

# Working to Solve Homelessness:

## *Project Comeback*



**Project Comeback is a unique program designed to assist homeless day labourers find both permanent jobs and permanent housing.**

During the Greater Vancouver Homeless Count in 2005,\* 47 out of the 256 unsheltered homeless people interviewed in Surrey described themselves as day labourers. Day labourers usually work for minimum wage with no benefits and no guarantee they will be working from day to day. They must supply equipment such as steel toed boots if required for the job. Though most work an average of 3 to 4 days a week, they generally do not earn enough to secure housing. They also do not qualify for most employment programs as these programs are usually linked to the receipt of income assistance.

The Newton Advocacy Group Society identified housing as a key issue in helping this group of working street homeless make a successful transition to full time, sustainable employment.

Starting in June 2005, the Society began working with local businesses to address both housing and employment needs. Project Comeback was launched in November 2005. Since then it has helped 50 people, mostly men, make a successful transition to secure housing and full time employment.

Part of Project Comeback's approach is to assist people to locate appropriate market housing and to secure the financial support needed to pay the damage deposit and first month's rent. Project Comeback also provides follow-up employment support, with many successful program graduates playing a role in mentoring new participants.

Project Comeback has a broad base of community partners and supporters. These include business and development interests, community groups, faith-based organizations, social service agencies and training programs. Homeless day labourers are included in the working group overseeing the pilot project.

For more information contact Saira Khan, Project Coordinator, Project Comeback at (604) 596-2311.

[www.newtonadvocacygroup.ca](http://www.newtonadvocacygroup.ca)

\* Note that the 2005 Homeless Count is widely regarded as significantly under-representing the number of people who are homeless.

Homelessness, together we can solve it.  
Visit: [stophomelessness.ca](http://stophomelessness.ca)

