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Canadian
Supply Chain
Sector Council

Conseil canadien
sectoriel de la chaîne
d'approvisionnement

Press Release

MicroSkills Launches Materials Handling and Warehousing Program, With Support of the Canadian Supply Chain Sector Council

October 27, 2008, Mississauga, Ontario – In June 2007, Community MicroSkills Development Centre (MicroSkills) launched a Materials Handling and Warehousing Program that prepares participants to obtain employment in warehousing, storage, manufacturing and processing environments. The 18-week program – that runs twice a year – includes 12 weeks of in-class training and six weeks of on-the-job learning through work placement which leads to employment.

In addition to acquiring workplace essential skills, computer, customer-service and business skills, program participants will learn to operate material-handling equipment and perform inventory-management and material-handling functions. They will each be prepared to obtain a forklift license, and WHMIS and customer-service certifications.

The program targets unemployed individuals who may be:

- Experienced workers with prior training and experience in equipment handling, warehousing, logistics or customer service who lack required licensing and/or certification;
- Inexperienced workers who have an interest in learning the basic concepts and techniques of operating material-handling equipment; or,
- New labour-market entrants who may have training in material handling or materials management and demonstrate an interest in front-line work, but lack work experience.

The Canadian Supply Chain Sector Council (the Council) assisted MicroSkills in the development of this program, recommending to MicroSkills a partnership with Ryder for the provision of forklift and reach-lift training. The Council will further support the program by helping MicroSkills find suitable companies for job placements.

MicroSkills is a multicultural, non-profit, community-based organization providing settlement, training, employment and self-employment services in North Etobicoke. For over 20 years, MicroSkills has empowered women, youth and newcomers to build better lives and careers. With an innovative and holistic approach unique in its sector, MicroSkills trains, guides and mentors over 20,000 adults and youth annually – one life at a time.

The Canadian Supply Chain Sector Council is an all-stakeholder, not-for-profit organization responsible for the human resources strategy for the supply chain sector in Canada. The CSCSC is funded by the Government of Canada's Sector Council Program.

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