



City of
Abbotsford

Mayor
George F. Ferguson

Councillors
Bruce Beck
Christine Caldwell
Simon Gibson
Moe Gill

Councillors
Lynne Harris
Dave Loewen
Patricia Ross
John Smith

February 5, 2008
File: 0410-01

Dear Abbotsford Businesses:

Re: 10 by 10 Challenge

Are you looking to hire staff or contractors? Would you like information about resources that can help your business find the right candidate for your needs?

Abbotsford has many well-educated and capable residents with disabilities that are looking for employment. The enclosed brochure on the **10 by 10 Challenge** provides information on local resources that can help your business connect with job-seekers and contractors. An employer handbook on recruiting and retaining people with disabilities is available on-line at www.workablesolutionsbc.ca.

Abbotsford agreed to participate in the **10 by 10 Challenge**. This provincial initiative aims to increase the employment of people with disabilities by 10% by 2010. Abbotsford was one of the first communities in the Province to agree to accept the Challenge. Our goal is for 283 people with disabilities to be hired by 2010. Since the Challenge began in Abbotsford in October 2007, 47 people with disabilities were hired by local businesses and organizations. We have made progress, but more is needed to work toward the full inclusion of people with disabilities in our community.

Abbotsford received funding from the Provincial Government's **Measuring Up** initiative to measure how accessible and inclusive our community is for people with disabilities. One project is exploring ways to recognize businesses that go above and beyond in hiring people with disabilities, and in being physically accessible. A Measuring Up team representative may visit your business to invite you to take part in a survey; and provide information on how you can increase your business by improving accessibility and providing an inclusive work environment. A community forum to present the results of the current phase of the Measuring Up project will be held in May 2008 - details will be announced in the local papers.

I invite you to step up to the **10 by 10 Challenge** and join with other local businesses in making Abbotsford an accessible and inclusive community. To find out how you can be part of the solution and meet your needs for skilled and talented employees, contact Annette Borrows, Co-chair of the Measuring Up Working Group at Annette.borrows@southfraser.com or (604) 864-5770, local 310.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George F. Ferguson".

George F. Ferguson
Mayor

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