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A Season to Bloom

Message from the Executive Director

I was so excited to read the success stories in the Spring 2025 newsletter. The stories of how EmployAbilities is making a difference in the lives of Albertans with disabilities and other barriers is refreshing and lifts me up.

I was also impressed to see that EmployAbilities supported 125 Albertans to find employment between January 1 and March 31, 2025. Each of the Albertans supported has their own story and journey that they have gone through to find employment.

I am so grateful for the Board of Directors and staff at EmployAbilities who truly believe in EmployAbilities mission and vision and care about the work they are doing on a daily basis.

I was truly saddened to receive notice that one of EmployAbilities longest standing programs, Inclusive Career Connections, was not renewed by the Provincial Government. This has been very difficult news to share with the staff and Board of Directors. Although this news affects programs offered in Edmonton by EmployAbilities we remain united and strong in supporting Albertans to find employment. Staff recently participated in a innovative discovery session to identify new and innovative ways that we can support Albertans to find employment.

EmployAbilities will continue to look at all our processes to see how we can be more efficient, effective, and innovative. We will persevere and be stronger in supporting Albertans to work to their full potential.

JASON LOEWER



*Brenda, a 45-year-old former special education teacher with Edmonton Public Schools, faced significant challenges due to a severe hearing impairment. Relying on bone-anchored and FM hearing aids, Brenda struggled with her job search and self-confidence before joining the seventh intake cohort of Strive 4 Work (S4W) in January.

During the program Brenda was open about her barriers, which helped her gain valuable support from both the S4W team and her peers. She completed certifications in Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP), Indigenous Awareness Training, and took an additional exposure training course Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST). Brenda also achieved her goal of connecting with the hearing-impaired community, learning basic American Sign Language (ASL) with the team at Deaf & Hear Alberta, and forming strong bonds with deaf participants.

Remaining consistent in her job search, Brenda landed an interview with Terra Centre soon after completing the skills training. She was offered a full-time position as the Centre's new Relentless Empowerment Coach, where she will support teen parents balancing education and raising children. With the support and encouragement of the Job Developer, her perseverance and determination led her to this exciting new role, and the S4W team is confident Brenda will bring her positive attitude and dedication to help the vulnerable youth at Terra Centre succeed. Her journey is a powerful reminder that with the right support, anything is possible.

*Name changed

Way to go!



Charlie was referred to EmployAbilities in January 2025. Having completed a pre-employment certification in welding, He was eager to begin his career but needed support in finding a company willing to take him on as a first-year apprentice.

The Employment Facilitator guided Charlie through the essential steps to enter an apprenticeship including registering as an indentured apprentice with Alberta Industry Training and creating a trade-specific resume that highlighted his skills and potential. Together, they worked to remove any remaining barriers to ensure Charlie was fully prepared to step into the industry.

EmployAbilities reached out to Bonnie's Equipment - Charlie's #1 choice. With his permission, an email was sent to the office administrator sharing Charlie's resume, goals, and an offer to discuss the wage subsidy program. Within the hour the owner reached out to the Employment Facilitator eager to give Charlie an opportunity to start his apprenticeship. Charlie became a sponsored welding apprentice with Bonnie's Equipment on January 27, 2025. Congratulations Charlie!



**Upcoming Casino -
Call for Volunteers**

When: August 21 and 22
Where: Starlight Casino - West Edmonton Mall



E-mail faye@employabilities.ab.ca for more information or to sign up!

Edmonton-based programs

Restart your Career

189 Online inquiries
17 Accepted into services
5 Found employment

INCLUSIVE CAREER CONNECTIONS

178 Online inquiries
57 Accepted into services
21 Found employment

Strive 4 Work

173 Online inquiries
20 Accepted into services
5 Found employment

2E LEARN | EARN

250 Online inquiries
12 Accepted into services
11 Found employment

EMPLOY Abilities FOR NEWCOMERS

65 Online inquiries
30 Accepted into services
2 Found employment



A new contract was signed with the Federal Government in March, extending E4N until 2028!

Program Updates - By the Numbers

January 1 - March 31, 2025

North-central Alberta-based programs

Career Evolution NORTH

51 Online inquiries
31 Accepted into services
16 Found employment

EMPLOY Abilities NORTH

39 Online inquiries
13 Accepted into services
10 Found employment

Lakeland EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

128 Online inquiries
89 Accepted into services
35 Found employment

EmployAbilities GRANDE PRAIRIE

135 Online inquiries
19 Accepted into services
6 Found employment

LABOUR FORCE LINK

41 Employers served
14 Connected to jobs



125

Albertans with disabilities and barriers found employment with our support in the first three months of 2025.

Employer Testimonials

"It has been a very rewarding experience to work with EmployAbilities. We were connected with a person who truly wanted to work within their capabilities and it was a great match."



"The wage subsidy allowed me to take a chance on someone I might not have looked at. I am so glad I did - they had the experience and skills I needed, and they are now my best employee."

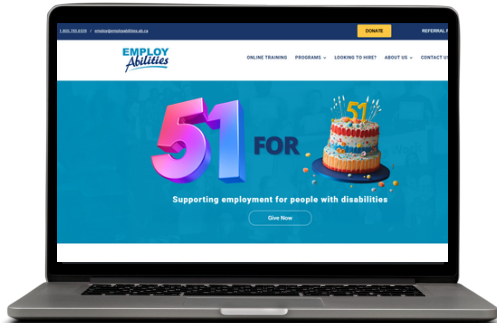


Jorvik Contracting

"If you are thinking about employing someone with a disability/barrier to employment, then I would highly recommend getting in contact with EmployAbilities. You will not be disappointed!"



51 For 51 Campaign



51 for 51 invites Albertans to give \$51 in celebration of EmployAbilities 51st anniversary. If we reach \$2,000 the Government of Alberta will match any funds raised, to a maximum of \$5,000!

Visit the EmployAbilities website at employabilities.ab.ca to learn more and donate.

Inclusive Career Connections Ending



The Inclusive Career Connections program - which provided employment services to Edmonton and area residents with disabilities and/or barriers - is coming to an end, as EmployAbilities was not successful in the contract process that would have allowed the program to be renewed.

Intakes for the program ended on February 24, 2025. We are no longer accepting clients. Partial services - like use of the Resource Room at the downtown Edmonton office and Skills Training Workshops - will continue until June 30, 2025.

EmployAbilities staff will continue to assist clients that are currently in the program with employment services to December 31, 2025.

For additional information, please call 780-945-4648 or email susans@employabilities.ab.ca.

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