

Moving into the Workforce

If you find a job while you are receiving income support benefits, it is very important that you notify your case worker immediately for a number of reasons:

- A 30 day overlap of your earnings and Income Support is available when you start employment.
- You may be eligible for additional funding through Employment Development Supports to assist you with any expenses you have when going to work.
- You may qualify for an **earnings supplement**. The first \$150.00 per month (for a family) and \$75.00 per month (for a single person) you earn is called an **employment exemption**. This means the department will not consider this portion of your income in determining your future income support entitlement and will also include expenses such as transportation and child care in the assessment. In addition to the earnings exemption of the first \$75 or \$150, a further earnings exemption of 20% is applied to your earnings, which will decrease your net earnings and increase the supplement provided to you.
- If a health plan is not available from your employer, you, your spouse and dependent children are eligible to receive a **drug card** for a full six months after leaving the Income Support program for employment.
- You may be eligible for a **job start** benefit of \$250 (if you have dependents) or \$125 (if you do not have dependents or you are single).
- You are required by law to report any changes in your financial circumstances to your Client Services Officer.

If you are currently unemployed, interested in going to work and need assistance in finding a job, there are services available to help you, whether you are receiving income support benefits or not. Our staff will work with you to identify your employment objectives and determine which of the services, listed below, you may be eligible to receive.

- Work Information Services;
- Employment Counseling Services;
- Training Supports such as short-term training assistance, supports to attend Adult Basic Education;
- Employment Preparation Supports;
- Job Search Assistance such as resume preparation and interview skills;
- Work Supports such as special equipment and tools;
- Labour Market Agreement for Persons with Disabilities such as supports to participate in training and or employment; and
- Wage Subsidy Programs.

If you are currently receiving **Employment Insurance** (EI) benefits or are considered EI eligible upon completion of an Enhanced Screening and Assessment, you may be referred directly to an **Employment Assistance Services Office** for an assessment of your employment needs.

If you are interested in receiving more information about our programs and services to help you prepare for, find and keep a job, you may contact your local District Office or call:

Labour Market and Career Information Hotline
Toll free at 1-800-563-6600 (729-6600 in St. John's)
TTY for the Hearing Impaired 1-866-729-4685
or by visiting our website:
www.lmiworks.nl.ca
or email: lmcihotline@gov.nl.ca