



WORKIN' IT

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info@aase.ca

Alberta Association for Supported
Employment
Box 307, 1 Centre Street
Calgary, Alberta T2E 2P6
403 262-8515
FAX 403
294-1706

Message from the Chair

This year is proving to be a time of regrouping as a board. We want to welcome our new board members and are excited about their contributions to the board. I would like to extend our thanks to Michelle (a new board member) who has introduced Webinar meetings to us as a board. Through webinar meetings it will make it easier for directors from across Alberta to become active board members. We welcome your interest and input on our board, so with traveling being put aside think about joining the board.

On April 14, 2010 come and check out our Networking Luncheon at the ACDS Conference in Edmonton this year. It will be a dynamic time of sharing your regional networking practices as well as inviting your input into what you would like AASE to do for you.

Having said that, input from our members in Southern Alberta is something we are interested in hearing more about. We are working on developing a training session in Southern Alberta, which would mirror the success we experienced in the north last year. Many of our northern agencies came to a workshop presented by Chris Arnold from Provincial Networking Group Inc. and communicated the benefit of the training.

Our website will be getting some attention this year. Check it out and give us your suggestions. Additionally we are planning for a conference for 2011. I would personally like to thank The Board of Directors for their commitment to work on behalf of the membership to keep Supported Employment strong throughout Alberta.

Chair of Board
Kathleen Taubensee

Real Work
for
Real Pay



In November of 2009, the Canadian Association for Supported Employment held their 11th annual conference in Moncton, New Brunswick. The conference was well attended, and representatives from AASE, along with representatives from across Canada attended the pre-conference summit meeting.

The following resolutions were submitted and accepted by its members:

#1 Case annualize a pre-conference provincial/territorial network summit in conjunction with the annual CASE conference (this was the summit meeting that Mylaine and I attended).

#2 CASE in consultation with participating provincial networks, develop a research proposal to submit to a federal body to undertake a policy survey research initiative on enabling and disabling employment support policies for people with disabilities.

#3 CASE build its organizational capacity by:

- A) finding resources to hire staff, and engage in partnerships, and
- B) engaging in partnerships to conduct its work.

These resolutions are a reflection of the vision, commitment and drive of the executive board of the Canadian Association for supported employment.

Kudos to those members whose years of hard work is finally coming to fruition.



The crew from Calgary Alternative Employment Services mingling with the local veterans in Moncton, New Brunswick

An Employer's Point of View!



“I just wanted to let you know how AWESOME Lou is doing in the fishing department! He LOVES it and they LOVE having him!!! He is so smart and already knows where everything is! He loves helping customers find what they are looking for, not to mention that he is an expert ‘facer’ (which is pulling everything forward on their pegs) and let me tell you...there is a TON of small items and packages that need this done daily! Lou is kept very busy and he is a true asset to their team.”

“We officially moved him to that department and even gave him a new name badge which has FISHING on it. He is so happy and **I am SO proud of him.** He is a very sweet young man and I always enjoy asking him how his day was. I wish every associate could be as happy and hard-working as he is! “

“It has been a true pleasure to be able to place Brian and Lou within our organization! I will definitely recommend your services to others.”

Human Resource Manager
Bass Pro Shops

This testimonial was received by a service provider in Calgary who wanted to share it with others working hard to the same end. In light of all the challenges we face on a daily basis coupled with increasing pressures from funders and the slow economy, we wanted bring something positive to the somewhat dreary current climate of our field. It is feedback like this that is such a good reminder of how our hard work and commitment to supported employment is valued and appreciated! (Names have been changed for the purpose of confidentiality.)

To all AASE Members: Free Event April 14, 2010!

AASE has partnered this year with ACDS during their annual conference to host a planning / round table event for all AASE members and others interested in becoming members. Join us April 14, 2010 for a lunch time meeting at the Edmonton Delta South to spark partnerships between the provincial association and regional networks on supported employment. The format of the meeting will include brief presentations, small and large group discussions, action planning, and dialogue. Participants are asked to come equipped to give a brief overview of the networks they are involved in, as well as a favorite tool or resource for supported employment success. Please contact info@aase.ca for more information and registration inquiries. RSVP required by April 6, 2010.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER, OR INTERESTED IN RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.AASE.CA

ALBERTA ASSOCIATION FOR SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT