



GT Hiring Solutions Launches First Office in Victoria

Victoria, September 30, 2004: GT Hiring Solutions, operators of the Destinations and HardHats job placement and training programs, today celebrated the grand opening of its Victoria office with an open house and ceremony. **GT Hiring Solutions** is a brand new subsidiary of Grant Thornton LLP, dedicated to providing human resources products and services to Grant Thornton's industry partners and clients.

The Hon. Susan Brice, Minister of Human Resources, was on hand to launch GT Hiring Solution's first location. "Our government's new tourism strategy ensures a tremendous demand for skilled tourism workers over the next several years," said Brice. "Through GT Hiring Solutions programs, like Destinations, we are able to help British Columbians grasp those opportunities and build brighter futures."

Christine Stoneman, COO for **GT Hiring Solutions**, says the new name and location are in response to a growing demand for a broad range of human resources services. "In the last ten years our staff have assisted over 21,000 B.C. residents obtain employment. We will continue to provide these human resources services, but the new name gives us an umbrella under which we can grow new HR products, and better serve new and existing clients," said Stoneman.

GT Hiring Solutions plans new services to meet the human resources requirement of businesses, including a web-based assessment service and online personnel surveys. Tourism operators will benefit from a new mid-management recruitment service called "Landings", scheduled for launch this winter.

"For Victoria-area tourism operators, this new office will help meet the demand for skilled and hard-working employees. In particular, the tourism industry faces a significant challenge sourcing qualified supervisory and mid-management personnel," explained Mary Mahon Jones, CEO of the Council of Tourism Associations of BC. "Any resource that helps fill this demand is a valuable tool for accommodation and food service sectors in British Columbia."

GT Hiring Solutions will meet the broad range of workforce demands and implement unique work force solutions for single employers, industry associations and government alike. GT Hiring Solutions is currently operating human resource services for the Council of Tourism Associations, the Canadian Homebuilders Association of BC, and the Aboriginal Community Career Educational Services Society.

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