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Aspire RICHMOND

Bloom GALA

A BENEFIT
OF POSSIBILITIES

On a lovely summer evening, June 12th, supporters and friends of Aspire gathered on one of Steveston's most glorious farms and raised a glass to the individuals, volunteers and corporations that support our work.

For many of us, the location, Athiana Acres, was awesome in itself. But then, Steveston Seafood House put together a meal that was simply delicious. Cakes from Diplomat Bakery were wonderful and our jazz trio of young students created a warm and charming ambiance. Finally, the silent auction promised treat after treat with all of the items available.

We are endlessly grateful for our organizing committee: Jennifer Adams, Surjit Dhinjal, Kami Davis, Kamna Singh, Jessica Gonzales, Sue Jones, Noel Palma and Wioletta Okwieka-Reduch. We are also grateful to our board for their support of our event and inviting all of their friends.

We are tremendously proud of the evening and are excited to begin planning for next year!

Sue Street, Manager Fund and Community Awareness



Richmond Shines at the Special Olympics BC Provincials!

The Special Olympics BC Summer Games took place in Prince George from July 10th to 13th, bringing together over 1,200 athletes from across the province for an unforgettable celebration of sport, determination, and achievement.

Richmond was proudly represented by several incredible athletes, who not only competed with heart but also brought home an impressive collection of medals and personal bests!

A special shout-out goes to Katelyn- a Quantum participant who competed in Rhythmic Gymnastics representing the Richmond district, while training with the talented Vancouver coach and team. Katelyn dazzled the judges with her routines in hoop, rope, ribbon, and clubs, earning an outstanding 3 gold, 1 silver, and 1 bronze medal!

She had a fantastic time and came home beaming with pride—what a performance!

Congratulations to all our athletes for their hard work, dedication, and incredible spirit. Aspire Richmond is cheering you on every step of the way!

Wioletta Owieka-Reduch,
Quantum Day Program Manager



Aspire Child Care programs have been approved as \$10 a Day Centres.

We are pleased to announce that this spring Seedlings Child Care and Treehouse Early Learning Centre have successfully become the one of the newest \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres. This achievement means we will join over 300 facilities across British Columbia offering affordable child care at a maximum of \$10 per day.

Through the Province's partnership with the Federal Government under the Canada-British Columbia Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, affordable child care is available for families whose children attend child care at Aspire child care programs: Infant/Toddler daycare, Preschool, 3-5 Daycare and School-age Child Care.

Enrollment Type	Maximum Fee
Full Days (4+ hours), 5 days per week	\$200 per month
Full Days (4+ hours), 1 to 40 days per week	\$10 per day (up to \$200/month)

Families enrolled in our programs will benefit from substantial fee reductions. They may also be eligible for further fee reductions through the Affordable Child Care Benefit, potentially lowering costs below \$10 per day—or even eliminating fees entirely.

We are truly honoured to be selected as \$10-a-Day sites and look forward to sharing the benefits with families accessing Aspire Child Care Services.

For further information regarding \$10-a-Day Child Care, click the link [ChildCareBC Programs](#)

To put your child on the waitlist, [Aspire Child Care Waitlist](#)

Carrie McLellan-Haqq, Director Children Services



Celebrate Inclusive Hiring at Our Employer Appreciation Lunch

We're excited to invite Richmond's business community to our annual Employer Appreciation Lunch — a complimentary event recognizing the vital contributions our local employers make to inclusive hiring in our community.

This year's keynote presentation, "Navigating Market Uncertainty: How Inclusive Hiring Creates Competitive Advantage," couldn't be more timely. With trade uncertainty, inflation, and economic pressures challenging many local businesses, our featured speaker Christian Saint Cyr, publisher of the BC Labour Market Report, will share groundbreaking research and practical insights that can help employers pivot through these challenges.

Saint Cyr's presentation will reveal compelling data about the tremendous value inclusive hiring provides — from securing more reliable and loyal employees to connecting with workers who genuinely want to develop the skills employer's demand. Perhaps most importantly, he'll demonstrate how inclusive hiring practices can free up valuable time for business owners to focus on their core operations rather than constant recruitment and training.

A Triple Win for Everyone

Our business community plays a crucial role in building a more inclusive Richmond. When employers embrace inclusive hiring, it creates a powerful triple win: employees find meaningful work that matches their abilities, businesses benefit from hiring reliable and committed staff, and our community thrives when families and neighborhoods see themselves reflected in the businesses they support.

Whether you're a business owner, manager, or know someone who would benefit from these insights, we encourage you to join us. This lunch is about more than recognition — it's about building stronger connections between employers and discovering new strategies for business success through inclusive practices.

Join us and learn more about inclusive hiring!

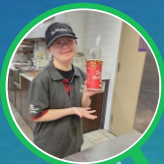
Annabel Melnyk, Manager Employment Services

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invites you to
join us

Employer Appreciation Lunch



NAVIGATING MARKET UNCERTAINTY: HOW INCLUSIVE HIRING CREATES COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

Keynote Speaker:

Christian Saint Cyr

Publisher of the BC Labour Market Report

Thursday October 2, 2025

12:00pm-2:00pm

Richmond Golf & Country Club
9100 Steveston Highway, Richmond

Click/Scan
to register by
Sept 19, 2025



www.aspirerichmond.com | 604-279-7040

supported by



Celebrating Summer

The Synergy Crew goes Blueberry Picking



Celebrating Pride Day



Making Improvements



New flooring at Transitions Day Program



Canada Disability Benefit



Scan/click here
for details

The Canada Disability Benefit is a new federal program designed to provide financial support to individuals with disabilities between the ages of 18 and 64. Not to be confused with the Persons with Disability benefit (a similar program supported by BC's Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction) the Canada Disability Benefit is a new program that commenced operations this summer.

Applications for the Canada Disability Benefit are already open and details such as eligibility requirements, how to apply, and how each benefit amount is calculated can be found on the benefit's main information page.

If you have questions about the Canada Disability Benefit, please contact Shintaro at stachihara@aspirerichmond.com.

Impact 2.0 Youth Employment Research Project

For several years, Aspire Richmond Employment Services has been participating in a Youth Employment Research Project. This year, there are 14 youth in the program, making the cohort full. Sessions were held in June to get to know the youth while they completed a discovery process. Discovery is where staff get to know the participants in their environment through games and worksheets. The Discovery process reveals those who like to be leaders, those who like to help others, and those who might be shy. It also helps reveal what support each participant would need. Employment interests and preferences are explored so that their gifts and skills can be matched with an appropriate workplace or volunteer placement.

Following Discovery, a focus is placed on designated skill enhancement and then exploring/finding work or volunteer opportunities.

A big shout out to our community partners for hiring and providing work experience for the youth this year!

ContainerWest
Mylora Executive Golf Course
Midland Appliance
Urban Bounty
Roboplanet Robotics Academy
St Albans Church

Katherine Ollson, Manager of Employment Services





Infant Toddler Picnic

This summer, the Seedlings Infant and Toddler Center transformed an ordinary sunny day into a magical memory with their delightful "**Hug and Munch Picnic.**" With picnic blankets spread across the playground and the warm sun smiling down, our little ones gathered for a cozy outdoor experience filled with laughter, music, and connection.

The children sat together in a circle, enjoying their snacks and sipping water, while surrounded by the gentle hums of summer. But this was no ordinary picnic—our dedicated educators brought the day to life with **storytelling, ukulele tunes, and joyful songs** that had everyone clapping, swaying, and singing along.

From classic nursery rhymes to classic story books, the atmosphere was filled with wonder and delight. The ukulele added a special charm, creating a soothing and playful soundtrack to the afternoon. Children giggled, munched, and hugged their friends and teachers, soaking in the love and warmth that defines the Seedlings community.

It was a beautiful reminder of the simple joys of togetherness—sharing food, music, and stories under the open sky. The **Hug and Munch Picnic** wasn't just a fun event; it was a celebration of the bonds we nurture every day at Seedlings.

Here's to more sunny days, shared smiles, and the magic of childhood!



Thank you Richmond!

Treehouse Early Learning Centre is honoured to be a finalist in the

Best of Richmond
as presented by Richmond News
in the
Best Daycare / Preschool category

Aspire Richmond has offered supports and services for people with developmental disabilities for over 40 years.

Aspire
RICHMOND
thriving. connected. happy.





The Land Before Time: A Dinomite Party

August 28, 2025
4pm-7pm
Brighthouse Park
7000 Minoru Blvd Richmond

Family Picnic

Join us for games, prizes, food and a dynamite time



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday Sept 8, 2025

Invite a friend and join us!

Sandwiches: 6pm Meeting: 7pm
Richmond Caring Place, Room 340
7000 Minoru Blvd, Richmond



Scan/Click
here to RSVP
by Sept 2, 2025

thriving. connected. happy.



MEMBERSHIP

with



Aspire Richmond is a non-profit, member driven organization. We operate in part, by contributions of your membership fees.

It is time to sign up or renew your membership today!

Membership fees:

Single Membership:
\$10/year
\$100/lifetime

Family Membership (2 votes):
\$15/year
\$150/lifetime

**Sign up or renew your
membership online today!**

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