

Welcome to the Alberta Association for Supported Employment (AASE) Web- site

Click on the page called *About AASE*, and you can learn more about AASE and about the people there. You can read about the hopes and plans we have for AASE. We tell you who we are, what we do to make sure supported employment works well and what we have done so far.

We started this web- site to tell people about all the work AASE does in Alberta. The web- site also helps people find news about supported employment and what people have learned about how to make it work well.

To find out more, click on *contact us*.

About AASE: Who We Are and What We Do

AASE is the Alberta Association for Supported Employment. We are a group of organizations which give services to people with disabilities. We all want to help people with disabilities find jobs and we will give them support in these jobs.

What does AASE do?

The main goal of AASE is to set up links between service organizations so that they can share information and ideas about supported employment. Anyone is welcome to join if they want to help more people get supported jobs.

What we believe (our mission statement)

Like the Canadian Association for Supported Employment (CASE), AASE wants a community where everyone matters, all people with disabilities are treated the same as people without disabilities; and in which everyone gets fair wages for the work they do.

What AASE wants

- We want to see supported employment grow and more people get good jobs.
- We want to send out news about supported employment, so that the public knows more about it.
- We want to make sure we have the funds so that AASE can carry on with its work.

- We want to help members of AASE get better and better at what they do. We will do this in 3 ways:
 1. We will look at problems that make it hard to give good services to people with disabilities.
 2. We will be leaders in supported employment and show the best way to give services to people with disabilities.
 3. We will make links to share information with others who do the same work.

The top people at AASE (they are called directors)

Graham Badry

Vocational and Rehabilitation Research Institute (VRRI)

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The history of AASE

In May, 2001, a group of supported employment organizations from Alberta made plans to hold a big meeting about supported employment. This was held in Calgary in November, 2002. People came from all over Canada for it.

As the plans were made, people saw that many organizations had the same hopes for supported employment. People understood that together they could do more to make their dreams come true.

So they started AASE.

About Supported Employment (SE)

What is supported employment?

- SE is real work.
- SE is work in a work- place with people who do not all have disabilities.
- SE is work with support from an organization that knows how to give it.

What is real work?

- Real work is work that might be done by someone without a disability.
- Real work is not pre- work training.
- Real work brings real wages. Supported workers are paid at least minimum wage, or the usual wage for the job.

What is an integrated work setting?

An *integrated* work- place is where people with and without disabilities work together. People with disabilities should have jobs in every work- place.

Note: Sometimes large crews of people with disabilities work together in one place. This does not mean the work- place is integrated.

What is On-going Support?

It is support which does not stop until it is not needed any longer. Even if people need help for a long time, we will try to make sure they get it.

The support should last for as long as the worker needs it in order to do the job well.

Contact Us

We keep office hours in our Calgary head office. We try to get back to you as fast as we can. We will not take longer than 2 week-days.

Alberta Association for Supported Employment
307, 919 Centre Street North
Calgary, AB, T2E 2P6

Ph: (403) 262-8515

Fax: (403) 294-1706

For general questions or if you are from TV, the radio or a newspaper, contact us by e-mail at info@aase.ca.

Why is Supported Employment Good for Employers?

SE can help employers

- It can help you find people who want to work but cannot find jobs
- It can help you find and keep skilled staff
- It can give you good information about how to care for your workers and make them want to stay with you.
- It can add benefits to your workplace, as people with different needs and skills come together.

How can this kind of work force be good for business?

- It helps sales.
Remember, about 16 out of every 100 Canadians has a disability. They buy things. So do their families and friends, and the members of organizations they belong to. It is useful to have workers who are like your customers.
- It brings in new ideas
People with disabilities often have new ways to look at things. They have had to overcome many problems and this gives them skills that are good for any business.
- It makes your company look good.
Hiring people with disabilities makes your company look good. That is important.

- It gives your company a bigger group of skilled people to hire from.
People with disabilities, if they are supported, can make a real difference to a business.
- It makes the work- place better.
When you have a good mix of people in the work- place, it becomes more interesting. Often employers and co- workers of people with disabilities find them really useful to have in the work- place.
- It helps you get ready for the future.
As more people in Canada get older, more will have disabilities. Businesses will need to know how to give good service to customers with disabilities. People with disabilities in your workforce can teach you what will be needed.

Useful Links

If you need more information on supported employment, try some of these links.

The list has for-profit and non-profit organizations. We will add to the list as we find new web sites that are useful.

Agencies which are members of AASE

Calgary and Alberta

Calgary Alternative Employment Services (CAES)

Calgary Vocational Services (CVS)

Columbia College

Developmental Disabilities Resource Centre of Calgary (DDRC)

Calgary Region Community Board Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD)

Hull Child and Family Services

Potential Place Clubhouse

Progressive Alternatives Society of Calgary (PASC)

The Vocational and Rehabilitation Research Institute (VRRI)

Spectra Alternative Solutions

Alberta

The Alberta Association of Rehabilitation Centres (AARC)

Blue Heron Support Services Association

Cosmos Rehabilitation society/Employment Access

Redi Enterprises

Rehabilitation Society of SW Alberta

Other provinces

Northern Light Vocational Services (Ontario)

Job web- sites

Workinc Alberta

Workopolis

Charity Village

WORKink (The Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work)

Disability web- sites

Enablelinker

Surfwax Disability News Aggregator

Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program

Other places in Alberta which can give information or support

The Alberta Association for Community Living (AACL)

Other places outside Canada that can give information

Diversity World

Training Resources Network, Inc.

Association for Persons in Supported Employment.

Here is more information about the organizations on this list

Calgary and Alberta

- Calgary Alternative Employment Services (CAES)
CAES helps people with developmental disabilities learn what work they want to do, get a job and keep it. It gives support to the worker and the employer.

To find out more, call Sean McEwen at (403) 283-0611, or visit us at:

Calgary Alternative Employment Services (CAES)
#404, 1240 Kensington Rd. NW
Calgary, AB, T2N 397

- Calgary Vocational Services (CVS)
CVS helps people with disabilities get ready for employment, find out what they want to work at, learn skills, and find jobs.

Check out the web- site at www.cvs.org.

- Columbia College – Community Support Services Department
This program gives employment training and school classes (on the computer) to help people read and do math better. It supports people with disabilities find and keep jobs.

Check out the web- site at www.columbia.ab.ca.

- Developmental Disabilities Resource Centre of Calgary (DDRC)
DDRC offers many different services to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

The DDRC Resource Centre has books and papers with information on many topics.

Check out the web- site at www.ddrc.com.

- Calgary Region Community Board Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD)

Calgary PDD is one of the offices of the PDD Alberta Board. It gives support and services to help people with developmental disabilities live, work and join in the community.

Check out the web- site at www.pdd.org/calgary.

- Hull Child and Family Services

HOPE Work Experience is one of many programs this organization has. It teaches work and social skills to young people.

Check out the web- site at www.wrhull.com.

- Potential Place Clubhouse

This organization works to get rid of the wrong ideas people have about people with a mental illness. It is a place to meet others with mental illnesses and to make friends. People can learn to feel good about themselves.

Their Resource Page has a list of places to phone if you need help quickly, clinics, and places to look for employment.

Check out the web-site at www.potentialplace.org.

- Progressive Alternative Society of Calgary (PASC)

PASC offers 3 services.

1. PAS (Progressive Alternative Services) gives employment services to adults with disabilities.
2. YSEP (Youth Supported Employment Project) gives employment services for young people with disabilities.
3. CC (Creative Connections) gives services that help people with developmental disabilities join in community activities.

The PASC Links page has lots of good information and links to other useful sites.

Check out the web-site at www.pasc-calgary.org.

- The Vocational and Rehabilitation Research Institute (VRRI)
The VRRI offers help with employment, community- living, education services and leisure (fun activities). It also does research to help people with developmental disabilities have good lives.

The Randy Tighe Resource Centre has many books and papers about disabilities.

Check out the web- site at www.vrri.org.

Check out other disability web- sites: www.vrri.org/dbsites.htm.

- Spectra Alternative Solutions
This is a business company that gives talks on how to make companies more accessible and friendly to people with disabilities (and other people who are often left out of the community). They help employers learn new ways to look at employment. They give skills training for employees with disabilities.

Spectra's Resources page on the web has a long list of web- sites about employment.

Check out the web- site at www.spectradt.com.

Alberta

- AARC (The Alberta Association of Rehabilitation Centres)
AARC speaks up for all the rehabilitation organizations in Alberta. It makes sure that they have well-trained staff; it speaks to the government about the needs of these organizations; and it offers support for all services for people with developmental disabilities.

AARC's training and development section on the web-sites lists some links to colleges and other learning sites in Alberta.

Check out the web-site at www.albertarehab.org.

- Alberta Human Resources and Employment
If you need to look for a job, or if you are an employer, this Alberta Government web-site is a good place to check out. It has information about jobs, work-health and safety, laws about the workplace, and what kinds of jobs there will be in Alberta.

The *employment standards* page is useful because it gives the rules that all employers must follow when they hire someone, with or without a disability.

Check out the web-site at www3.gov.ab.ca/hre.

- Blue Heron Support Services Association
This organisation is in Barrhead, Alberta. It offers living support, employment support and it works to make the community a good place for people with disabilities.

- Cosmos Rehabilitation Society/Employment Access
This organization offers a number of community supports and services to people with disabilities, so that they can find work, get support in their homes, learn computer skills and become more independent.

Check out the web- site at cosmos@cosmosreddeer.org.

- Redi Enterprises
This organization in Medicine Hat, offers vocational, community, and life skills for people with developmental disabilities and people with brain injuries.

- Rehabilitation Society of SW Alberta
This society is in Lethbridge. It offers education and life skills to people with developmental disabilities.

Check out the web- site at www.rehab.ab.ca.

In more than one province

- Northern Lights Vocational Services (NLVS)

The head office for this organization is in Ontario. Branches offer vocational training and employment services to make jobs easier to find and help people get real work for real pay.

Check out the web- site at www.northernlightvs.on.ca.