



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2024



EmployAbilities Edmonton staff and Board members pictured at the 50th anniversary kickoff breakfast on February 24.

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The theme for EmployAbilities 50th anniversary is changing lives. EmployAbilities programs focus on innovative ways to support Albertans with disabilities and barriers to find employment. Our programs can last up to six months or a couple of months depending on the services required and the supports each individual needs to prepare themselves to find and maintain employment. EmployAbilities supports close to 400 Albertans with disabilities or barriers to find employment each year.

Employment for many Albertans is changing their lives for the better. The power of work can provide financial security, enhance self-esteem, improve self-efficacy, and build a network of co-workers that support, encourage and make them feel part of a team. The power of work is evident everyday; we are changing lives at EmployAbilities.

JASON LOEWER

Program updates - Edmonton-based

EMPLOYABILITIES FOR NEWCOMERS

EmployAbilities for Newcomers has completed its fourth fiscal year and exceeded targets given to us by our funders by supporting seventy newcomers with disabilities with training, information, and support. This training has helped to give newcomers the extra step they needed to find success here in Edmonton. As we enter our fifth and final year we look forward to helping even more newcomers with disabilities.

Client Testimonial

"I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for all the support and guidance you have provided me with recently. Your willingness to lend a helping hand and share your expertise will make a significant difference in my journey. Your guidance has not only helped me navigate through challenges but has also provided me with valuable insights that I will carry forward in my work. Your patience, encouragement, and willingness to share your knowledge have truly been invaluable. I am incredibly grateful to have someone as supportive and knowledgeable as you. Thank you once again for your unwavering support and guidance."

-Richa

RESTART YOUR CAREER

The Restart Your Career Training Program is a six-month full-time practical skill training program that includes 436 hours of training in current job-related computer, essential, and work-related skills and 140 hours of work practicum after the training.

Intake Two commenced on March 11 with 23 participants in training. We're thrilled to announce that the group has successfully completed the first phase of computer training, marking a significant milestone in their journey with us and demonstrating the effectiveness of our program.

In Professional Development, the groups engaged in speed interviews, a dynamic process where participants had a time limit of 10-13 minutes to be interviewed by potential employers and receive feedback. They then rotated to each employer. This event was a resounding success, equipping participants with the tools and strategies to excel in interviews and showcasing their growth and potential to employers.



Restart participants in a "Serious play" workshop as part of their training

STRIVE 4 WORK

The S4W program has just concluded yet another amazing intake cohort on May 3rd. What's so thrilling about this cohort? Well, it's the first-ever group to boast not just one, but two participants who secured work experience placements even before completing the 10-week skills training. These outstanding individuals have been tirelessly pounding the pavement, diving into interviews with big names like The Body Shop, Old Navy, YEG Exotic, London Drugs, and ATB Financial.

The team is currently buzzing with energy as they conduct intake assessments, gearing up to handpick 11 more participants who will kickstart their skills training and embark on their thrilling employment journey come June 3. The Great Outdoors is the newest employer to jump on board to support participants in achieving their work experience placements. They have welcomed clients from previous intake cohorts to achieve some exciting tradeshow landscape design setups! To find out how your new or small business can benefit from our wage subsidy, connect with us today by emailing Jessie at jcadman@employabilities.ab.ca.



INCLUSIVE CAREER CONNECTIONS

In March, Inclusive Career Connections (ICC) attended the Future Options Transitions to Adulthood Career Fair at Ross Sheppard High School. In April, ICC attended the Future Fair at L.Y. Cairns School and did a presentation at Amiskwacy High School. We were pleased to showcase our services to the next generation of job-seekers!

One exciting project we've been working on this month is to complete the filming of ten skills training videos, which are provided to clients in-person. We wrapped filming on May 10. Next up is editing this raw footage into engaging videos, which will feature a variety of modifications as to be more accessible for people with disabilities. We look forward to completing this project in June and uploading the videos to our website and YouTube. Stay tuned!



Filming at Cineflair, May 6

Program updates - rest of Alberta



- Grande Prairie
- Cold Lake
- Bonnyville
- St. Paul
- Vegreville
- Lac La Biche
- Athabasca



EAGP at Career Exploration Day
John Paul II High School,

EMPLOYABILITIES GRANDE PRAIRIE

EmployAbilities Grande Prairie attended many community events over the last few months. A Job Fair at North Western Polytechnic in March. Grande Prairie Youth Discovery Career Expo in April and provided information and employment resources to hundreds of youth. Career Exploration Day at two of the local high schools in April.

EAGP has been a part of many inter-agency meetings in the community and have made many community connections with organizations like The WorkPlace, Ballard Group, Grande Prairie Center for Newcomers, and the Resource Centre for Suicide Prevention.

During May, EAGP will be supporting individuals with attending job fairs and hiring events throughout the city. We will also be providing supports to employers in the community and working on new marketing efforts on different platforms.

Between February and April, the EAGP team has supported 23 individuals with accessing our services, ranging from resume supports, exposure courses, interview preparation, conflict management at work and much more.

EMPLOYABILITIES NORTH

At EmployAbilities North, we're proud to transform lives by providing essential tools and opportunities for employment for persons with disability. Each success reflects our dedication to breaking down barriers and enhancing the employability of those we serve.

Work-Related Employment Support: We understand that the right gear can set the stage for success. This April, we equipped an individual with safety boots, rain gear, gloves, and safety glasses, enabling them to secure full-time employment by having the necessary gear to succeed.

Workforce Development: We launched a wage subsidy initiative to support on-the-job training for hard-to-place job seekers. Thanks to partnerships with employers who provide this training and benefit from the subsidy, three individuals have gained employment placements in April.

Mobile Resource Services: Our mobile services have delivered job placement support to surrounding settlements and hamlets, assisting 17 people in March and April with resume building, printing services, email setup, and community information.

Program Statistics: We have received 60 referrals, with 30 clients starting our program and 11 achieving employment success already!

LAKELAND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Lakeland Employment Services (LES) has been busy serving job seekers and employers in Bonnyville, Cold Lake, Lac La Biche, St. Paul, and Vegreville. We continue to offer weekly in-person and virtual workshops every Wednesday in each of the five centres, and basic and intermediate Excel courses every Thursday at our Vegreville location. We're promoting LES in a variety of places and making connections in the community with agencies, schools, and allied organizations.

Since the last newsletter came out in February, LES received 120 referrals (mostly for job-related supports) and 34 clients successfully obtained employment. We're seeing a large number of clients dealing with the rising costs of living, and issues finding childcare. Getting to work can be a challenge, as public transportation is also not available in all communities. Due to the lack of services/availability that has been identified, next month we will be presenting a child care worker information session at each of the Lakeland Employment Service Centers.

CAREER EVOLUTION NORTH

Career Evolution North has recently seen an uptick in interest. Between February and April we completed twenty-one intakes, had fourteen clients complete training and/or find jobs, and had ten clients reach the ninety-day milestone in their employment.

We've also seen growth in the number of online enquiries we're receiving, and experienced the highest number of starters and job placements in the history of the contract - seven starters and ten job placements. It's great to see more interest in our services so that we can help more people in Bonnyville, Cold Lake, and surrounding area get back to work doing something they love.

UPCOMING MOBILE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES EVENTS

- May 23 - Plamondon** (ACFA regionale de Plamondon)
10:00am-3:00pm
- June 6 - Mallaig** (Mallaig Public Library)
9:00am-noon
- June 11- Smoky Lake** (Smoky Lake Public Library)
10:30am-3:30pm
- June 18 - Boyle** (Boyle Public Library)
10:30am-3:00pm



BECOME A GOLDEN STAR SUSTAINING DONOR



2024 is EmployAbilities fiftieth year of connecting ability to employment. Since day one, our services have always been provided at no cost. But that doesn't mean that they're free - the reality is our job training, employment readiness, and job development work costs money. Presently, we're able to provide our unmatched employment services to Albertans through the generous support of the Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta, corporate, and individual donors, most of which donate on an ad hoc basis. To become more sustainable, however, more is needed. **That's why we're introducing a Golden Stars monthly donation initiative - calling on fifty Albertans to donate \$50 a month in honour of EmployAbilities 50th anniversary.**

As a Golden Star, you'll provide sustainable, ongoing funding for our organization and help support people with disabilities and barriers find meaningful employment. In 2022-23, almost 400 people found jobs as a direct result of our efforts. Hundreds more benefited from our services. Employers benefit too through our engagement efforts and one-on-one relationship built through our job developers.

Ready to become a Golden Star? Visit the EmployAbilities website (www.employabilities.ca) and click on the "donate button for more information!"

CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

T.B. was recently widowed and sole provider for three children. She came to CEN through word of mouth looking for support to get back to the workforce.



She required resume revision, cover letter development and upgrading in bookkeeping. The employment facilitator requested she do some research on an all-inclusive course that she could complete in two weeks. T.B. did the research, found a course, and started applying for positions in her field. She applied for, interviewed with and was accepted for a position with Flint working in camp four days a week days and home every Thursday. She is loving being back to work!

CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

W.M. self-referred in February. Having been laid off from his old job and relying on EI, he faced challenges due to ongoing shoulder and neck issues resulting from a work-related accident years ago.



Despite these setbacks, W.M. remained determined to find employment and actively applied for positions. The facilitator worked closely with him to review and enhance his resume while exploring relevant job opportunities. He discovered a promising position at Inn Hotels through Indeed and applied right away. When he didn't hear back, the facilitator encouraged W.H to reach out directly to the company, resulting in an interview opportunity. His determination impressed them, and he was offered the position joining a dynamic maintenance crew of three individuals. W.M is thrilled, particularly given the attractive locations of the properties, including Canmore, Jasper, and Banff.

After starting his new job W.M reached out to us: "thank you so much for all the encouragement and support!"



ANNOUNCING LABOUR FORCE LINK

Labour Force Link - which started in May - is a new program that helps employers in Athabasca, Bonnyville, Cold Lake, Lac La Biche, St. Paul, and Vegreville. Designed for SMEs (small and medium enterprises) Labour Force Link (LFL) is like a one-stop shop, providing everything to help businesses attract and retain a strong workforce.

LFL is staffed by Employment Strategists that understand the difficulties that rural businesses face, and are uniquely equipped to help. That means figuring out what skills are missing, giving training where needed, planning for the future, and making sure everyone feels included and valued. Whether it's finding the right people for a job or promoting job opportunities through our website and local events, we've got it covered.

With Labour Force Link, businesses also get access to helpful resources and assistance with applying for government-funded programs like the Canada-Alberta Job Grant or the Workforce Development Fund. And the best part? It's all free! Our strategists can provide personalized support to tackle challenges like labor shortages so businesses can keep thriving.

Look for this logo - it means business!

EmployAbilities 50th events by community


2024 marks fifty years since EmployAbilities was incorporated. We're celebrating this important milestone with special 50th anniversary events across Alberta.

Save the date for these celebrations, and stay tuned to the EmployAbilities website (www.employabilities.ab.ca) for more information closer to the dates of the celebrations in each community.

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 	


June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
						30

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 	30	31

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 31
Cold Lake
5412 55 Street
- Unit B

August 2
Lac La Biche
10263 101 Ave

June 14
Bonnyville
5110A 54 Ave

August 29
St. Paul
Northstar Complex,
2nd floor, 4701 50 Ave

July 19
Vegreville
5025 50 Street

September 18
Edmonton
#402, 10909 Jasper Ave

Each celebration will include food (generously donated by local businesses) beverages, and birthday cake! We hope that you can join us.






Staff and supporters at the 2016 K-Days parade

Contact Us

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