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Canadian Association for Community Living
Volume 11 Issue 13 December 2013

People with Developmental Disabilities share 'Ready, Willing and Able' message With Ministers Flaherty and Kenney

ready,
willing
and able



Volume 3, November 2013

For Immediate Release
Toronto, ON, December 3rd, 2013

On this December 3rd, International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the Canadian

Association for Community Living (CACL) profiles the talents and potential of people with developmental disabilities across Canada who are Ready, Willing and Able to work. At a Breakfast on Parliament Hill, hosted by Ministers Flaherty and Kenney, CACL and partner Council of Canadians with Disabilities, along with the broader disability community shared our message that we can do better than an employment rate of only 25% for people with developmental disabilities.

CACL has launched the Ready, Willing and Able (RWA) initiative in co-sponsorship with the Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorders Alliance (CASDA), whose leadership was also profiled at the Breakfast. The initiative builds on the growing awareness among employers across Canada about the untapped pool of talent and possibility among people with developmental disabilities. It provides an effective solution to current labour shortages and productivity challenges. Private sector employer partners are being engaged to recruit and hire people with developmental disabilities in a 'demand-driven' approach to labour force barriers people face.

On International Day CACL is pleased to release Volume 3 of the newsletter for the Ready, Willing and Able (RWA) initiative, which profiles employment success stories from across Canada. Stories that illustrate and demonstrate the fact that regardless of label or perceived level of disability, adults with developmental disabilities can participate in and contribute to the labour market within this country. RWA works by scaling up proven methods that are active in communities throughout the country and that are demonstrating positive impact on employment of people with intellectual disabilities. It recognizes that there are approximately 500,000 working age adults with developmental disabilities who with targeted support, community investment and employer leadership could join the labour force at rates similar to other Canadians.

See the RWA web site at <http://readywillingable.ca/>

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Contact Michael Bach, CACL Executive Vice President, 416-209-7942 and visit www.readywillandable.ca.

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