



Rotary at Work BC Newsletter October 2019

LANGLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT HIRES

IN THIS ISSUE

Extraordinary things happen when community partners work together on a common goal

Inclusion Langley Society (ILS) has had a successful working relationship with the Langley School District for many years, benefiting children and youth with special needs and transitioning into adulthood.

In January 2018, after a lengthy discussion, a union position of custodian assistant was created for an individual with diverse abilities. Jose had been part of the ILS Youth Works summer employment service where his skills were identified, so ILS knew he would be a perfect match. They asked him if he was interested in applying and he said yes. After a multiple-interview process, the school district offered him the job!

Jose was mentored by the custodian and an ILS job coach came on-site to assist with his learning. They worked together to create the most efficient system and soon the job coach faded out to monitoring only.

Jose is proud of himself and everyone involved is thrilled. At ILS's Employer Celebration evening (sponsored by Rotary at Work BC), Jose spoke about his job and what it means to him. His employer spoke about the benefits of hiring inclusively and specifically having Jose as part of the SD#35 Board Office custodian team.

One year later things continue to go well, and in fact another custodian assistant position was created and filled in a local high school. With these successes we look forward to continued collaboration. This is an amazing example of the extraordinary things that can happen when community partners come together for a common goal!



And the winner is...

Diana Buurman Award recipient acknowledged and REALM's Inaugural ICE Awards given to outstanding inclusive employers

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Rotary at Work BC and Rotarians, working together

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Legacy award recipient recognized

The Diana Buurman Award was created as a legacy to Bethesda Christian Association's Mt. Lehman Home which was purchased in the mid-70's and was the first visible indicator of Bethesda's ministry. It became the springboard for all services that came in later years. Diana Buurman was the first person to live in this home, which was closed in 2014.

This honors individuals, employers, businesses, churches and other organizations who/that exemplify acceptance of people with disabilities. This year four gentlemen nominated their employers Margaret and Samantha of Fresh Ideas & Solutions, citing that they are great bosses and have made such a difference in their lives.

Fresh Ideas & Solutions has great inclusive hiring practices and 30% of their entire staff team are people with diverse abilities. We are pleased to recognize them for what they bring to our communities and the impact they have through their hiring practices.



REALM presents ICE Awards

On October 10 in Cranbrook, REALM (Realize Empowerment Access Life to the Maximum) held their inaugural Inclusive Community Employer (ICE) Awards, and Rotary at Work BC was proud to support it.

REALM invited the community to nominate inclusive businesses, which were recognized by their employees and community members and celebrated for their leadership in inclusive employment. Five nominees in particular stood out, receiving ICE Awards in the categories of:

- Community Mentor,
- Accessibility,
- Innovative Career Builder,
- Authentic Leader, and
- The Emboldened Visionary.

Awards were sponsored by:

- e-KNOW,
- CLBC,
- Kootenay Employment Services,
- the Rotary Club of Cranbrook,
- REALM, and
- Rotary at Work BC.

Congratulations to all of the ICE champion nominees and the award winners!

IDEAL match



More than a year ago Sharrie and Annette presented to the Ladner Rotary Club about the benefits of hiring people with diverse abilities. Continuing to network, recently Sharrie reminded club members that she could help meet their hiring needs. Mike, the owner of a fabrication company of commercial garage doors (IDEAL DOOR), talked to her immediately after, to say that he would like to become an inclusive employer!

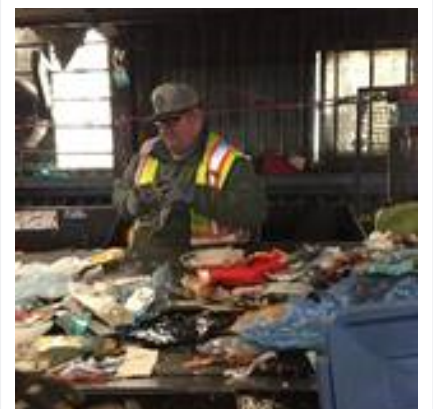
Job seeker Tyler was happy to be matched in a position there. He works two days per week sorting and organizing hardware, maintaining the parking and loading area, folding and recycling the cardboard boxes, shredding paper, and any other tasks the IDEAL DOOR team would like him to do.

Tyler travels to work on the bus and manages his work using a time schedule for daily tasks, increasing his independence both on site and off.

Jamie on the job

With the support of Mission Association Employment Services Jamie found his fit at the Mission/Abbotsford recycling center. Since getting this job, he has arrived on time for every shift bringing with him his ever so friendly personality. He is a hard worker and very appreciated by his team of co-workers who have grown to know and appreciate Jamie's everyday sense of humor.

Jamie got a job at the plant as a temporary worker through his Employment Specialist. After a few months Jamie proved his value as a competent employee and was hired in a permanent position by Archway Community Services Recycling, receiving a raise and a benefit package.



Jamie is very proud of his job. When asked what he likes most about this job he answered, "I really like that I have a paid job and that I have made so many new friends."

Let's talk turkey!



Occasionally it can take some time to discover what type of position will be a success for someone. Cameron found his fit working as part of a production team processing turkeys for JD Farms. He has been successfully working there for several years now and doesn't plan to leave the JD Farms "family". The business owner is a member of the Aldergrove Rotary Club and believes in hiring inclusively.



Wobble on down to JD Farms for your next turkey dinner needs.



Realizing that Rotary is a personal and professional commitment, Rotary at Work BC representatives contribute a combined total of more than 600 volunteer hours annually. Langley's RibFest volunteer hours alone totaled 300 this past year.

Another event this year was Rotary Club of Nakusp's major fund raiser, a wine festival, now in its 6th year. The introduction of breweries alongside the wineries was probably the most noticeable difference from previous years. Less noticeable but arguably more significant was the volunteer participation of two members of the Nakusp Community Works program, Dario Dubec and Courtney Quigley, who worked alongside the Nakusp Interactors serving appetizers to the wine and beer tasting crowd of 130+ very boisterous citizens.

With a population of a little over 1,500, Nakusp is the sort of community where everyone knows almost everyone, so Dario and Courtney were familiar faces to many of the guests at the festival. Guests were especially pleased to see those two young people participating and supporting the Rotary fundraiser.



About Us

Rotary at Work BC addresses the staggering unemployment rate for people who have a disability, while sharing with business owners/operators about the benefits of becoming an inclusive employer and tapping into this demographic.

We connect employers to employment services in their community that can assist them with:

- Locating potential candidates who have a disability
- Pre-screening the candidates
- Providing on-the-job training and orientation support
- Assisting with workplace accommodations
- Providing on-going support, information and other resources that will help make recruitment and retention smooth and easy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We do presentations!

Contact info@rotaryatworkbc.com to find out more.

www.rotaryatworkbc.com

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Rotary at Work BC is funded by the Vancouver Foundation & Community Living British Columbia



The Rotary Club of Nakusp presents the

RibFest
LANGLEY

2019 Nakusp
WINE
&
BEER
Festival