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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Federal government expert panel welcomed by older workers

*"It's about time," says leading employment site for 50+ job-seekers*

**Toronto, ON (February 8, 2007)** - On January 23, the Canadian government announced the appointment of an expert panel to study issues affecting older workers, examining potential measures to help them like training and income support, and deliver an impartial assessment of the needs of older workers. Retired Worker says that it's about time more attention was paid to this group – but that they shouldn't be considered a helpless, marginalized group in need of government handouts, either.

"We've known for a long time now that the 50+ group really wants to work – we have more than 24,000 registered job-seekers across Canada who tell us they are ready, willing and able to rejoin the workforce," says Sarah Welstead, 37, co-founder and Managing Partner of Retired Worker, Canada's first employment website designed specifically for older workers who want to work on a part-time, temporary or contract basis. "And we're in favour of any initiatives which are going to help demonstrate that they have an enormous contribution to make in the workplace. But at the same time, we think that the basic need of older workers is very simple: Society – and employers, in particular – need to stop thinking of the 50+ crowd as gray-haired grannies, and start thinking of them as a fantastic source of great employees."

According to Retired Worker, there's some evidence to suggest that employers are starting to accept older workers: In their 2006 survey of over 1000 older job-seekers, 33% said they had experienced age discrimination when looking for a job, down from 64% just a year earlier. "Of course we'd be happiest if no one said they'd encountered age discrimination," says Welstead. "But at least we're moving in the right direction."

#### **About Retired Worker:**

Retired Worker is the first employment website in North America for retired people who want to work on a part-time, temporary or casual basis. Launched in Toronto in October 2003, Retired Worker now has 24,000+ registered job-seekers across Canada. For more information, visit [www.retiredworker.ca](http://www.retiredworker.ca).

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