

# BUSINESS AND CONTRACTOR SUPPORTS

## Training & Skills Development

- [\*\*BC Employer Training Grant\*\*](#) provides funding to employers (including self-employed workers and contractors) to pivot their business and support skills training for themselves or their employees.
- [\*\*Northern Innovation Network – Build Your Own Future Program\*\*](#) offers 5-day business bootcamps with one-on-one coaching and mentorship to help workers affected by tariffs or mill closures transition into entrepreneurship. Participants who complete the program are also eligible for a \$5,000 grant to help with startup costs.
- [\*\*WorkBC\*\*](#) provides resources to learn about labour market supply and demand, increase work experience opportunities, and facilitate the hiring and retention of employees.
- [\*\*StrongerBC Future Skills Grant\*\*](#) provides \$3,500 to cover short-term skills training in high-demand, well-paid careers.

## Support Organizations/Resources

- [\*\*Business Advisory Services\*\*](#) offers path-finding services for new or existing entrepreneurs or small businesses in BC. Free one-on-one advice with an advisor, access to resources, guidance navigating government programs, and funding opportunities. Ph: 1-855-698-2157; Email: [Business.Advisors@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Business.Advisors@gov.bc.ca)
- [\*\*Northern Development Initiative Trust\*\*](#) offers a range of business development programs suited to a diverse set of economic development priorities in central and northern BC, providing funding and rebate programs to small and medium sized businesses in eligible industries.
- [\*\*Community Futures of BC\*\*](#) provides business, financial, and community development services to small and medium-sized businesses in rural and remote communities through its 34 independent Community Futures offices located across B.C.
- [\*\*BC Chamber of Commerce\*\*](#) advocates for support and promotes businesses in the community.
- [\*\*B.C.'s response to unjustified U.S. tariffs\*\*](#) is the official provincial government website outlining the response to unjustified U.S. tariffs. The website highlights specific actions taken by the B.C. government, along with links to support programs and resources.

## Work Opportunities

- The [\*\*Wildfire Reduction Equipment Support Trust\*\*](#) (WREST) helps eligible contractors purchase specified equipment that will be used in BC forestry operations to support wildfire reduction efforts. Reimbursement for the lesser of 10% of the total cost of this specialized equipment or \$100,000 is available via WREST.

## Federal Supports

- [\*\*Work-Sharing Program\*\*](#) helps employers and employees avoid layoffs when there is a temporary decrease in the normal level of business activity, and the decrease is beyond

the control of the employer. The agreement provides income support to employees eligible for Employment Insurance benefits who work a temporarily reduced work week while their employer recovers.

- [\*\*Employment Insurance Benefits\*\*](#) provides temporary income support to people who have become unemployed through no fault of their own and are actively looking for work, as well as people who are not working due to special circumstances, such as illness, becoming a parent or caring for a sick relative.
- [\*\*Support for forest sector employers and workers - Natural Resources Canada\*\*](#) through this single-window pathfinding service and webpage, explore programs that provide liquidity support, assistance to workers affected by mill curtailments and closures, and programs to drive industry transformation.

## Mental Health Supports

Resources are available at [\*\*Help Starts Here\*\*](#), including access to:

- [\*\*310 Mental Health Support\*\*](#) (310-6789, no area code required) for emotional support and mental health information.
- [\*\*HealthLink BC\*\*](#) (8-1-1), available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for non-emergency health advice and to talk to a health services navigator or a registered nurse.
- [\*\*Virtual Mental Health Supports\*\*](#) webpage contains information regarding virtual services available for British Columbians who are experiencing anxiety, depression or other mental health challenges. This includes immediate support, free or low-cost counselling, workplace mental health support, support for youth, students, educators, parents and seniors, as well as program and resource listings.