



RPI NEWS UPDATE



*RPI Roundtable held in Nanaimo
July 25, 2024*

All too often, individuals who have acquired a non-occupational physical/mental health impairment are left to face the ensuing financial, social and, most importantly, continued employment challenges on their own. Based on experience and evidence from other jurisdictions, offering these individuals and their respective employers early intervention and occupational rehabilitation has been most successful in maintaining continued employment for many individuals.

The Reducing Poverty Initiative (RPI) is an innovative pilot program that reaches out to individuals who have little or no support from other resources and are off work due to injury or illness. Individuals are connected with Certified Disability Management Professionals (CDMPs) who provide expert support to both individuals and employers, aiming to facilitate a smooth transition back to the workplace.

Following the launch of the Reducing Poverty Initiative on July 25, 2024, roundtable sessions held in Nanaimo, Kelowna, and Prince George have offered valuable insights and fostered connections with key stakeholders. These sessions have not only increased awareness, but also gathered critical feedback on supporting individuals with non-work-related illnesses or injuries in their return to work journey.

Each roundtable session adapts to the unique needs of the local communities, engaging a mix of core stakeholders like WorkBC, Service Canada, WorkSafeBC, and municipal governments, alongside community-specific organizations. This tailored approach enriches the RPI's impact and responsiveness.

The roundtables have also sparked new partnerships, expanding RPI's network and created pathways for additional support resources. This growing network of community connections ensures that RPI participants can access a comprehensive range of services beyond what RPI directly provides.



Reducing Poverty Initiative
Disability assistance through early intervention



The early successes and increased referrals highlight a promising future for the RPI as it continues to build partnerships and a strong support network. The next roundtable is being planned for Vancouver early next year.

To learn more about the Reducing Poverty Initiative, please visit our website at:

<https://www.reducingpoverty.nidmar.ca/>

December 2, 2024