

## Community Partnerships: Promoting Employment for People with Developmental Disabilities

Mrs. Wendy McDonald, Inclusion Alberta

## Summary

The dreams parents have for their sons and daughters with developmental disabilities are no less than the dreams they and other parents share for their children without disabilities, to: have every opportunity for a career, make a contribution; earn an income and be valued as community members. People with developmental disabilities share the aspirations of their families and want nothing more than the opportunity to demonstrate their potential. Unfortunately, the vast majority of Canadians with developmental disabilities are unemployed or underemployed.

For people without disabilities, a good job helps to give purpose to life and affirms a valued place in society. Imagine if, as a result of a disability through no fault of your own, you were relegated to a life on the sidelines. Inclusion Alberta, and its partners are committed to working in partnership with the business and broader community to create meaningful employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities - to create the kind of possibilities that contribute to the fullness of community life. Inclusion in community life today creates better communities for everyone tomorrow.

You will have the opportunity to learn about this innovative Employment Partnership in that has dramatically changed the lives of over 425 business as well as individuals with developmental disabilities.