



# Opening the Door Wider for clients with disabilities

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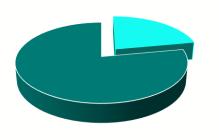




### Disability



Canadians



■ With a disability ■ Without a disability

49% employment rate for people with disabilities

After tax income for employed people with disability is \$19,160 vs \$38,980<sup>1</sup>

31% employment rate for Canadians with a severe disability<sup>1</sup>



### Bio-medical approach





Physical (also mobility, sensory, neurological)



Cognitive, Intellectual or Developmental



Learning



**Mental Health** 

Time: Permanent | Chronic | Episodic | Temporary

Scale: Mild | Moderate | Severe

### Why hire a



### person with a disability?

**40%** lower safety incident rate and **63%** less time away from work<sup>3</sup>

28% overall higher revenue

**90%** of people with disabilities rated average or better on **job performance**<sup>1</sup>

**30%** better economic profit margins<sup>2</sup>

77%

of Ontario
businesses say
employees with
disabilities met
or exceeded
expectations<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Graffam, Shinkfield, Smith and Polzin. "Employer Benefits and Costs of Employing a Person with a Disability." Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation 17 (2002): 251-63."



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Bank of Montreal, BMO Survey: More Than Half of Small Businesses Have Never Hired a Person With a Disability

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> James P. Kaletta, Douglas J. Binks & Richard Robinson. Creating an Inclusive Workplace: Integrating Employees with Disabilities into a Distribution Centre Environment." Professional Safety (June 2012)



### Barriers to employment

- Attitudes
- Employment systems navigation
- Resumés or experience that look different
- How people tell their stories



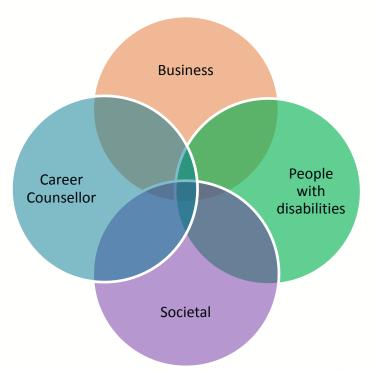


### **Attitudes**

### DISCOVER ABILITY

### Implicit bias

- process 50 tasks at once
- process 1% of visual information
- create mental shortcuts from repeated exposures
- shortcuts are often contrary to stated beliefs





### Navigating the employment system



Trying to identify, recruit, hire and retain is not easy

- Where are the candidates?
- Will they disclose?
- Siloed service providers







### Job search tools

### May 'look' different

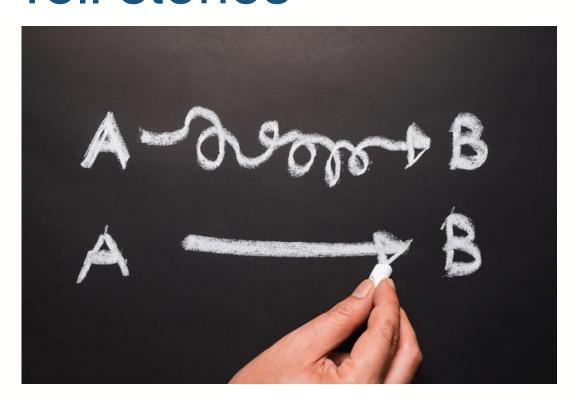
- First job may start later
- May be fewer work experiences
- May have taken longer to complete education
- May have less education





### Tell stories













## Embracing the story





Melissa C. Paralegal <a href="https://abilocity.ca/blog/f/meet-melissa-conners-a-woman-with-indestructible-ambition">https://abilocity.ca/blog/f/meet-melissa-conners-a-woman-with-indestructible-ambition</a>



## Rewriting the story





Aaron I., Designer <a href="https://abilocity.ca/blog/f/5-tough-questions-to-help-business-benefit-from-inclusion">https://abilocity.ca/blog/f/5-tough-questions-to-help-business-benefit-from-inclusion</a>

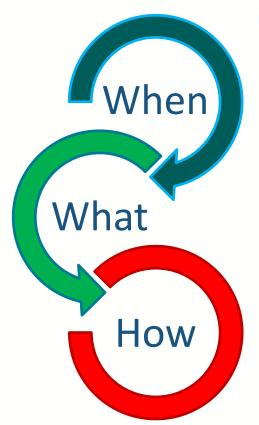


## Customizing the approach



### Disclose?

- Personal beliefs about disclosure and disability
- Visible or invisible
- Adjustments needed?
- Employers' policies and practices?
- Attitudes to specific disability
- Before or after... interview? job offer? probation?







### Teach clients to own their story

- People have disabilities.
   They have abilities too.
- Focus on the strengths, not the disability
- Teach clients to tell their stories effectively





### www.discoverability.network





- Online portal connecting business to people with disabilities
- Free training
- Networking events



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### Other tools for job search

DISCOVER ABILITY

- Networking
- Alternate pathways
- Co-ops and internships
- Mentorship





### **Business Outreach**



#### 1. Hire with intent. Have a strategy

- Establish internal policies that prioritize hiring people with disabilities
- Ensure that the hiring of people with disabilities is part of a company's overall hiring plan
- Who will you work with

#### 2. What are your hiring needs – know your pain points

- Conduct targeted outreach to attract qualified candidates with disabilities (Discover Ability)
- Develop community linkages to local service providers that work with people with disabilities
- Retain and review applications from applicants with disabilities for future opportunities

#### 3. Think about retention while recruiting

- Manage the recruitment and onboarding well
- Train staff on inclusion and the benefits of hiring people with disabilities. On interviewing and managing people with disabilities. On unconscious bias.
- Set performance targets on hiring and retention





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