

The

INCLUSION NEWS

Transition into the Workforce.

Transitioning out of high school and into the work force can sometimes be a challenge. Being able to have good connections with family, community services and employers equals a good transition. I found my own transition to employment was pretty scary. Once I graduated from high school I took a few months to think about my future and which direction I wanted to go. Since I was aging out of foster care with MCFD and they knew I was willing to work, they recommended I get in touch with CLBC. Once I contacted them I was able to discuss what kind of work I was interested in. (Community work and supporting those who also had Diverseabilities and speaking about my journey and experiences I've faced.) I was also able to choose which kind of support I felt suited my needs while looking for work. (I chose Vancouver Island Community Connections) after a few months I was hired as the Self-Advocate, as well as becoming part of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee, and Self-Advocate Committee. Transition to adulthood of course has its up and downs but having the right support for where your future takes you is key and anything is possible with a positive mindset.

V.I.S.A. Caf-Eh

V.I.S.A. Caf- Eh (Vancouver Island Self Advocate Caf-Eh) is an upcoming Self Advocate group that will be focused on promoting and including Self Advocates in the Comox Valley and working on issues or things we feel should be addressed within the community. The first introduction to V.I.S.A. Caf-Eh will be December 10th along with VICC's Christmas Open House.

Where: Vancouver Island Community Connections On Cliffe Ave.

When: December 10th

Snacks will be included.

PWD why it's beneficial to increase the monthly rate.

People who currently receive social assistance in the form of a PWD cheque are struggling to ensure a good quality of living. PWD pays \$906.24 per month. The truth is that those on PWD often have to work more with either increased hours or a second job. Many people I've talked to don't mind doing extra work to make a living but have expressed interest in having a higher PWD cheque. One older gentleman I had the pleasure of talking with, told me how he's upset that someone his age still has to work as if he were 20 years old to ensure that he has the basic essentials to live. It's both heartbreaking and inspiring when I listen to someone's life and how even in good or bad they never waiver in who they are as a person. However, it is a vital concern that with the current rate of PWD at \$906.42 per month is not enough to live on in our current economy. An increased monthly amount would benefit those who need it most and ensure a safe secure and happy quality of life for those qualified to receive a PWD cheque.

Diverse ability: A willingness to work.

The work force within the Comox Valley is very competitive and finding work can be a real challenge. Those trying to find work have to be very diligent in order to get hired. Many people I've talked to have high ambitions to work. One thing that people are noticing is that a guaranteed job above minimum wage is based on who you know as well as the proper skills for the position. One benefit that is helpful is our communities various service providers. Service providers can offer support in a variety of ways including vouching for you as being the right candidate for a job. Sometimes it may require learning through work experience that is similar to the position you're applying for or even hands on training alongside a co-worker. There are many ways to ensure success when applying for a new job and knowing who can help goes a long way in achieving that success.



This news letter was created by Public Speaker and Self-Advocate Sherwin Strong. If you would like any more information regarding these articles or would like to know more about inclusion within your community please contact Sherwin at thesherwizzle2013@gmail.com

