

People. Purpose. Paycheque.

# MISSION POSSIBLE

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Spring 2015

The creeping crescendo of construction cranes, rehabbed storefront façades, and increased parking enforcement are the signs of redevelopment in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Many say it can't happen fast enough. Yet in the wake of new condos, what happens to those struggling with poverty and precarious housing?

Mission Possible has a vision to answer that question. We are working to help those recovering from addiction and mental health crisis find their stride again. We are creating opportunities for formerly homeless teens and adults to regain a sense of dignity and purpose through meaningful work.

That's J's story, which you will read about in this newsletter.

Over the past few years our team has retooled. From the fertile soil of our community centre on Powell Street emerged three innovative social enterprises that provide a new context for life transformation. To date, ninety-six have gone to work in our six-month job readiness program—nearly half are sustainably employed beyond Mission Possible.

Now we are working to build out the supports necessary to move many more towards transformation and a sustainable livelihood. That's why we need your help.

You can make a difference by supporting our friends on a life-changing journey. We are not talking about a hand out—this is a hand up.

I promise, your generous contribution fuels tangible opportunities that will change lives.

Kind regards,



Rev. Brian Postlewait



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96 people employed by Mission Possible Enterprises since 2010.



Most struggling with homelessness and poverty in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside are battling addictions, mental illness and major life trauma—often all three at the same time.

When recovery and healing begins to emerge in their life, Mission Possible moves in with a tangible opportunity. MP uses the motivation and desire for meaningful work as a catalyst for total life transformation. Over the past 5 years MP has employed nearly 100 people through our social enterprises. Indeed we have proven that given the right opportunity, in the right place, at the right time that many like J (see page 4) will make remarkable contributions to our community. Now we are building a **continuum of support** to provide opportunities to more people who are ready, willing, and able. All they need is a hand up.



12,000 people in Vancouver's DTES live in poverty. The unemployment rate is over 75% amongst those living in social housing.

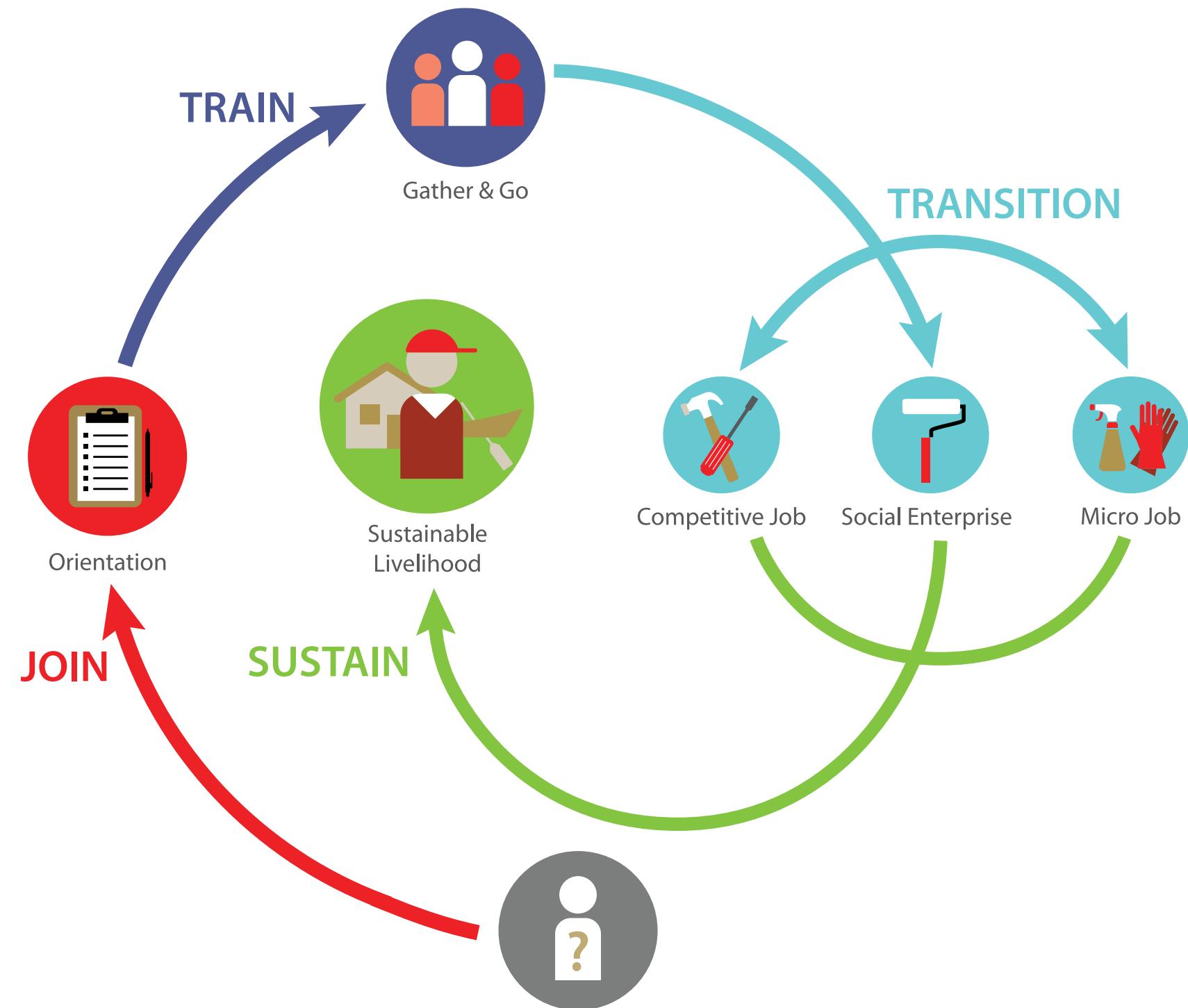
It is true, DTES is overly challenged, but it is equally under-challenged at the same time.



Every new participant goes through an orientation with an advisor who looks to understand their story and follows their progress on their journey.

Most people will trade in dependency for an opportunity any day of the week.

# Join, Train, Transition, Sustain



After a program agreement is signed, trainees enter a 3-day workshop focused on employment readiness and personal well-being.

As a self-directed job search begins, MP invites trainees to Gather & Go (a set of daily pre-employment volunteer opportunities). Gather & Go helps participants get moving today, build confidence, and a rhythm of work.

By helping others we often find help for ourselves.



Many trainees are hired directly by Mission Possible through one of our social enterprises or in a micro-job targeted to fit their current aptitude. This is a 6-month transitional opportunity that provides a real-life paid context for mastering the soft-skills necessary for maintaining employment over the long haul. This is the place where confidence begins to soar.

A paycheque is a powerful platform for life change.



MP's ultimate goal is to see participants realize the dignity and purpose of finding and maintaining competitive employment beyond their 6-month transitional opportunity. MP continues supporting individuals as they transition into their new job through goal setting, access to their advisor, and a newly found community of friends who celebrate the success.

We work to make the world a better place.



“ J became serious about his recovery, and in late 2012 approached Mission Possible with a longing for community and meaning. ”

## J's Story

Tired of being defined by living on welfare, in a run-down single room apartment, heavily in addiction and with mental health struggles, J desired a purpose. He became serious about his recovery, and in late 2012 approached Mission Possible with a longing for community and meaning. J spent time volunteering out of the Powell Street community space, helping with a newly-formed hospital visitation team.

Soon after, J heard about an open position with Mission Possible Neighbours, a community-led safety and security team, and saw this as an opportunity to continue taking positive steps forward in his life. He attended our workshops, learning soft skills like professionalism, teamwork and self-care, and from there he interviewed for a position with the Neighbours team.

“It was a struggle. My rebellious heart wanted to give up,” he says about his time in training. “But I knew I had to have real change and that’s what made me push through.”

J felt encouraged in his first few weeks as an MP Neighbours associate and quickly hit his stride. He was a natural leader and he completed his six month contract well, building positive relationships

with his team members, proving his dependability and displaying excellent workmanship. J was finding a purpose.

With an opening in the team as a supervisor or Lead Patroller, J returned to MP Neighbours in a permanent position.

“I was excited to get the call back,” he says. “I was excited to learn more and continue to grow. I was once welcomed in, and I wanted to give that back.”

Recently, we had the opportunity to welcome J in his newest role as MP Neighbours Coordinator. He’s doing a fantastic job of encouraging and mentoring people as they build their own sense of meaning and purpose.

J is an example of someone who has walked through Mission Possible’s doors ready and willing to make positive changes in his life. Oftentimes, people in the Downtown Eastside are simply looking for an opportunity for momentum forward but they don’t know where to begin. Through training, advising and work, our hope is to encourage these individuals to join us in a journey towards sustainable living and lasting change.

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or donate online at  
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## Become a Monthly Donor

With your help, Mission Possible is doing all it can to provide opportunities, training and street level support to help restore dignity to people challenged by homelessness and poverty.

Signing up to be a monthly donor is easy. Fill out our online form and your gift will be automatically processed through your credit card each month.