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# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Government of Canada supports youth career fairs in British Columbia

**VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, July 8, 2009**—Local youth will benefit from education and career fair seminars hosted by Education & Career Fairs thanks, in part, to support from the Government of Canada. Mr. John Cummins, Member of Parliament for Delta–Richmond East, made the announcement today, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development.

“In today’s environment, it is more important than ever that all Canadians have the skills and information they need to participate and succeed in the job market,” said Mr. Cummins. “Our government is proud to support projects like Education & Career Fairs that benefit both employers and youth.”

Education & Career Fairs will receive \$25,000 through the Government of Canada’s Youth Awareness program. These career fairs will help employers connect with youth and inform students about post-secondary education choices, career and employment options and labour market information to assist them with their career planning. Abbotsford, Nanaimo, Vancouver and Kelowna will each host one of the fairs.

“We are pleased that we can continue to provide youth with the opportunity to learn about their education and employment options,” said Mr. Mathias Posch, President, Education & Career Fairs. “Youth across British Columbia will benefit thanks to this funding from the Government of Canada.”

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- 2 -

The Youth Awareness program is part of the Government of Canada's strategy to create the best educated, most skilled and most flexible workforce in the world.

The Government underscored this commitment in Canada's Economic Action Plan. A key component of the Plan is to create more and better opportunities for Canadian workers through skills development. To learn more about Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit [www.actionplan.gc.ca](http://www.actionplan.gc.ca).

The Youth Awareness program is delivered by Service Canada, which provides one-stop personalized services for Government of Canada programs, services and benefits. For more information about this program, call 1-800-O-Canada, go on the Internet at [servicecanada.gc.ca](http://servicecanada.gc.ca), or visit your local Service Canada Centre.

A backgrounder is attached.

- 30 -

This news release is available in alternative formats upon request.

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# Backgrounder

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**Education & Career Fairs** is a private company that has successfully delivered 39 education and career fairs in the province of British Columbia over the past 13 years, with Service Canada involvement for the past 11 years. These education and career fairs are British Columbia's largest career planning events, and the seminars at each fair have attracted between 2,500 and 5,000 participants. Between December 2009 and January 2010, the organization will deliver four education and career fairs aimed at high school students and the general public in Abbotsford, Nanaimo, Vancouver and Kelowna. These fairs will inform youth about post-secondary education choices, career and employment options, and labour market information to assist them with their career planning. For more information on Education & Career Fairs, please visit [www.educationcareerfairs.com](http://www.educationcareerfairs.com).

The federal **Youth Awareness** program, funded under Employment Insurance Part II, targets projects that respond to specific labour market requirements and adjustments over time and aims to promote youth as the workforce of the future among recipients, employers, communities and young Canadians.