



The ABLE Network – Transforming the Workplace

Transcript

Joan Hurst: At a fundraiser a couple months ago, one of our business owners talked about the relationship he developed with one of our participants. He said, “When we started this whole partnership with the ABLE Network and welcomed Adam into the workplace, we thought we were doing Adam a favour and we were going to support it because it was a good idea.” He says, “But it didn’t take long to realize that what Adam brought to the workplace was huge and the relationships that they were developing really were transformational in the workplace.” He said he was very committed to the whole idea of The ABLE Network and now actually he sits on our Board of Directors. So, it’s been wonderful.

These relationships don’t sort of just happen out of the air: you need to foster them, especially in businesses. So the model of support we use is that we set up a really good, strong foundation of support, and then we teach the skills that are necessary, fade out our support when it’s no longer needed, but we stay connected. And so there is always an ongoing relationship with our business partners and our participants are well supervised, but it’s not one-to-one. Maybe some places you might get a visit from a program facilitator once a week, or once every two weeks. It just depends on each individual and if the need for support increases, that’s fine. That model of support also works in our recreation and our transit training. So it’s a good model of support and it’s really served our people well.

(More information: <http://www.theablenetwork.ca/>)

