



 **case**

Innovation Lab 

supportedemployment.ca/initiatives/innovation-lab

**INNOVATING
INCLUSION**

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada 

What is the CASE Innovation Lab?

The CASE Innovation Lab was created in 2021 to support, promote and share learnings from collaborations with partners across the country; to **remove barriers to employment faced by people experiencing disability.**



Create
Opportunities



Scale-Up



Connect
people



Remove
barriers



to **increase
employment
inclusion**
in Canada!

With a grant through the federal government's Sectoral Initiatives Program, we research, select, test, analyze and grow transformative solutions that facilitate the sustained and **valued contributions persons experiencing disability make to the Canadian economy.**

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada 



case
Innovation Lab 

INNOVATING
INCLUSION



Meet our partners, who are working to promote:

- ✓ Enhanced employment opportunities / participation
- ✓ Transformative technologies
- ✓ New trends in employment supports
- ✓ Public education and awareness
- ✓ Engaged underserved / equity-deserving populations
- ✓ Raised profile of supported employment services



From Families to Families

Community Living Ontario and the Family Support Network for Employment advocate for employment for persons with developmental disabilities and their families.

In middle and high schools in Ontario, families and self-advocates with lived experience will share their knowledge and offer advocacy skills and support to families and students who have an intellectual disability.

Through the sharing of knowledge, families will understand that employment is a realistic and reasonable goal for their youth while in school and after graduation.

www.communitylivingontario.ca

Funded by the
Government
of Canada



**INNOVATING
INCLUSION**



**INNOVATING
INCLUSION**



Transitional Employment and Return to Work Program

Crocus Co-op is a non-profit, member guided co-operative in Saskatchewan that works on behalf of adults who experience mental health challenges.

Their transitional employment program will offer additional skills training as they expand from residential to commercial services. Outreach will broaden to job seekers transitioning from hospitals, incarceration or long-term unemployment.

Meaningful employment in a safe environment improves physical and mental health and gives people purpose and dignity.

www.crocuscooperative.org

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada



Building the World's Leading Environmental Workforce

Eco Canada champions the end-to-end career of an environmental professional, including current or aspiring employees experiencing disability.

ECO Canada is undertaking 2 innovative projects:

- Developing video testimonials of people experiencing disability who are thriving in green careers and of employers who have benefitted from embracing inclusion.
- Conducting research that leads to innovative solutions addressing the challenges faced by young professionals with disabilities entering the environmental workforce.

www.eco.ca

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada



case
Innovation Lab

INNOVATING
INCLUSION



**INNOVATING
INCLUSION**



FREE REIN
— ASSOCIATES LTD —

Diversity at Work

Free Rein Associates have been serving the employment needs of Hope, BC and surrounding areas since 1993. Their experience in promoting inclusion in rural and remote settings is of great interest to the Innovation Lab and others facing similar issues in the supported employment sector.

Following the success of their program, 'The Right Fit', Free Rein have now decided to create a virtual resource hub to support all employment stakeholders in creating accessible workplaces in rural and remote communities.

www.freereinassociates.ca

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada 



Gateway to Digital Inclusion

Gateway is passionate about empowering people experiencing disability and their families to live fully authentic lives. Their vision with the Gateway App is to create a nationwide, online community in which individuals can share their unique gifts and expertise, as well as access tools to strengthen employment supports and digital literacy skills.

Unique aspects of this initiative include a video storytelling project and remote job coaching feature.

www.gatewayassociation.ca

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada 



 case
Innovation Lab 

INNOVATING
INCLUSION



**INNOVATING
INCLUSION**



Remote Job Coach

Remote Job Coach is an initiative to help individuals experiencing intellectual disability to become more independent in the workplace, as well as in other aspects of their lives.

Inclusion Winnipeg is demonstrating the possibilities of re-purposing existing technologies for use in other applications — one of the most common and successful approaches to innovation. The promising results of their initial pilot have sparked interest in organizations and businesses across the country; opening the door for widespread dissemination through partnerships.

www.inclusionwinnipeg.org

Funded by the
Government
of Canada





Independent Mindset Skills for Empowerment & Transition (ImSET)

Independent Living Nova Scotia supports persons who experience disability through services that promote independent living at home, work and play within an inclusive community.

In partnership with Futureworx, an existing web-based program will be adapted to create Independent Mindset Skills for Empowerment & Transition (ImSET). ImSET will assist supported employment staff and job seekers experiencing disability to assess and learn a consistent set of skills needed to independently thrive, in both life and the workforce. Virtual and/or in-person training will be provided for supported employment caseworkers and employers across Canada.

<https://ilns.ca>

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada 



INNOVATING INCLUSION



**INNOVATING
INCLUSION**



Support for Post-Secondary Job Seekers

Gaining valuable work experience and connections through practicum and co-op placements is essential to post-secondary students, but many who experience disability find it difficult to ace an interview, showcase their talents and increase employer awareness of the benefits of inclusion.

Level It Up works in partnership with academic institutions to build the capacity of post-secondary job seekers, while at the same time engaging potential employers who are seeking skilled, professional staff. In this way, they are filling a much-needed resource gap in supported employment.

www.levelitupmb.ca

Funded by the
Government
of Canada





The Great EQualizer

Meticulon's initiative is based on a nationally-tested platform that enables youth experiencing disability and/or neurodiversity, their support networks and employers to "put the individual at the centre of an integrated service delivery model."

The assessment tool and associated capacity-building options are cost-effective, replicable and scalable and can serve as a lifelong guide for improvement for the user.

Meticulon was the first enterprise in Canada to focus solely on employing neurodiverse consultants to create a profitable enterprise in the digital sector.

www.meticulon.com

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada 



**INNOVATING
INCLUSION**



**INNOVATING
INCLUSION**



The Successful Transition from High School Project

Munch is a non-profit social enterprise that offers catering and food related activities in Regina; to employ and train people experiencing cognitive disability.

Job trainers will offer cooking classes within Alternative Education programs in high schools to identify students interested in further training.

The development of a systematic process, including data capture and recordkeeping, will ensure a consistent, optimal transition from school to employment or independent living for all students experiencing cognitive disability.

www.munchinregina.ca

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada



The Youth Success Strategy initiative was developed by ODEN after conducting extensive research on which strategies and service components lead to successful employment outcomes for youth —regardless of their abilities.

They found that stakeholders in the life of a child who experiences disability, including community partners, employers, educators and families, are all critical players in bridging gaps in the school-to-work transition. Promoting this awareness and empowering families, educators, service providers and businesses throughout the country is the goal of this national project.

www.odennetwork.com

Funded by the
Government
of Canada



**INNOVATING
INCLUSION**



**INNOVATING
INCLUSION**



On-Board: A Construction Inclusion Project

ONxpress is currently working on the design and construction of new GO rail services in Greater Toronto and Hamilton, Ontario.

The ON-Board Construction Inclusion Project will establish unique mental health and awareness programs for Canada's construction industry to attract and support job seekers experiencing mental illness, post-traumatic stress or neurodivergent challenges. The program will reduce harmful stereotypes around mental health in the construction sector and promote construction-related careers.

www.onxpress.com

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada



Career Exploration Technology Project

SaskAbilities Partners in Employment, a provincial non-profit, offers pre-employment services and supported employment for persons experiencing disability and/or barriers to employment.

The first-of-its-kind Virtual Reality Career Exploration will allow job seekers in Swift Current and surrounding areas to experience interactive job-related scenarios in a safe and supported environment. The technology will inform career goals and build relationships with employers who could incorporate VR into training and hiring practices.

www.saskabilities.ca

Funded by the
Government
of Canada



INNOVATING INCLUSION



**INNOVATING
INCLUSION**

sce
LIFEWORKS
working together

**Minding the (Service) Gaps/
Meeting You Where You're At**

SCE LifeWorks has developed an initiative — Minding the (Service) Gaps and Meeting You Where You're At — in response to identified systemic and organizational gaps in supported employment services.

Their focus is on young adult job seekers experiencing developmental disability who also face intersectional barriers (e.g. indigenous clients, newcomers, those experiencing trauma/ intergenerational trauma, clients lacking strong support networks and/or those living in poverty).

www.lifeworks.mb.ca

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada



Pathways to Inclusive Apprenticeship Opportunities

The Social Research and Demonstration Corporation (SRDC) is a charitable, non-profit research and evaluation firm that provides high quality research and evaluation support in many areas of public policy.

The purpose of this project is to establish an innovative partnership involving SRDC researchers, Community Living BC (CLBC), SkilledTradesBC, service providers, and employers to research, develop, and design inclusive apprenticeship pathways for people with disabilities to support prospective apprentices with disabilities explore, train, and gain work experience in the skilled trades. The project will result in a model that the partners can scale and test as a subsequent pilot project.

www.srdc.org

Funded by the
Government
of Canada



INNOVATING INCLUSION



**INNOVATING
INCLUSION**



Inclusion Enterprise Certification

Vision-Travail, an employment organization in Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Québec, works to create an inclusive job market through the integration of a diverse workforce.

A renewable certification will be created in Abitibi-Témiscamingue to accredit and publicly recognize inclusive companies. A rigorous, comprehensive process will assess organizations and an optional action plan could help them achieve inclusivity and attain certification that they could promote to reassure under-represented job seekers. The certification could be exported to all regions of Québec and Canada.

www.vision-travail.qc.ca

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada

INNOVATION LAB

(CONCLUDED PARTNER PROJECTS)

In addition to the ongoing projects listed above, the Innovation Lab have also concluded initiatives with the following partners:

- **Fit First/Jobtimizer** (National) Predictive analytics tool for inclusive job-matching.
- **Groupe Convex/l'Académie Convex** (Hawkesbury, Ontario) New approach to assessing the skills and abilities of jobseekers experiencing intellectual disability.
- **Inclusion Powell River/Diversa Collective** (Powell River, British Columbia) Development of a new model for supporting entrepreneurs experiencing disability through a start-up video production company.
- **Métis Faamii Foundation/Building Blocks to Inclusion** (Beardy's/Okemasis and One Arrow, Saskatchewan) Culturally adapted supported employment program for Indigenous youth experiencing neurodiversity.

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada



INNOVATING
INCLUSION