FOCUS DISABILITY NETWORK
SOCIETY

Tech in Jobs and Jobs in Tech

November 24, 2022 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

AGENDA

8:30 – 9:00   Registration

9:00 – 9:30   Welcome and Networking Icebreaker

9:30 – 10:30   **Keynote Speaker: Garth Johnson, [auticon Canada](#)**
In a competitive hiring environment, companies often unintentionally exclude a large untapped resource pool: autistic talent. In this session, Garth will share common obstacles that autistic workers face across Canada as well as strategies employers can implement today to create more neuro-inclusive hiring, onboarding and workplace practices.

10:30 – 10:45   BREAK

10:45 – 11:25   **Dr. Rachelle Hole and Sandra Polushin, Transitioning Youth with Disabilities and Employment (TYDE) Project**

In BC, only one in four individuals with a developmental disability report any kind of earnings. And, when they do, it is most often for minimum wage and only a small number of hours per week.

In spite of this, we know that self-advocates want to work and that supporting transitioning youth on their employment pathway is a key predictor of future positive employment outcomes. The Transitioning Youth with Disabilities and Employment (TYDE) Project is a response to this call. A group of interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral partners ([www.mytyde.ca](#)) worked together to create the TYDE Project to improve employment outcomes for transitioning youth.

In this presentation we will provide an overview of the TYDE Project, demonstrate how the TYDE Online Program works, and discuss next steps for the Project.

11:25 – 12:00   **Jody Dickerson and Gordon Watt, Neil Squire Society**
Presenters from [Neil Squire](#) will talk about programs supporting Assistive Technology (AT) to help overcome disabilities while

- in the workplace
- job seeking
- looking to build technology related job skills.

They will also demonstrate hardware and software available to help conquer challenges with vision, dexterity, and cognition.

During the morning break and at lunch, you will have the opportunity to try out some of these technologies hands-on and have any questions answered.

12:00 – 12:45   LUNCH BREAK

12:45 – 1:30	**Kim Donaldson, Fable Pathways**

Finding accommodating or accessible work can be hard. With the right skills, the tech sector can provide flexible and financially freeing employment opportunities. Fable is committed to increasing opportunities for people with disabilities to work in the tech sector. Fable does this through hiring assistive technology users to work with our community of accessibility testers and through offering free training, through Fable Pathways, to work in the tech sector.

Fable Pathways is a skill-building program for people with disabilities interested in working in the tech sector. It's free, on-demand, and taught by subject matter experts with disabilities. Fable Pathways furthers its mission to empower people with disabilities to participate, contribute, and shape society by increasing opportunities to work in the tech sector. Kim will share how Fable can help job seekers with disabilities to prepare for and find meaningful employment in the tech sector.

1:30 – 2:15	**Ling Huang, Technology North**

Ling will talk about Technology North's experience using assistive tech and the framework to address the challenges more holistically.

His presentation will detail the differential of RoboCoach and Technology North Digital Services, and how Technology North is planning to scale up the autism employment and bring real benefit to citizens and the public sector.

2:15 – 2:25	BREAK

2:25 – 2:45	**Aaron Davis, Senior Facilitator and Free Radical, Mission Community Skills Centre Society**

The global pandemic compelled service providers to interact with people virtually, bringing swift new challenges that can only come from unplanned progress. As Mission Community Skills Centre Society's Senior Facilitator, Aaron helped lead their team in uncovering and embracing a path forward that saw minimal disruption to programs. Blazing a trail into the unknown, the organization was able to continue delivering services while achieving equal, and even improved, outcomes.

The new paradigm, thrust upon us by necessity, may change in small ways as we move forward, but is clearly here to stay. Many service providers and professionals already consider the 'virtual option' an integral service. In this presentation, Aaron will talk about the best practices that led to Mission Community Skills Centre Society's successful adoption of virtual spaces, and how they will continue to add value to their service delivery into the future.

2:45 – 3:15	**Wrap-up & Evaluations**

Scan the QR code to complete the evaluation online. Printed copies are available today if you prefer that method.