



EMPLOYMENT
ACCESSIBILITY
RESOURCE NETWORK

MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

October 2015

Introduction:

Welcome to the October 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, suggestions and your success stories to: sforster@unitedwayottawa.ca.

Initiatives & Events:



39 employers were represented at this year's Career Fair held at City Hall on October 2nd with over 180 job seekers attending! A big **thank you** to everyone who participated in the event.

Feedback has been very positive with 100% of employers indicating that they would attend a similar event next year, there is good intention to follow up with candidates and 60% of the new employers who attend agreed that we could follow up to discuss the benefits of EARN.

89% of job seekers said that they would attend a similar event in the future and 76% indicated that the information and advice provided by employers as it relates to their job search was helpful.

Many of our employers indicated that we could follow up to track results from the career fair, and so did a number of job seekers, so stay tuned as we share some success stories, like the one highlighted a little later in this newsletter.

Thank you to our 17 volunteers who kept the event running smoothly! And a big shout out to Lois

Emburg and the team at City Hall, who hosted the event, provided us with a beautiful venue and a great space to relax and have lunch!



On Wednesday, October 7th Susan attended the Art of Access event at Carleton U to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the AODA & the 25th anniversary of the university's Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. There was music, art, and eloquent personal stories from Carleton U alumni who spoke about the positive impact PMC had made on their academic lives and subsequent career success: one of these graduates now works as a counselor at PMC.

Attended by well over a 100 people, it was a wonderful way to connect around celebrating accessibility and the value it brings to Ottawa.



On Monday October 26th, Kelly attended a roundtable hosted by the Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure for a consultation on "The Partnerships for Accessible Employment" pilot. The purpose was to bring together relevant stakeholders in Ottawa (and other cities across Ontario) to discuss a proposed pilot initiative that is part of the provinces "Path to 2025: Ontario's Accessibility Action Plan" that was released last spring. We will be meeting over the next few weeks with other partners to discuss how EARN could be part of the pilot. More information to follow

Upcoming Activities in November:

- ➔ We are still looking for employers to participate in the Practice Interview Session on Tuesday November 24th from 9:00am-12:00pm. Your role will be to interview selected candidates and provide feedback. We are also looking for volunteers who can help out during the session. Please contact Kelly Mertl for more information at kmertl@unitedwayottawa.ca.
- ➔ In November, we will be officially forming the Annual Conference Planning Committee. The event will take place on Friday April 8th 2016. If you are interested in helping us plan the event, please contact Kelly Mertl at kmertl@unitedwayottawa.ca.
- ➔ **EARN Member Appreciation Night** is coming soon! Join us on Thursday, November 26th from 7 – 9 pm at the United Way Ottawa to celebrate our achievements and your contributions to EARN throughout the year. There will be food and chocolate (of course!) and a chance to kick back and just get to know your fellow EARN members. Stay tuned for an invitation with more details to come via email very shortly

Success Stories:



Recruitment 'Outside the Box' Works!

We are very happy to report that one of the employers that was represented by St Lawrence College has hired one of the job seekers that came to the career fair! Thank you to Namakau and team at SLC! Your great idea of representing employers who could not attend worked!!

We also gained a new Employer Leadership Group member: GEM Health Care Services – they signed an application right at the Career Fair. Welcome GEM Health Care!

And Many Thanks to all the employers who attended the career fair.

New Employers: Accenture, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Canada Revenue Agency, HCM Works, Health Canada, Statistics Canada, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, Public Service Commission, CIBC, IN-TAC Accounting and Taxation Services, National Research Council Canada, GEM Health Care

Services, and through St. Lawrence College: Curtiss Wright Defense, Econolodge Downtown, Kelsey's Group of Restaurants, KRSS Services, Le Cordon Bleu, Betty Brite Dry Cleaning and Laundry and The Ottawa Hospital – Catering.

EARN Members: Hydro Ottawa, University of Ottawa, Retire-At-Home Services, Public Safety, Bank of Montreal, City of Ottawa, Enterprise Holdings, The Bank of Canada, TD Bank, Performance Plus Rehabilitative Care, Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services (ODSP), Algonquin College, Home Depot, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, United Way Ottawa, International Development Research Centre, Causeway Work Centre, Carleton University, Rockwell Collins Canada, and Royal Bank of Canada.

Susan's Updates:

- We are thrilled that **18** new employers participated in the Career Fair this year. Kelly, Alison (from Enterprise Holdings) and I are reaching out to each one personally to say thank you for attending and to explore engagement/membership opportunities.
- StopGap Ottawa is a new initiative that helps businesses to make their premises more accessible through the installation of affordable ramps. While this project benefits everyone, it also increases the capacity of small businesses to employ more people with disabilities. We'll have more information on this new project in the next edition of our newsletter.

Welcome New Members:

- Steering Committee: **Labour Market Ottawa** - <http://labourmarketottawa.ca/>
- Business Leadership Network: **GEM Healthcare Services** - <http://www.gemhealthcare.com/>

Upcoming EARN Events:

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|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday Nov 19th, 2015 | Exploring Entrepreneurship – 9am-12pm |
| Tuesday Nov 24th, 2015 | Practice Interview Session – 9am-12pm |
| Thursday Nov 26th, 2015 | EARN Member Appreciation Night - 7pm-9pm |
| Friday Apr 8th, 2015 | SAVE THE DATE: EARN's Annual Conference – 7:30am-1pm |

In the News:

- ➔ The Province of Ontario is ensuring that workplaces are accessible by launching compliance audits. To read more visit: [Ontario Newsroom](#)

- Andrew is a job seeker with a range of experience and valuable skills to bring to a workplace. He also has high-functioning autism. He was one of 180 people living with a disability who attended the Employment Accessibility Resource Network (EARN) Career Fair – a United Way-led initiative that brings businesses and service providers together to help people with disabilities find meaningful employment. [Click Here to view video](#)
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Upcoming Meetings:

Steering Committee

- Thursday November 5th from 9:00am – 11:00am

Joint Working Group

- Tuesday November 10th from 9:00am – 11:00am
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Wishing everyone a great Halloween!

BOO!

(please don't hesitate to bring your left-over chocolate to our next meetings!!)

United Way / EARN contacts:

Susan Forster: sforster@unitedwayottawa.ca

Martin Dubois: mdubois@unitedwayottawa.ca

Kelly Mertl: kmertl@unitedwayottawa.ca