

Rotary Employment Partnership E-Blast

D5360 & D5370

Snapshot of Partnership Pre-COVID

Alberta employment statistics for people with developmental disabilities before the onset of COVID-19 although the first 2 statistics remain true today, as it has for the last decade. The Rotary Employment Partnership strives to continuously tackle this unemployment rate.

- Approximately **15%** of the population has a disability.
- Approximately **80%** of adults with developmental disabilities are unemployed or underemployed.
- Rotarians have helped to create **577** jobs across Alberta, with **88** of those jobs being in Calgary and area and **64** in Red Deer, **58** in Grand Prarie, **84** in Lloydminster, **284** in Edmonton and area.
- The Rotary Employment Partnership had been actively supporting **123** of those jobs across Alberta. (*Actively supporting means regular check-ins with the employer and direct support of the individual at the workplace*).

Impact on Partnership during COVID

Current Alberta Employment statistics affected by COVID-19

Individuals actively working: **47**
Temporarily laid-off: **58** Permanent Lay-off: **3**
New jobs created: **4**

Coordinators with Inclusion Alberta have been actively keeping in touch with employers and employees, sharing resources and providing supports in any way needed.

What Rotarians can do now

This is the perfect time to introduce the idea of inclusive employment to organizations. Pre-COVID leaders of organizations often indicated they didn't have the capacity to think about or introduce the idea of inclusive hiring to their teams. Today, many are working from home and are meeting with their teams virtually. This has provided a unique opportunity for the Rotary Employment Partnership to meet with leadership teams. Let's try to tap into these networks again.

Re-connecting is a great way to find out how people, their families and their businesses are doing. Perhaps there are some unique challenges that Rotary Employment Partnership candidates can help with as businesses start to return to work. Perhaps employers will see the need to cut costs by creating a position for someone with a lower skillset, which is often at a lower wage.

As you can see below the Rotary Employment Partnership remains active and new jobs are being developed! Please ensure you are introducing the Rotary Employment Partnership and the benefits of inclusive hiring to those within your Rotary club and personal networks!

If you are interested in knowing how your workplace or Rotary Club can become involved, please contact:

Wendy McDonald, District 5370 Rotary Employment Partnership Committee Chair, Inclusion Alberta Chief Operating Officer:
wmcDonald@inclusionAlberta.org | 780-974-1310

Trina Steed, Inclusion Alberta Provincial Director, Employment Partnerships: tsteed@inclusionAlberta.org | 780-451-3055 ext. 426

New Jobs Developed

Milk Jar Candle Co.

Lauren has recently started working with Milk Jar Candle Company in Calgary. Her role as product assistant involves production, inventory, retail, safety and housekeeping. Milk Jar handmakes all of their products, so Lauren helps to prepare glassware, label boxes and candles, cleans candles and packages them. She also packs inventory for customer orders and prepares them for curbside pick-up. Post-COVID, Lauren will also help sell product at public markets.



Lauren labelling boxes alongside owner Holly

Victory Golf and Country Club

Laura started work as a Chef's Assistant at the Victoria Golf and Country Club in Edmonton. Chef Paul previously employed Laura as a Baker at Woodshed Burgers. When Chef Paul took over management of the kitchen at the country club, he again hired Laura to join the new team. Laura recently completed her studies in Culinary Arts, through the Inclusive Post-Secondary initiative at NAIT. Laura works alongside 5 other co-workers who together, "cook up a storm" for golfers and their guests. She is very excited to be back in the workforce and grateful to Chef Paul for again taking a chance on her.



Laura and a colleague completing some food preparation

Job Seeker Profile

Allan Jr. T.

Allan Jr. (AJ) is a talented and creative young man with his own vending machine business, WHIMIS training, First Aid. He handmakes leather belts, keychains, and other small items to sell inside his vending machine, located in a shop in Airdrie. AJ is also very strong and enjoys working with his hands, using tools and assisting with projects. AJ has experience working for a welding shop where he cut metal and made steel shelving units. AJ also obtained certificates to operate counterbalance forklifts, mobile elevated work platforms and rough terrain forklifts. His primary interest is physical labor in a shop or warehouse, where he can be challenged, learn new skills and use his hands. As a former member of the Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps, AJ places high value in teamwork and comradery.

COVID-19 Update

As you are aware, due to COVID-19, many workplaces are shut down, or staff are working from home. The Rotary Employment Partnership Coordinators are working hard to keep in touch with current employers, employees, job seekers and families.

As things re-open, coordinators are engaging with employers to determine return to work protocols and prepare employees for possible return. Some organizations have started with voluntary return-to-work, allowing the option to employees who feel safe enough to return.

If you are aware of any organizations that are looking for staff, please remember to keep us in mind!

Keep an eye out for Coordinators in your weekly Rotary Zoom Meetings as well, thanks to all of our steering committee members for providing us access to join!

Steering Committee Update

Anna-Maria Korell from Calgary East Rotary has agreed to be the new liaison between the Rotary Employment Partnership and District 5360 board. Thank you Anna-Maria!

Keep an eye on the District 5360 website for videos and stories about the Rotary Employment Partnership successes. Follow this [link](#) and scroll to the bottom to see the partnership information.

