

The North Connect NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 03 / AUGUST 2026

SWAN CITY IS BUZZING: TAPPING INTO GP'S OVERLOOKED TALENT POOL THIS AUGUST

Hello Grande Prairie Business Community!

Grande Prairie's economy is moving fast. To help your organization scale, this August we are focusing on a major shift in modern recruitment: building a bulletproof strategy around workplace accessibility. True accessibility isn't just a compliance goal, it is a proven lever to reduce employee turnover, plug productivity drains, and tap into dedicated workforce demographics right here in our region.

Inside this issue: Discover upcoming local events & networking opportunities, local hiring trends, and key awareness dates to help your business thrive this August.

LOCAL INDUSTRY & HIRING TRENDS

Grande Prairie continues to see strong labor demands across the hospitality, seasonal tourism, and light industrial sectors as we maximize the summer peak.

- **The Trend:** Forward-thinking local employers are shifting from traditional interview models toward "Skills First Hiring" and practical working assessments. This approach eliminates unnecessary barriers for candidates with diverse abilities and ensures you hire based on actual capability rather than just a resume.
- **Who is Hiring?** Major regional employers, hospitality groups supporting our busy summer festival season, and local logistics companies are aggressively recruiting. If you have open roles, reach out to us! we have job ready candidates prepared to fill them!



Community Events

- **Aug 1st Grande Prairie Chariot Fest:**
11AM – 3:30PM, a colourful community procession through the city, followed by a cultural gathering in the Muskoseepi park with live music, traditional and contemporary performances, interactive exhibits, family activities, and complimentary vegetarian food. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about world cultures, community traditions, values of selfless service, and the importance of building an inclusive and harmonious society.
- **AUG 1st Grande Prairie Heritage Day:**
12:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Grande Prairie Museum's Heritage Village. This family-friendly holiday event celebrates local history and the diverse cultures of the region with a variety of interactive activities.
- **Aug 12th GP Grows: On Tour :** A community agricultural and gardening interest event hosted by the City of Grande Prairie from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM to encourage local green initiatives.





The Real Cost of Accessibility: Fact vs. Fiction

Many business owners worry that workplace accommodations require major construction or expensive tech overhauls. The actual data tells a completely different story.

Fiction: "Accommodating an employee with a disability will break my budget."

Fact: Most accommodations cost absolutely nothing. Data from the Job Accommodation Network (JAN) reveals just how budget-friendly inclusion is:

- 56% cost \$0 to implement: These require zero capital investment – just simple operational flexibility. Examples include adjusting a shift schedule, moving a desk away from a loud vent, or tweaking how tasks are handed off.
- The remaining 44% have a median cost of just \$500: When an expense is required, it is typically a modest, one-time purchase rather than an ongoing cost.

High-Impact, Zero-Cost Example:

Accessibility is about creative problem solving, not expensive invoices. You can start today for free by activating the built in screen readers or color contrast settings already included in your standard Microsoft Office 365 programs.

Who's Hiring? Partner Highlights

Shoutout to our local retail, hospitality, Trades and industrial partners who have proactively reached out this month to diversify their talent pools.

If your business is currently looking to scale up or fill high-turnover positions, let's partner up. Our pool of pre-screened, capable candidates are ready, willing, and waiting to step into meaningful employment.

Let's connect this August! Reach out to us directly to chat about your current hiring needs, workspace accommodations, or how to get started with our free employer services.

Community Events Cntd.

- **Aug 14th – 16th Bear Creek Folk Music Festival:** An outdoor community event at Muskoseepi Park featuring artists like Tom Cochrane, Tenille Townes, and The Trews. Sign up to be a volunteer! or Weekend passes and daily tickets can be purchased directly via the Bear Creek Folk Fest site.
- **Aug 21st – 22nd County of Grande Prairie 75th Anniversary Celebration:** A massive two-day milestone festival at the TARA Centre at Evergreen Park. It kicks off Friday with wagon rides, puppets, and face painting, followed by a Saturday pancake breakfast, live stage performances, and a massive evening drone show.
- **Aug 28th Experience Grande Prairie:** An all-day annual street festival celebrating the culture, local businesses, and community spirit right in the heart of downtown Grande Prairie.

Webinars

- **Aug 18th 1:30 p.m. Overview of Alberta Employment Standards Webinar:** Brush up on the baseline rights, obligations, and minimum standards required for provincial employers. Register at alberta.ca/employment-standards-webinars
- **Aug 18th 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Canada Alberta Productivity Grant (CAPG) Funding Webinar:** Join this 1-hour session to learn how your business can leverage government grants to help employees and unemployed Albertans access skill development. Register at alberta.ca/canada-alberta-productivity-grant

Partner With Us: Streamline Your Staffing

Interested in one of our candidates? Or are you looking to fill a completely different vacancy? The EmployAbilities Grande Prairie Liaison team is here to help at no cost to your business.

What we provide to our employer partners:

- Pre-screened, job-ready candidates tailored to your specific industry.
- Recruitment support
- Information on resources such as grants
- On-site onboarding support and job coaching to ensure long-term retention.
- Guidance on wage subsidies and inclusive workplace modifications.

Connect with the Employer Liaison team today:

Website:

employabilities.ab.ca/grande-prairie

or scan the QR code



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Talent Pool Highlights

The following candidate profiles are job-ready and actively seeking opportunities in the Grande Prairie region. In strict compliance with privacy regulations, all profiles are anonymized:



Candidate C.P.

- **Experienced Field Laborer & Chainsaw Operator:** Proven track record in heavy seasonal labor, pipeline construction, and clearing operations across Northern Alberta, backed by an Enform Level I Chainsaw Certification.
- **Diverse Industry Adaptability:** Robust hands-on background spanning oil and gas (including PITS Floorhand training), logging, pulp mills, carpentry, landscaping, and specialized archaeological fieldwork/site inspection.
- **Safety & Team-Oriented Foundation:** Strongly supported by safety-first certifications—including a Type 3 Firefighter Certification and general pipeline safety training—combined with a dependable work ethic in crew-based environments.



Candidate K.M.

- **Advanced Administrative & Data Systems Expertise:** Highly proficient in front-end operations, multi-line communications, database administration, and record-keeping. Proven track record handling municipal permits, financial databases, digital invoicing, and specialized municipal/law enforcement software (including PROS, CPIC, Report Exec, and See Click Fix).
- **Diverse Public & Private Sector Coordination:** Extensive background in high-level service delivery and operations within Grande Prairie, including managing an independent services business, acting as an Office Coordinator for the City of Grande Prairie, and delivering front-counter community reception for the local RCMP detachment.
- **Rigorous Security, Compliance, & Leadership Background:** Demonstrates an exceptional work ethic and reliability backed by past experience as a Canadian Forces Infanteer, an RCMP Cell Block Guard (holding RCMP Security and Public Works Reliability clearances), and a decorated youth mentor and instructor with a deep commitment to workplace safety and procedural compliance.

Talent Pool Highlights

Cntd.



Candidate A.M.

- Experienced in diverse roles across the Peace Region, including technical instrument repair, retail customer service, outdoor well testing, and site security.
- Mechanically inclined, physically fit for demanding tasks, highly reliable, and possesses strong customer service and cash-handling skills.
- Seeking adaptable, hands-on roles such as Shop Assistant, Security Guard, Retail Clerk, or General Laborer.



Candidate S.M.

- 20+ Years of Customer Service & Diverse Work History: Possesses an extensive background in customer service, with recent regional experience spanning industrial parts delivery and labor (Clean Harbors), classroom supervision (GP Catholic School District), and certified caregiving.
- Hands-on Skills & Active Certifications: Physically fit with a clean Class 5 Driver's License and active industrial training, including Forklift certification, WHMIS, and TDG.
- Strong Local Community Connection: Highly reliable and community-minded professional with deep roots in the region, including a high school diploma from Beaverlodge and extensive volunteer experience with local initiatives like the Bear Creek Folk Festival and the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre.



Candidate L.T.

- Tech Focused Student: Currently pursuing a Computer Science Technology certificate at Northwestern Polytechnic, skilled in JavaScript, Python, basic software development, and building computers.
- Reliable & Safety Certified: Proven track record of focus, adaptability, and sharp attention to detail in high-risk environments as a local traffic controller, backed by current First Aid and H2S safety certifications.
- Strong Soft Skills: Combines creative problem-solving and digital hobbyist leadership (online community management) with practical expertise in standard productivity tools like Excel and Google Workspace.

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