnel & District Seniors' Centre  
461 Carson Avenue, Quesnel

## Community Futures Presents:

### “Creating Retail Image”

With Heddy Bing

Recharge your creative batteries and learn how to create a current and inviting retail environment for your products. **Creating Retail Image**, with guest speaker Heddy Bing, President of Visual display Services Inc. March 17, 6:30 pm at the Tower Inn in Quesnel will show you how.

Heddy is a sought-after consultant in the field of visual merchandising, store design and window display. A speaker, writer, consultant and educator who specializes in store design, she enjoys helping retailers create exciting environments that attract attention and sell products

Creating Retail Image is one example of a seminar Community Futures coordinates to help their peer mentoring group, the Quesnel Business Exchange (QBE), develop their business strategies. The QBE is a local group of business owners who meet monthly to discuss strategic business issues.

Tickets Cost: \$50 for 2 people  
\$35 for an individual \*

\*South Quesnel Business Association and Downtown association members pricing on single tickets is \$25.

For further information on the Quesnel Business Exchange or to purchase tickets for the *Creating Retail Image* presentation, contact Donna at 747-1212.

## MARCH IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH

It is that time of year when the annual Chamber memberships are due. We are always looking for ways to add value to your membership investment. This year we are offering an exclusive opportunity; Chamber members will be able to rack one brochure at the Visitor Centre free of charge. For even greater exposure become a member of the North Cariboo Marketing Team which will provide you, in addition to racking one free brochure, a basic listing and link to your site from [www.NorthCariboo.com](http://www.NorthCariboo.com) and other great co-operative discount rates.

We would like to thank you for your continued investment in the Chamber of Commerce.



### Canadian Cancer Society's Daffodil Sales

Spring is just around the corner smiling anxiously to share it's nature's beauty.

Pre-sales have started!

\$3.00 per bunch of 10

Please support the local Canadian Cancer Society and buy a bunch or two! They will be calling & faxing all the businesses again this year.

## MEMBER PROFILE – BC HomeShows Ltd.

**Quesnel Home & Garden Show May 2, 3 & 4, 2008 at the Quesnel & District Twin Arenas.**

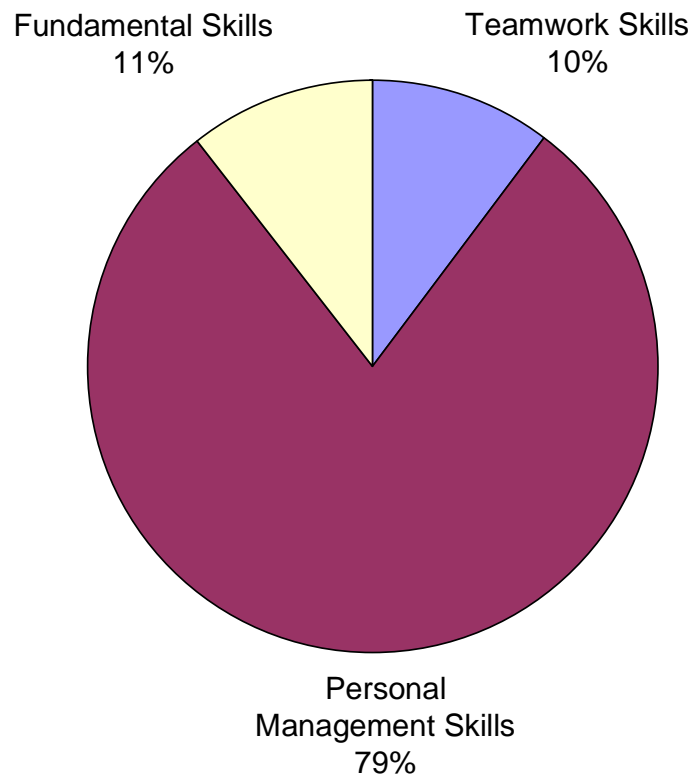
For further information please do not hesitate to visit our website at:

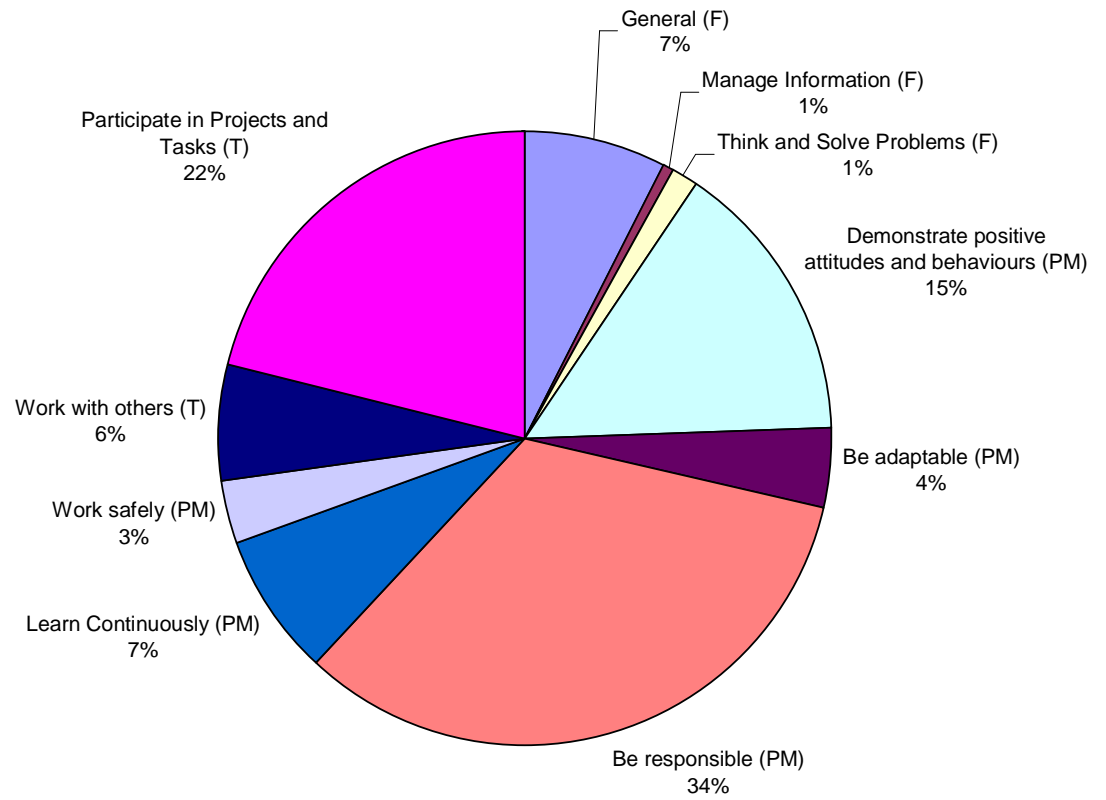
[www.bchomeshows.com](http://www.bchomeshows.com)  
or email  
[info@bchomeshows.com](mailto:info@bchomeshows.com)  
or phone 250-377-8380.

## School District 28 Interviews Businesses to Identify Needs

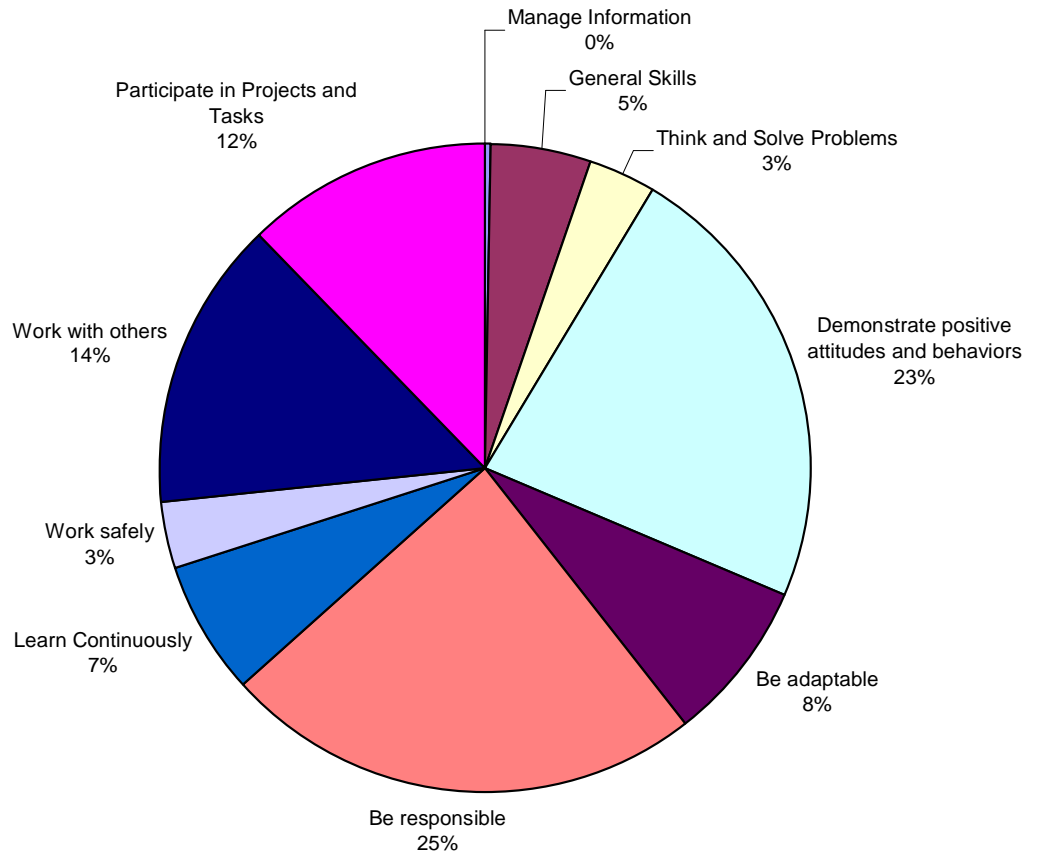
Ed Coleman, District Coordinator, Manager Cottonwood House Historic Site, Manager Helen Dixon Centre, School District 28, recently interviewed 100 businesses to identify opportunities to link employers with future employees. The following three pages list the results.

Employment Preparation 2007 - What Quesnel & District Employers Desire in Youth Employees



**Areas Where Student Improvement is Needed 2007**

Characteristics and Skills Quesnel & District Employers are Looking For 2007



**CELEBRATE, REMEMBER, FIGHT BACK!**  
**Relay For Life, Saturday May 24 11am – 11pm**

Canadian Cancer Society *Relay For Life* is more than just a fundraiser. It is a celebration of hope, survival, and a tribute to the lives of loved ones. It is an inspirational 12 hour non-competitive relay, where teams of 8 – 12 participants take turns walking around a track. Teams consist of people representing corporations, communities, families and friends.

*Relay For Life* begins with a Survivor Lap in **celebration** of those who have triumphed in their fight against cancer. At dusk, a moving Luminary ceremony takes place so we can **remember** those we have lost and honor those who are fighting the battle. Candle-lit bags are loving tributes which line the track as we take a moment for reflection.

Join us on May 24 as we journey towards a cure for cancer by:

- Entering a team from your business and work together to collect donations. Team packages are available at the Canadian Cancer Society Resource Centre, 332 Front St. Office hours are 10 - 3, Monday to Friday. You can also register online at [www.cancer.ca/relay](http://www.cancer.ca/relay).
- Become a sponsor of the event and receive public recognition of your support.
- Make a donation to Relay For Life.

The Canadian Cancer Society is a national, community based organization of volunteers whose mission is the eradication of cancer and the enhancement of the quality of life of those living with cancer. The CCS is the leader in research funding, cancer prevention, advocacy, and patient support services. The Canadian Cancer Society *Relay For Life* is the biggest cancer event, to make the biggest difference, in the world!

Help the Canadian Cancer Society to **fight back** against cancer and create a world where no Canadian fears cancer! Did you know:

- There are over 200 types of cancer.
- The Canadian Cancer Society provides support for people living with **all types of cancer**.
- The Canadian Cancer Society is the largest charitable funder of cancer research.
- **50% of cancers can be prevented!**  
0 exposure to tobacco  
Eat 5 to 10 servings of fruit and vegetables daily  
Participate in at least 30 minutes of activity most days.

Funds raised through Relay For Life will be used for research, to help increase cancer awareness, and to support the programs and services of the CCS. Some of these services are:

- Resource offices in most Northern communities
- Emergency Financial Aid
- Wig and Breast prosthesis banks
- Lodges which provide a “home away from home” for cancer patients
- Volunteer Driver programs in communities with Lodges
- Camps for children/teens with cancer, and their families
- Support Groups
- Cancerconnection (provides one-to-one support from survivors to patients)
- Cancer Information Service (call toll-free for cancer information) **1-888-939-3333**

For more information on how your business can be involved in Relay For Life and help **make cancer history**, please contact:

Cathy Briggs  
Relay For Life Coordinator  
250-747-2510  
[cbriggs@bc.cancer.ca](mailto:cbriggs@bc.cancer.ca)