

New business partnership will help mental health clients

December 5, 2006

It's a win-win partnership. A new business opportunity between PCCC's Voices, Opportunities & Choices Employment Club (VOCEC) and Malemo Sales Limited will provide job opportunities for mental health clients living in the community.

VOCEC has reached an agreement with Malemo Sales Limited to provide storage and shipping and receiving services for their Tree-Free line of greeting cards. The cards are made from kenaf, a plant grown in the southern United States that is recyclable and uses no chemicals.

VOCEC is a not for profit corporation that provides income, employment and personal development opportunities for consumers of mental health services in the Kingston area. Services include a greeting card factory, the hands on carwash, a landscaping business and three cafés, including the Bookends Café in the Kingston Public Library. This summer VOCEC put out a call for more corporate sponsors to expand services and allow them to hire more people.

It was a perfect opportunity for Leigh Barnum, owner of Malemo Sales Limited. "I am delighted to enter into an agreement with VOCEC," Barnum says. "They have wonderful facilities and an eager workforce that can handle our needs."

The two-year agreement goes into effect January 1 and will provide employment for about 10 VOCEC associates. "We look forward to doing business with Malemo and any other company that is interested in learning about us," says Majka Lagarde. "Malemo's environmentally friendly products are a good fit for VOCEC, which produces recycled greeting cards in our Card Factory."

*Editor's Note: The news media is invited to attend a signing ceremony between VOCEC and Malemo Sales Limited on Wednesday December 6 at 10:30 pm. at VOCEC, 525 Montreal Street in Kingston. Please confirm attendance with Corinne Deshaw at 613-548-5567 ext. 5668.*

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