



EARN is a community initiative led by United Way Ottawa

EMPLOYMENT  
ACCESSIBILITY  
RESOURCE NETWORK

# EARN

## MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

June 2015

### Highlights:

Welcome to the second edition of the EARN monthly E-Newsletter!

The purpose of the newsletter is to keep you informed about what EARN and it's members are working on plus what is happening in the province regarding disability and employment.

Your feedback on how we are doing is appreciated and valued. Send comments and suggestions to: [sforster@unitewayottawa.ca](mailto:sforster@unitewayottawa.ca).

### Initiatives & Events:



On June 1<sup>st</sup>, our EARN partner, CSIS, along with 2 other divisions of Public Safety – Communications Security Establishment and Correctional Services Canada hosted a Learning and Networking event for 24 jobseekers with disabilities. Each department provided an organizational overview followed by a networking session. Feedback has been very positive – Thank you Helen and team at CSIS for hosting this targeted and proactive event!



On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Susan Forster gave an overview of EARN to 35+ staff at Causeway Work Centre. This proved to be a great opportunity to increase our social media presence: a staff member tweeted the presentation with a picture and Kelly Mertl re-tweeted & added it to our Facebook page. Thank you Causeway for inviting EARN!



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On June 25th, Kelly and Susan presented at the CSIS Diversity Conference. We provided an overview of the employment issues for Canadians with disabilities, the business case for hiring and an overview of EARN, highlighting our ongoing and collaborative partnership with CSIS. Thank you Helen for inviting us to participate in your very special event!

## Upcoming Activities in July:

- ➔ An invitation for EARN Service Providers: Specialisterne in partnership with Autism Ontario is hosting a roundtable breakfast on July 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 11:00am. This workshop is intended to engage with service providers who serve clients on the autism spectrum to learn about each other's work and to brainstorm on ideas about how we can all work together to find and secure employment opportunities. Space is limited so one representative per organization is requested. Please RSVP to <http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/discovery-workshop-tickets-17333042597>
- ➔ In addition, Specialisterne and Autism Ontario are also hosting a session for the **individuals that you support that would identify as being on the autism spectrum** to attend an Employment Discovery Workshop on July 20<sup>th</sup> from 12pm-5pm. Spots are limited and individuals are required to complete a short questionnaire (link below) as well as to submit a resume (details below) in order to ensure that the workshop is suited to the individual. Please contact [sara.winter@specialisterne.ca](mailto:sara.winter@specialisterne.ca) or Kelly's email of June 18<sup>th</sup>.



## REMEMBER THE CHOCOLATE CHALLENGE!

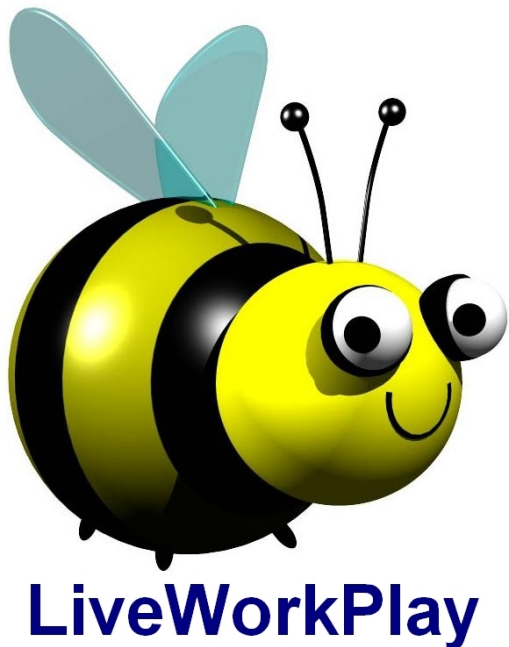
In our efforts to grow our employer partners, if you refer an employer to Susan, (one that you have had contact with), she will send you a chocolate bar!

Now who can resist that?!?

Contact Susan at: [sforster@unitedwayottawa.ca](mailto:sforster@unitedwayottawa.ca)

## Success Stories:

Royce's perfect fit for employment with a local Dow Honda car dealership comes to us courtesy of LiveWorkPlay. Here's a synopsis:



Just a few years ago, some people looked at Royce's disability as a barrier to employment. Today, Royce is a valued employee at a Honda car dealership.

Royce's amazing story began when LiveWorkPlay reached out to car dealerships in Ottawa. At Dow Honda in Little Italy, the idea found open doors and open minds. General Manager Andrew Bearss realized that an individual with an intellectual disability could excel at an important task in his car service centre: counting and cataloging their immense inventory of spare parts. Andrew decided to give Royce a chance. "Royce is reliable, very detail-oriented ... He's turned out to be the perfect guy for this," he says. "It's saved us tremendous amounts of money by having him here." Royce's outstanding work performance led to being offered a part-time position as an Inventory Analyst.

In fact, Andrew's high esteem for his employee inspired Dow Honda's two partner dealerships and an Ottawa Volvo dealership to hire LiveWorkPlay participants. "Being paid well and living on my own – that makes me very happy," says Royce.

Excellent work LiveWorkPlay!

## Susan's Updates:

- A presentation at Pinecrest Queensway Community Health Centre will take place on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The audience will be job developer/employer liaison front line staff; they have access to employers and EARN has access to a large talent pool of job seekers with disabilities. We plan to explore how we can partner together to benefit EARN participants and to assist local employers to fill positions with talented job seekers with disabilities.

## Welcome New Members:

- No new members this month.
- Throughout the summer Susan will continue outreach to engage new and prospective employer and community partners.
- Remember the CHOCOLATE CHALLENGE!!

## Upcoming Events:

- Thursday Sept 17<sup>th</sup> - Learning and Networking event
- Friday Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> - Career Fair 2015
- Thursday Nov 26<sup>th</sup> – EARN Member Appreciation Night from 7pm - 9pm
- Proposed: Nov 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> event for jobseekers - Exploring Entrepreneurship
- Proposed: Nov 24<sup>th</sup> event for employers & service providers - Service Provider Expo

## In the News:

- ODEN recently posted a fascinating article on American employers seeking out autistic workers: <https://www.linkedin.com/grp/post/4150054-6003552566405849090>
- The Ministry of Community and Social Services has released the Final Report on the *Connecting Communities Initiative*, launched to test the effectiveness of a micro project approach to improve employment outcomes for social assistance clients; our learning event (June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014) is profiled on page 28. To download the report go to: <http://www.ppforum.ca/publications/connecting-communities-initiative>
- *Hope. Dignity. Inclusion.* This is the title of the Mental Health Commission of Canada's *Guidelines for Recovery Oriented Practice*, a free resource for people living with mental health problems, families, managers and practitioners - just released this month. You can download it from their site at: <http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/initiatives/RecoveryGuidelines>

## Upcoming Meetings:

### Steering Committee

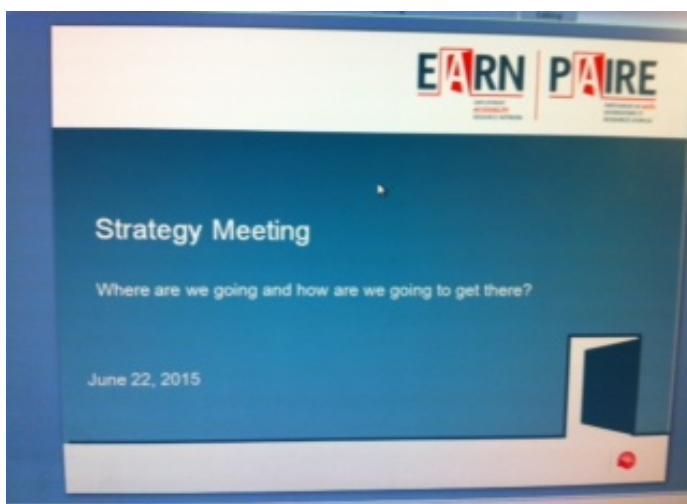
- Thursday September 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9am-11am

### Joint Working Group

- Tuesday September 15<sup>th</sup> from 9-11am

**Note:** Monthly meetings for the Steering Committee and the Joint Working Group (Employer Leadership Group and the Service Provider Resource Group) will be on hiatus until September 2015

## Thank you!



To members of our Steering Committee and the Chairs of our Employer Leadership and Service Provider Resource Groups who came together on June 22<sup>nd</sup> to help us look ahead and work on EARN's strategy and sustainability plan for the next few years. We will be meeting again in July. Stay Tuned!

## Final Comments:

Stay tuned for our next edition, coming your way in early July. In the meantime, have a wonderful summer and please let us know of any initiatives or information from your respective organizations that you would like to share...and we will!

## United Way / EARN contacts:

Susan Forster: [sforster@unitedwayottawa.ca](mailto:sforster@unitedwayottawa.ca)

Martin Dubois: [mdubois@unitedwayottawa.ca](mailto:mdubois@unitedwayottawa.ca)

Kelly Mertl: [kmertl@unitedwayottawa.ca](mailto:kmertl@unitedwayottawa.ca)