



Business gets boost

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Federal Human Resources and Social Development Minister Monte Solberg was in Nanaimo on Wednesday to announce nearly \$5 million toward a ETHOS Career Management Group's self-employment program.

The program provides free training, coaching and financial assistance for up to a year to help unemployed entrepreneurs get into the marketplace, and stay there.

"This project will help people in the Nanaimo area get the business knowledge and skills they need to be able to build a stronger future for themselves and their families," said Solberg.

ETHOS Career Management Group will receive \$4,842,161 through Service Canada's Community Co-ordinator Self-Employment Assistance program.

"We know how difficult it is for a new business to get started with limited resources," said ETHOS program manager Cecilia Grinham. "We not only help people through the bumps of startup, but we also stay with them through that critical first year to give them a much better chance of succeeding."

Seats are limited, so anyone interested should call 250-741-1527 to see if they are eligible.

"What really makes a difference is that we have a team of experienced entrepreneurs who provide the training and ongoing assistance," said Grinham. Business Works, run by ETHOS can also provide a living allowance to help entrepreneurs cover their personal expenses as they build their businesses.

"The program covers everything you need to make it in self-employment," says ETHOS chief executive officer Deborah Bromley, who, with partner Theresa Mayoh, built the firm into a 75-employee business with offices in Nanaimo, Greater Victoria and the Fraser Valley.

"It really is the best first step to becoming your own boss."

MTropea@nanaimodailynews.com

250-729-4255

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