

YKACL NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1 2017

Yellowknife Association for

Since 1962

COMMUNITY LIVING



YKACL Employment Services reaches out

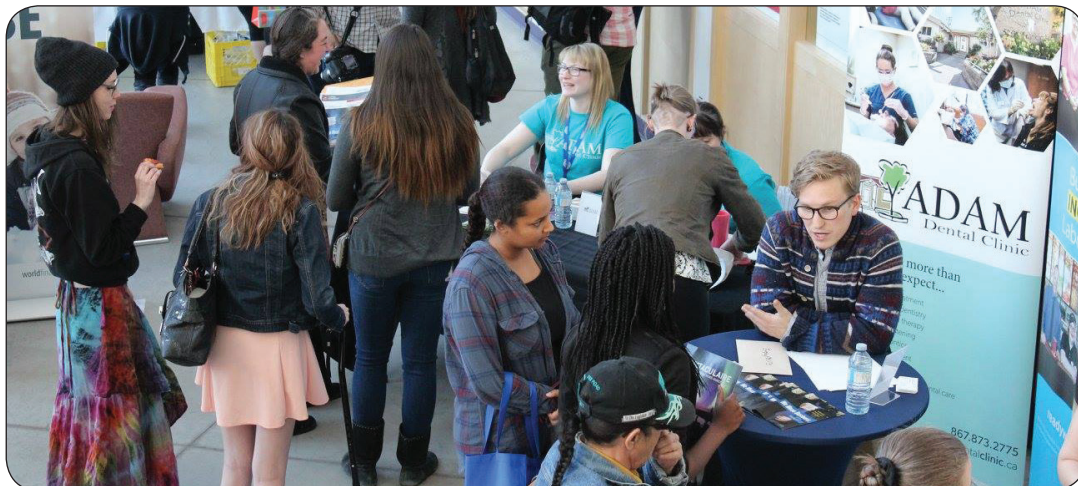
by YKACL staff

YKACL PROMOTED the Association's Employment Services program at two career events in Yellowknife and Dettah this past month.

Jan Barbier, Manager of Employment Services, attended the Employment Cafe put on by CDETNO (Conseil de développement économique des Territoires du Nord-Ouest) on May 17.

The employment cafe brings job seekers and employers together in the Greenstone building downtown each spring and fall.

The event was full of employers set up at booths where job seekers could enquire about available positions. Some YKACL clients attended and at least one



JAN BARBIER, Manager of YKACL Employment Services, bottom right, met with prospective employers during the CDETNO Employment Cafe on May 17. CDETNO photo

client made a new connection with a potential employer.

On May 24, Jan also attended the Yellowknives Dene First Nation Career Fair in Dettah. He

met with high school students and educators to share information about the Association's employment services.

This month, YKACL staff

continue to reach out to potential employers who may be interested in meeting for coffee and discussing ways to increase diversity in the workplace.



BRONWYN WATTERS, former deputy minister for the Dept. of Human Resources, donated her GNWT retirement gift to YKACL. GNWT photo

Thanks for years of support, Bronwyn Watters!

by YKACL staff

BRONWYN WATTERS is a longtime supporter of YKACL and our clients.

From participating in annual fundraisers to sponsoring social celebrations for clients and their families, Bronwyn has been a generous booster of the Association for many years.

In May, Bronwyn donated her GNWT retirement gift to the Association after stepping down as deputy minister of the Dept. of

Human Resources.

It is part of the GNWT retirement process to collect funds and gift out as a donation to a registered charitable organization of a retiring employee's choice. Bronwyn selected YKACL. Thanks for your years of support, Bronwyn!

For more information about donating GNWT retirement gifts to charitable organizations registered with the CRA, see the GNWT Human Resources Manual (1413e - Service Appreciation).



THE YOUNG ADULTS Group will compete in a photo scavenger hunt this month.

Social snapshots

Members of the YKACL Young Adults Group plan to compete in a photography scavenger hunt later this month.

Participants will rush outdoors to photograph items on a list before the clock runs out.

The event is scheduled to take place at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, June 16. Meet at the Abe Miller Building.

To RSVP, please contact Michael at 920-2644.

Please follow YKACL on social media!

YKACL shares news, coming events and fresh photos on social media every week.

Social media is one of the ways the Association keeps clients, their families, supporters, policymakers, media and the community at large informed and educated about YKACL happenings.

Please consider helping to promote awareness about YKACL by 'liking' the Association's Facebook page and 'following' the Association's Twitter and Instagram feeds.

And please invite others to do the same!

please visit:
www.facebook.com/ykac

Teaching money management for independent living with autism

by Maureen Benny

As with learning anything when you have Autism Spectrum Disorder the more ingrained it becomes at an early age, the better. It would be excellent if educational institutions recognized the importance of financial planning and incorporated it into early education programs. Until then, parents can help by addressing money as early as possible, just like any of the other life skills you want to help your child develop.

1) Have your child pay for items at the store

If you have a quick errand to run, this can be a good time to start allowing your child to pay for small grocery amounts.

Tip for success: make sure it is a store the child knows and feels comfortable in, preferably with a cashier that your child has already met. Choose a time when the store isn't busy so that neither your child or other shoppers get frustrated.

2) Give your child an allowance and help them save up for special items

While there is some controversy around whether or not your child should be "paid" for chores, most sources agree that giving your child a weekly allowance allows



them to earn their own money and begins the idea of savings and budgeting. The key here is to enable your child to come up with a "dream buy", and then help them save for that item or experience.

Tip for success: try not to judge or influence your child's choice of item that they want to save for. It doesn't need to be practical or what you would like. The key here is to give them the inspiration to WANT to save, and then teach them the process of how to do it.

3) Set up a bank account for your child

Many banks have free accounts, or special accounts, for children. Helping your child set up an account at a young age allows them lots of time to become accustomed to how a bank account works. Even though many of us bank online, it's a good idea is to start taking your child at a young

age to the bank in person. Get the used to the building, process, and even the individual tellers.

Tip for success: choose banking times or hours when there aren't many people in there. You can call the bank to find out when that might be. If your child has a favourite teller, ask if you can come in during that time.

excerpted from:

www.autismawarenesscentre.com

YKACL STAFF PROFILE

by YKACL staff

JOHN BALAMAGA has served YKACL clients as an Employment Support Worker since 2016.

John assists people with disabilities to become job-ready, find employment and participate in on-the-job training – ensuring they remain committed to their work responsibilities after they accept a position.

"This requires me to maintain a close working relationship with the companies and organizations that offer employment and volunteer opportunities to our clients," John explained. "I like helping people, especially when I see a fundamental change in someone's life after the Association's intervention. In my job I deal with many homeless people on a daily basis and it's satisfying to see a guy or a lady who had been waking

up in the morning and walking from the mall to the day shelter to Walmart, to the hospital and then to the Post Office – someone who had lost hope and had started drinking or doing drugs – now that's all over because this person has got a job, their life is turned around."

John earned his Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Cologne in Germany. He has pursued numerous professional development courses in the United States and has more than 10 years of business experience, having worked in the telecommunications and micro-finance industries.

'DIVERSITY AND TEAMWORK'

"In my former jobs I did a lot of travelling nationally and internationally and I interacted with many people of different



JOHN BALAMAGA

nationalities, cultures and backgrounds" he said. "Early in my professional life I learned the values of diversity and team work."

John grew up attending school in Uganda, Kenya and India. He speaks five languages fluently, including English, French and German.

In his spare time he cherishes time shared with family and friends.