



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INEO Employment Services recycles 30,000 mattresses

Port Alberni – INEO Employment Services is ready to celebrate the success of their mattress recycling program as they announce that they have saved 30,000 mattresses from landfills on Vancouver Island.

Mattresses are historically difficult to dispose of, and there is no program in British Columbia offering free recycling of old mattresses. The fact that they are not easily recycled and are difficult for waste operators to compact in landfills means mattresses are often illegally dumped. Since they take up to 120 years to decompose, this is potentially a lot of waste being dumped in our environment.

"INEO is a Latin word for 'new beginnings,' and we have always seen problems as new opportunities or new beginnings," explains INEO CEO Terry Deakin. "That's just the way we roll! We continually strive to merge social, economic, and environmental challenges to create successful solutions."

In 2019, INEO decided to tackle this problem and turn it into a job opportunity for participants of their employment counselling services and launched the social enterprise Recycle Matters. The ACRD supported this recycling initiative by establishing tipping fees for mattresses, diverting these to the facility, and providing a steady resource stream for the company.

"We are always looking to support independent local initiatives that support the regional waste diversion targets," said ACRD Vice-chair Deb Haggard. "Recycle Matters not only has created a local solution for recycling a difficult and abundant waste stream but is creating jobs in our community."

The program manually breaks down the mattresses into components that can then be diverted for other uses, such as wood for constructing new furniture that can be resold. Since it started, Recycle Matters has grown to service the West Coast and other communities on Central Vancouver Island. The social enterprise has diverted 11,222 units from the AV Sort'nGo Centre (formerly the AV Landfill).



The facility employs eight people in diverse and inclusive work environments. The program has provided skills training for more than 60 people to-date.

A celebration will take place on Friday, May 26, from 1 to 3 pm. Everyone is invited to come to the Recycle Matters operation at 350 – 2750 Harbour Road to help INEO celebrate this exciting milestone. They will be offering tours of the site, snacks, and beverages.

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For more information, please contact:

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