

Quote:

"A true friend knows your weaknesses but shows you your strengths; feels your fears but fortifies your faith; sees your anxieties but frees your spirit; recognizes your disabilities but emphasizes your possibilities"

- William Arthur Ward"

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The Canadian Association for Supported Employment
L'Association Canadienne pour l'Emploi Supporté

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Message from the CASE President: Tracy Williams

As I write this message it is only -25 here in Brandon, Manitoba. It's practically spring! I know everyone across the country has had a hard winter and for many there are several weeks still left to go; but now is the time to start thinking about what are your organizational plans for the coming year? How can we share this information and make all services across Canada better, I know that the CASE board has been involved with planning and we had a very productive two day board meeting in January where the excitement for the national conference is starting to build, think warm thoughts of Regina in June!

In the last edition of our newsletter I mentioned that we were working hard on developing an online tutorial for Best Practices in Supported Employment. I am proud to say, that it is now online and garnering a lot of interest across the country. You will find it at www.employmentforall.ca. This site is designed to be user friendly for job seekers, families, employers and support workers. It outlines the nine guiding principles for Best Practice for Supported Employment. You will find more information on this further on in this edition (page 2) I also want to thank Open School BC for their hard work directly on this project and the Board of CASE for their expertise.

This winter we appointed an Executive Director, Roger Van Lieshout, who be working with us to develop new initiatives to better serve our members and advance the CASE Mission to improve employment inclusion for people with disabilities. Roger has a long history in Supported Employment and is a great asset to helping CASE build our resources and network across the country. There are a number of important opportunities and challenges facing service providers, government, businesses and the clients that we serve. CASE is looking to become more than just a yearly conference, and this is one way to provide more to our membership.

One thing getting a lot of time in the press the last few months is the 2014 Budget and the direct impact to agency's who are funded through the LMA's. We are keeping a close eye on the developments coast to coast, both to ensure that we can share the information with our members and to provide a common message to any discussions that might be going on in individual provinces. To get more information or to become involved go to www.lmaworks.com.

And finally, registration is open for the 2014 CASE conference to be held in Regina Saskatchewan, June 17-19. Our board of directors in conjunction with the local conference committee have worked hard this year to produce a dynamic and engaging program with 2 keynote speakers and over a dozen workshops, which I am sure will appeal to a variety of interests. This is our third conference hosted by the province of Saskatchewan, and each time it has been better than the last, so make sure you register early and we will see you in Regina!

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to encourage agencies across Canada to join CASE, we continue to develop and build and we can't do that without your support. One of the greatest benefits of CASE is the amazing network of organizations and individuals making a difference across Canada. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at twilliams@westmanemployment.ca

Tracy Williams
CASE President

Executive Director
Westman Employment Services Inc.
Brandon Manitoba

CASE Board of Directors Spotlight: Archie Stewart



Archie Stewart is a District Operations Manager for the Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure. Where he manages the year operation of 55 staff and 1600 Kilometers of Saskatchewan Provincial Highway.

Archie Stewart Started with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways in April of 1977 as a labour and in 1984, he became a Supervisor of Operation managing a section crew at a very young age to be a leader. Archie moved into a management role in the spring of 1997 becoming the District Manager for the South East corner of the Province, Carlyle. In the winter of 2007 Archie and his Family moved to Regina to his current position.

Archie continues to manage, mentor highway staff in order to safely move people and goods.

Archie was elected to the Provincial Ministry of Highways Diversity Committee in 2006 and in the spring of 2011 he became co-chair of that committee, where he continues to support and work towards a welcoming and respectful work place.

Best Practices for Supported Employment Website

First, we would like to thank all of you that provided input, photos and video for the Best Practice Website. In January 2014, the site went "live". BC was first out of the gate with an official Provincial launch. There were a couple of radio interviews conducted and newspaper releases. Check out this link to listen www.communitylivingbc.ca/2014/01/best-practices-and-training-funds-for-employing-adults-with-developmental-disabilities/

www.employmentforall.ca was designed for those involved in Supported Employment throughout Canada to be practicing a level of service excellence in order to get the best employment outcomes for people with disabilities. The site provides information and learning for Job Seekers, families, support workers and a way for employers to directly request service from agencies. If you would like to have you or your agency listed for an employer contact you need to access the Support Worker portal, read through the material, write a quiz and enter your contact data.

Supported Employment

Success Stories

Watch the video below to see three stories of supported employment in action.



About

Learn more about Best Practices for Supported Employment and how this website is designed to work for you. [Click to read more.](#)

What is Supported Employment?



Why Participate?

Job Seeker/Family

Employer

Support Worker

What else is there to know?

Self-employment

Training and Development

Resources

Currently BC and New Brunswick have the highest number of registrants and we have seen success in employer contacts. Be sure to share the site with all your members, staff, and employers.

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CASE Conference 2014: June 17 - 19, 2014

Welcome to Regina, Saskatchewan's Queen City and the Land of the Living Skies. We are excited to be hosting the 19th Annual Canadian Association of Supported Employment National Conference June 17th to 19th 2014!



An amazing conference awaits you with the keynote presentations by **Dr. Richard Pimentel** (pictured on left), the father of disability rights in the US, and **Cory Johnson** (pictured on right) an individual with a disability who will motivate and inspire us all.



We have recruited a number of sessions for you on transitioning youth from school to employment, mental illness, as well as new technology to assist employment professionals and job seekers alike.

Plan to spend an extra day or two so you can soak up the local history at the RCMP museum, the fabulous legislature buildings or Mosaic Stadium, home of our very own Grey Cup Champions, the Saskatchewan Roughriders. Regina is home to several world class museums and the summer months are filled with multi-cultural events. Remember, the Casino Regina is right across the street from the event, so if you're feeling lucky...well, you know what to do...

Some amazing local talent will be portrayed at the evening Gala where you will enjoy traditional aboriginal dancers followed by an old time dance party - Saskatchewan style - featuring "The Otherz" and CASE board's own Archie Stewart.

Once again, on behalf of SARC and the organizing committee, welcome to Regina and the Land of the Living Skies. For more information and online registration visit: www.supportedemployment.ca

Canada's Best Diversity Employers



Canada's Best Diversity Employers

Entering its eighth year, Canada's Best Diversity Employers recognizes employers across Canada that have exceptional workplace diversity and inclusiveness programs. The competition examines a range of diversity initiatives, including programs for five major employee groups: (a) Women; (b) Members of visible minorities; (c) Persons with disabilities; (d) Aboriginal peoples; and (e) Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender/ Transsexual (LGBT) peoples.

Any employer with its head office or principal place of business in Canada may apply for this competition. Employers of any size may apply, whether private or public sector.

Each applicant should have an interesting initiative for at least one of the five above diversity groups covered by this competition.

Mediacorp editors reviewed over 3,500 applications of employers that applied for the 2014 Canada's Top 100 Employers project. Each short-listed candidate's programs are reviewed to determine how they compared to those of other employers in the same field. The finalists chosen represent the diversity leaders in their industry and region of Canada. The 2015 winners will be announced in a special newspaper feature to be published by The Globe and Mail early in 2015. Employers apply for the competition through the Canada's Top 100 Employers application process. Employers complete a single application package for both competitions. Request an application at:

www.canadastop100.com/diversity

JAS: Leading the Way to a Barrier-Free Workplace

Job Accommodation Service (JAS) is a Canada-wide and bilingual service that offers public and private sector companies of all sizes advice, consultations, and assessment services in order to assist them comply with their legal duty to accommodate and accessibility standards. Through an extensive pool of experts, this fee-based service supports employers and employees in setting up an inclusive and healthy environment thereby preventing conflict, managing disability, as well as preventing disability through ergonomic evaluations. The JAS consultants recommend solutions that optimize performance and make diverse, accessible, and healthy workplaces.

JAS's mission is to assist your organization by:

- Help you meet Employment Equity and accessibility goals by recommending appropriate workplace accommodations for employees with disabilities. Providing suitable accommodations will help your organization hire, retain and promote employees with disabilities.
- Enhance productivity of your employees by ensuring they have the tools and strategies they require.
- Decrease the cost of STD and LTD absences.
- Raise your organization's profile through employment diversity.
- Protect your company against any discrimination complaints.
- Prevent financial, intellectual, and strategic losses related to staff turn-over.

Deal with an organization with over 40 years of expertise in issues related to disability and employment. JAS will customize your service based on your company culture, objectives and internal policies or processes. We provide you with one central point of contact for all types of disability and ergonomic related assessment and consultation needs. Case management provided by our specialists ensure every file is handled with the highest expertise and ensures each report meets your organization's unique standards in terms of content, format and requirements. Assure your employee's concerns regarding privacy and confidentiality. Our extensive experience allows your organization to assist managers and HR practitioners by providing detailed recommendations that ensure the smoothest and easiest process of accommodating employees with disabilities.

Neil Squire Society Presents: Job Fair For People with Disabilities



Monday April 7, 2014
12:30 pm – 3:30 pm
University of Regina
Centre for Kinesiology, Health & Sport

On April 7, 2014, the Regina chapter of the Neil Squire Society is hosting a Brunch and Learn Event: *Accommodations Made Easy* featuring guest speaker Larry Carlson. The Brunch and Learn event will be held from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm at the University of Regina, Centre for Kinesiology, Health & Sport.

The Brunch and Learn will be followed by a Job Fair for People with Disabilities designed to connect job seekers living with a disability to your company. It will feature employers committed to a representative workforce, as well as service providers with information on accommodations and funding.

For More Information or to Register please Contact:

Neil Squire Society at nikkil@neilsquire.ca or (306) 781-6023