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Education Fund available for HSA members in CSSBA Agreement

(This information applies to HSA members of the Community Social Services Bargaining Association.)

On April 2, 2009, the constituent unions of the CSSBA entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Provincial Government to resolve litigation related to the *Health and Social Services Delivery Improvement Act* (Bill 29).

HSA and the other unions made professional development a priority. As a result, the Bill 29 Settlement Agreement provided funding for professional development education. HSA's share of this funding is being used to provide one-time only bursaries to HSA members in the CSSBA.

HSA is now accepting applications from members in the CSSBA.

Professional development that could be considered for funding includes:

- Obtaining or upgrading a credential (eg certificate, diploma, baccalaureate, masters)
- Upgrading diplomas or certificates for foreign trained workers
- Changing from a current area of practice to a different specialty
- Upgrading language or writing skills, including English as second language
- Upgrading computer skills
- Upgrading office skills
- Leadership, supervisory, or management courses relevant to a community social services classification

Priority will be given to courses resulting in a recognized credential or that will improve an applicant's employment security or future employment opportunities.

We will consider courses commencing between April 1, 2009 and March 31, 2011.

The deadline for applications is March 31, 2010.

If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Link at email: slink@hsabc.org, or by phone at 604.439.0994 (Lower Mainland) / 1.800.663.2017 (toll free in BC).