

We have some GREAT news to share!

Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM) is an annual awareness campaign that takes place each October. The purpose of DEAM is to promote employment inclusion for people with disabilities and celebrate the many and varied contributions of workers with disabilities. DEAM, is gaining traction in Canada with a growing number of provinces proclaiming October as Disability Employment Month. We want to spread the important message that a strong workforce is one inclusive of the skills and talents of all individuals, including people with disabilities. DEAM is an excellent opportunity for Employment Service Providers and Canadian Employers to demonstrate their ongoing commitment to Canadians with disabilities and to help promote employment inclusion in our country.

Last year we called on the Government of Alberta to issue a **formal Provincial Proclamation** of October as Disability Employment Awareness Month. We realized that in partnership with the Government of Alberta, inclusive employment becomes a priority. We're proud to announce that through the efforts of CEFN (Calgary Employment First Network) and the PDC (Pan Disability Connection Edmonton), ACDS (Alberta Council of Disabilities Services), ADWA Alberta Disability Workers Association) and EmployUs that in 2018:

The Month of October will be Proclaimed DEAM!

Celebrate With Us!

We want to spread the important message that a strong workforce is one inclusive of the skills and talents of everyone, including individuals with disabilities.

We are holding a public celebration to support the Launch of DEAM.

**Come join other Inclusive employers and service providers at the south band shell on the SE corner of the legislative grounds on Oct 1st from 11:30 – 1:30 pm
We will have food trucks, entertainment and brief messages of support from:**

Irfan Sabir – Minister – Community and Social Services

Jason Pincock – CEO – DynaLife

Sean McEwen - Director – Calgary Alternative Employment Services (CAES)

Heath Birkholz – Self Advocacy Federation of Alberta

Carrie Rodgeron – Branch Manager - ATB Financial

Map to Band Shell

Consider Posting the attached Invitation and bringing a group to make it a teambuilding activity. (DATS drop off and accessible parking are onsite. Paid Parking available at 96 Ave and 106 street)

We are looking for a sea of red and white to show support! Consider dressing your team in our DEAM colours.

Better yet! We have a limited number of #proclaimDEAM T-shirts available for purchase for the reasonable cost of \$10 [Contact us](#)

Need more Information [PDC Website](#) [Edmonton Journal Article](#)

DEAM in the News

“It gives me great pleasure to confirm that our government will acknowledge DEAM this October and annually going forward, as part of our ongoing commitment to making life better for Albertans with Disabilities” – The Honourable Irfan Sabir, Provincial Minister of Community and Social Services

“I am excited by the progress we are making to improve the lives of Canadians with disabilities. We are working hard to ensure all Canadians have equal access and opportunities in their communities and workplace. An inclusive Canada is good for employers and good for business, and by working together, I know we can improve the lives of all Canadians.” – The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Federal Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities

Celebrate Inclusion!

Please join us in helping to promote and celebrate Disability Employment Awareness month. Help educate Canadian Business, Employers and Human Resource professionals about disability employment issues and strategies to foster disability-friendly work cultures. Collaborate with other organizations! Promote and celebrate DEAM in your community through any or all of the following strategies:

1. Coordinate a Job Fair to bring together business leaders invested in diversity and inclusion – and talented job-seekers.
2. Organize a presentation at a local Service Club or local Chamber of Commerce to help employers build their capacity for inclusive recruitment.
3. Issue a press release about DEAM and what your organization does to support employment inclusion for people with disabilities in your community. Celebrate your work!
4. Host a Mentor-Ability Day to give local employers an inclusive workplace experience.
5. Send your DEAM news and events to the [PDC](#) so we can help promote you on social media!
6. Use our DEAM hashtag below to start celebrating #DEAM in your company. Attach the jpeg to your email signature for the month to spread the word!

[#ProclaimDEAM](#)