

## Essential Skills initiatives help retain employees

Local employers are invited to participate in **SkillsPlus**, an initiative to help them manage change, retain promising employees, and improve productivity and safety.

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

Small businesses in the retail/wholesale/grocery and tourism/hospitality sectors can apply. Businesses receive a complimentary organizational needs assessment and up to 40 eligible employees have the chance to take Essential Skills training. Help with childcare and transportation costs may be available for employees.

The opportunity is offered by the Victoria READ Society and the Community Council, with funding through the Canada-British Columbia Labour Market Agreement.

Contact: Álvaro Moreno, Community Council, 250-383-6166, [alvaro@communitycouncil.ca](mailto:alvaro@communitycouncil.ca). OR Helen Thomas, READ Society, 250-388-7225, [hithomas@readsociety.bc.ca](mailto:hithomas@readsociety.bc.ca)

More information is at [www.readsociety.bc.ca/workplace.htm](http://www.readsociety.bc.ca/workplace.htm) and <http://www.qolchallenge.ca/resources/skillsplus.php>. Workplace learning presentations, advice, resources and recognition programs are also available.