

Basic skills initiatives help retain employees

Local employers are invited to participate in the **Discovering Learning Needs** project to help them manage change, retain promising employees, and improve productivity and safety.

Local and international research shows that addressing basic skills in the workforce helps both businesses and employees. Basic skills include reading text, document use, numeracy, writing, oral communication, problem solving, working with others, thinking skills, computer use and continuous learning.

Businesses of any size in the retail, food services, and accommodation sectors are eligible. Each business will receive a complimentary organizational needs assessment showing the status of workplace learning in their business, along with customized recommendations for next steps.

This initiative is offered through the Victoria READ Society and is funded by the Canada-British Columbia Labour Market Development Agreement. There is no cost to employers or employees.

Contact: Nancy Watters, Victoria READ Society, 250-388-7225, nwatters@readsociety.bc.ca.

More information is at www.readsociety.bc.ca/workplace.htm. Workplace learning presentations, advice, resources and recognition programs are also available.