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The Pacific Training Centre for the Blind honoured to accept \$5000 grant from Pacific Blue Cross

Victoria, BC, July 6, 2018 – The Pacific Training Centre for the Blind is pleased to announce that it has received a \$5,000 grant from the Pacific Blue Cross Health Foundation to purchase equipment for its Blind People in Charge Program.

The first of its kind in British Columbia, the Blind People in Charge Program teaches blind adults independence and employment-readiness skills. Through blind facilitators, students learn Braille literacy, independent travel using the long white cane, and other important skills such as cooking and cleaning. Graduates leave the program with a positive outlook on blindness and are more equipped to find employment in a competitive job market. This new funding will be used to purchase equipment that support the program's initiatives.

"We are so grateful for the generosity of the Pacific Blue Cross Health Foundation," said Elizabeth Lalonde, Director of the Pacific Training Centre for the Blind. "This funding will allow us to purchase items that are vital to the success of our students such as Braille technology and talking book readers."

A graduation ceremony was recently held at the centre, which the Pacific Blue Cross Health Foundation was fortunate to attend.

“During my visit to the Pacific Training Centre for the Blind, I witnessed a very touching graduation ceremony for three of their students,” says Richard Taylor, Chair of the Pacific Blue Cross Health Foundation. “We are pleased to support the life-changing work they are doing, and to contribute to the lasting impacts this program will have on students and their families.”

One of the guiding principles of the Blind People in Charge Program is that blind people can accomplish anything they want to, if they have the right training. Indeed, several former students have gone on to find gainful employment in a variety of vocations and some have even started their own businesses.

"Through this work, we hope to change the lives of blind people across Canada and around the world," said Lalonde. "With the support of organizations like the Pacific Blue Cross Foundation, we're certain to reach this goal."

ABOUT THE PACIFIC TRAINING CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

The Pacific Training Centre for the Blind is a non-profit Canadian grassroots service organization founded and run by blind people. Started in 2011, the centre provides services and programs based on a positive and empowering no-restrictions philosophy of blindness.

Project leaders instill a belief in blind people’s own capabilities and in the limitless possibilities open to them and adopt a non-custodial approach (IE: it is not about sighted people doing things for the blind; it is about blind people doing things for themselves, and it is about blind teachers working with blind students to increase skills and confidence).