



On to new horizons!

Success for School to Work students

by YKACL staff

TEN STUDENTS from St. Patrick and Sir John Franklin high schools received their certificates on June 11 after completing the 2019 School to Work program.

Now in its seventh year, YKACL's EmployABILITY School to Work student employment readiness program offers youth on-the-job training and workshops to help students transition from high school into the work force.

Nine employers participated in this year's program:

- Yellowknife Co-op
- North Country Stables
- Old Town Glassworks
- Let Me Knot Flowers
- Baker Centre
- Polar Tech
- Computers for Schools
- Blunt Hair Studio
- Food Rescue

Two of this year's students have been asked to come back for either an interview or an extended job placement beyond the program.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

With help from school staff, we identify students who

would benefit from a work placement opportunity.

We begin with six weeks of classroom learning, during which students learn about professionalism, how to interact with an employer, interview etiquette and budgeting.

RCMP & YELLOWKNIFER

During this year's classroom portion of the program we toured workplaces such as the RCMP Dispatch Office, the Yellowknifer newsroom and the Multiplex to show the students different kinds of job opportunities available around town.

After that the students participated in six weeks of job experience based on their own interests.

"All the students worked extremely hard to improve their skills at each of the placements," said YKACL Job Coach Josh Bevan. "The employers shared very positive feedback about the way the students participated in the workplace."

This work experience helps students discover what employment is like and gives insight into what jobs they may wish to pursue.



YKACL Job Coaches Jeni Maniragaba (left) and Josh Bevan worked with the 10 high school students who participated in the 2019 EmployABILITY School to Work student employment readiness program.

EmployABILITY serves individuals with any kind of disability

People seeking the support of EmployABILITY can access a variety of employment assessments and then work with Program Employment Support Workers to develop an employment and/or training plan. Assistance and training is provided in the job seeking process and job coaching. Continued support is offered once employment is found.

EmployABILITY works with the Yellowknife business community to create training and job opportunities and to promote disability awareness encouraging diversity in the workforce. The program continues its assistance to employers once employment is established. Our staff is knowledgeable about funding opportunities for employers interested in a diverse workforce.

BUSINESS SERVICES TEAM UPDATE

by YKACL staff

THE BUSINESS SERVICES TEAM distributed more than 1,000 posters in May for customers ranging from the City of Yellowknife and the GNWT to individual artists and musicians.

The team also completed more than 140 courier assignments and more than 80 recycling pick-ups.

The Business Services Team operates through the YKACL Skills Training and Community Inclusion Service for adults with intellectual disabilities (ST&CI)

The Business Services Team offers:

- Recycling pick-up
- Courier delivery
- Mail preparation
- Poster distribution*
- Document shredding
- Special projects

Team revenue is paid in wages to the clients providing the service.

*Within 8 business days



KATIE MILLER picks up mail for several downtown businesses and organizations every week, as part of her role as a member of the YKACL Business Services Team. To hire the team, contact Donna Meserah-Zdyb, Manager of Skills Training & Community Inclusion, at 920-2644 or email stci@ykacl.ca.

ODD JOB SQUAD UPDATE

by YKACL staff

MORE THAN 50 CUSTOMERS hired The Odd Job Squad in May, providing temporary work for 10 YKACL clients.

Employers included:

- Corothers Home Hardware
- Triton Property Management Services
- Northwestel
- Northern Food Services
- Northview Reit
- Numerous households

The variety of jobs included yard work, pet waste removal, furniture delivery, and dump runs.

The Odd Job Squad is designed to assist under-employed individuals who self-identify with a disability to derive a small income from one-time or short-term work while they search for permanent employment.

YKACL news

Parent & Family Night
Wednesday, June 19

PARENT & FAMILY

Night is scheduled for Wednesday, June 19, beginning at 7pm in the Abe Miller Building (4912 53rd Street).

The monthly event offers an opportunity for parents and caregivers of individuals with disabilities to drop in for casual conversation with other family members.

The June social event will feature information about how to register for the 2019 YKACL Teen Summer Program!

For on-site respite care, please RSVP to Vera at 920-2644.

YKACL Youth Groups June schedule

YOUNG PEOPLE with or without a disability are invited to join the YAY Fusion! Teen Group and the YKACL Young Adults Group at 6pm on Friday, June 14, at the Abe Miller Building (4912 53rd Street) for a picnic at Rotary Park. The event will end at 8:30pm at the Abe Miller Building.

The teen group welcomes residents aged 13-18 years and the young adults group welcomes young people aged 19-30.

Please RSVP to Michael at 920-2644.

EmployABILITY SERVICE OFFERS SOLUTIONS FOR YK'S 'CHRONIC' STAFFING CRISIS

by YKACL staff

JOB VACANCIES pose a "chronic" crisis for local businesses, according to a report published June 5 by the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce -- but YKACL's EmployABILITY service offers solutions.

EmployABILITY is a service for individuals who happen to have a disability. This employment support strategy is a proven option for a dedicated, job-ready workforce that means business. EmployABILITY staff work in partnership with the local business community to foster positive relationships for training and job opportunities and to promote diversity in the workplace.

YKACL staff match a successful candidate with an employer, working with management to facilitate training and integration of staff. We ensure a smooth transition. Dedicated, on-site job coaching is provided when needed.

EmployABILITY

clients offer skills to fill a wide variety of roles in the workforce.

Residents hired through the EmployABILITY service currently work at businesses such as Javaroma, Boston Pizza, Super 8, Tim Hortons, True Value, UNICO, Gallery of the Midnight Sun, Canadian Tire, Yellowknife Beverages and the YWCA.

On any given month, EmployABILITY staff work with more than 50 job-seekers, including Sunil Sriram, who is applying for summer jobs while finishing his semester at Aurora College.

"I want to gain as much experience as I can this summer," said Sriram. "I want to build on my skills and make a difference in the workplace through a positive attitude and hard work."

According to the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce, 70% of survey respondents indicate they are currently hiring, and 61% de-



YKACL EmployABILITY CLIENTS work a wide range of jobs: Terry Kuliktana works in the Aramark kitchen at Stanton Territorial Hospital (top photo); Sasha Clouston works in the aisles at Canadian Tire; and Annie Strus works behind the counter at Javaroma.

scribe their job vacancies as "chronic."

The number of current vacant positions reported by 68 survey respondents ranged from one to 18, with an average of three vacancies.

**For hiring info,
please contact
920-2644**

employability@ykacl.ca

My Trip to Dubai for Special Olympics



Chris Strus shares about his experience in the United Arab Emirates meeting friends and competing for

by **Chris Strus**
with support from his
Literacy Outreach Centre
class

I WENT TO DUBAI to compete in Special Olympics. We flew to Vancouver and Dubai. It took us 14 hours. Then we rode the bus through downtown. We got our own key to the hotel. Then we got our luggage from the airport.

I had a good time in Dubai. We had swimming in Dubai.

It was fun. We got to see the same coaches at the same time and they got to see us. Then we got to shake hands with each other.

*"I swam
as hard
as I can"*

We had breakfast and went to the pool. Then we had lunch. Then we went back to the pool. Then we went back to the hotel for dinner. We went back to our room to relax.

We played cards and listened to music all night until we went to bed. We woke up and went to breakfast at the hotel. After that we went shopping at the mall. I got a new T-shirt that says "Dubai".

We went to the pool after lunch and started trading pins.

I met someone from Brazil. He was a nice guy and we traded pins.

I also met an athlete from



THE AUTHOR DISPLAYS MEDALS he won swimming as part of Team Canada at the World Games in March.

Costa Rica and we traded pins too. I also met a guy from Indiana. I met someone from Nigeria and I also met people from Japan. I also met someone from Minnesota.

ta. I even met someone from Madagascar and someone from Mexico.

Then we had the opening ceremony. It was fun because I was in the **stadium** and I got to wave to the crowd and the crowd waved back. I got to be on TV.

After the opening ceremony we got to find our seats. We got to be in an article and then I got my picture taken. It feels cool to be famous. I had fun watching before it was my turn to compete.

Through the desert we had a crazy ride

After getting my picture taken I was in shock – I felt like I was in a dream! I was thinking about my mom in my head.

She said: "Chris you're gonna do great."

I went to the changeroom to get ready and then went to the waiting room. I was really nervous and excited, too.

I was waiting for them to call my name so I waited patiently. When they called me to the block I waited in lane four. I was thinking about not having stress. I was ready.

I was waiting for the beep then I swam as hard as I can. During the race I tried my hardest and focused really hard. I think I did very well and I'm proud of myself.

I did the freestyle, backstroke and two relay races. I came 4th, 7th and 3rd place



THE AUTHOR (RIGHT) EXPLORES Dubai with fellow Team Canada members.

and then I went to get my medals. These were a bronze for 3rd place and I got a ribbon for 4th place, too. I got my picture taken on the podium.

After I left the podium the music started to play and it made me dance.

After that we went back to the hotel for dinner. On Saturday we got to see the camels but I didn't try to ride one. Instead I got a henna tattoo

on my arm. We had a barbecue out in the desert and we watched a belly dance. After that we had dessert and I got to dance in the desert too.

Through the desert we had a crazy ride. There were lots of bumps and we had a ton of fun.

I got back on Sunday, March 24. After lunch on Monday I got to be in an interview about the Special Olympics. They asked me about my next trip, which is in 2023. I'll be in Berlin, Germany.

I met so many new friends

They also asked about this trip to Dubai and it was fun. I told them "I wish I could stay one more day," but it's okay because I met so many new friends there!

I showed the interviewers

my medals and they took pictures of me wearing them. They wanted to hold them with their own hands too.

They asked about my pins and I told them about all the athletes trading pins so I decided to give them a pin for free. After that I told them about going to the airport on the last day watching the other athletes go home. I felt sad to leave them and I cried and they did, too, but I'm so happy I got to see new athletes.

I had a good time in Dubai. I got to know the city. I got to know a lot of new people. I got to swim the fastest I can go and I even got a medal.

**"I felt like
I was in a
dream."**



MEMBERS OF THE YES GROUP (Youth Employment Services) prepare lumpia and pansit for sale on June 4. The chefs included Ron Saunders and Jaimee-Lynn Clouston (above).

PHILIPPINE CUISINE TUESDAYS!

by YKACL staff

FORGET TACO TUESDAY! It's time for Lumpia and Pansit Tuesdays in front of the Abe Miller Building (4912 53rd St.) in celebration of the Philippine Heritage Month in YK (June 2019).

Pansit and Lumpia will continue to be sold by YKACL clients and staff from 5pm-7pm (or while supplies last) every Tuesday until the end of Farmers Market Season on Sept. 17.

Skills Training Facilitator Lian Vilan leads members of the YES Group (Youth Employment Services) through the steps to create Lumpia and Pansit (Filipino-style fried egg rolls and fried noodles with veggies) every week.

A dish of pansit is available for \$10 per plate on market days from 5pm-7pm (or while supplies last).

Lumpia with chicken are also available for \$1 each.

Proceeds from the food sales are paid as wages to YES Group members who help prepare the food.

Pre-orders are welcome, but not necessary: 920-2644.

Lian learned to cook authentic Philippine cuisine in the City of Alaminos in Pangasinan province in the Philippines, where she grew up.

PRE-ORDER TODAY!

Mabuhay!

Napakasarap nito!

LUMPIA!

Lumpia – Filipino-style egg rolls: \$1 each (chicken)

Pansit – fried noodles and veggies: \$10 a plate (vegetarian or with chicken)

**5pm-7pm (or while supplies last) Tuesdays
in front of the Abe Miller Building (4912 53rd St.)
during the Yellowknife Farmers Market**

YKACL
Yellowknife Association for Community Living

HERE WE GROW AGAIN!

by YKACL staff

GROWING SEASON is back at YKACL as clients and staff nurture this year's crop!

Keep your eyes on the award-winning Abe Miller Garden as clients and staff transplant dozens of seedlings this week!



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Bertha Taylor waters plants earlier this month; Chantelle Beauchamp plants seeds in early May alongside Skills Training Facilitator Lian Vilan; student Julie White records the seeds planted alongside instructor Thomas Gagnon—van Leeuwen at the Literacy Outreach Centre last month; Emma Moorhouse plants outside yesterday.

PARENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS NEEDED FROM ALL CANADIAN PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES

We are conducting research with young people with developmental disability and their parents/caregivers and YOU CAN HELP.

<https://is.gd/disabilitysupportsstudy>



School of
Social Work



THE SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC POLICY



Yellowknife Association for Community Living • (867) 920-2644 • info@ykacl.ca • www.ykacl.ca • facebook.com/ykacl



TEEN SUMMER PROGRAM 2019

1:30pm-4:30pm weekdays (July 2nd - Aug. 23rd)

Free to register anytime!
(Ages 13-21 with or without a disability)

call: 920-2644
inclusion2@ykacl.ca

YKACL
Yellowknife Association for Community Living



TEEN SUMMER PROGRAM 2019

Free to register anytime!

July 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Statutory Holiday (Canada Day)	2 Indoor Soccer at Yellowknife Fieldhouse	3 Canoe Adventure at Yellowknife Bay	4 Bouldering at Yellowknife Fieldhouse	5 Beach Day at Fred Henne Beach	6	7
8 Indoor Tennis at Yellowknife Fieldhouse	9 Archeological and Hunting program at Prince of Whales Museum	10 Picnic and tour at Trappers Lake Lodge	11 Dance play at Somba K'e Park	12 Games and Cookout at Yellowknife River	13	14
15 Yoga at Racquet Club	16 Bike Assembly Workshop at Canadian Tire	17 Dene Community Tour at Dettah	18 Picnic and hiking at Rotary trail park	19 Swimming at Ruth Inch Memorial Pool	20	21
22 Paddle Boarding at Yellowknife Back Bay	23 Outdoor Soccer at Fred Henne Park	24 Drive range golfing at Yellowknife Golf Club	25 Hiking and Bird Watching at Niven Lake Trail	26 Beach Day at Fred Henne Beach	27	28
29 Scavenger hunt at Old Town	30 Dance Class at Ptarmigan Studio	31 Frisbee and Picnic At Olexin Park				

TEEN SUMMER PROGRAM 2019

Free to register anytime!

August 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 Picnic at Yellowknife River	2 Ramble & Ride at Old Town	3	4
5 Statutory Holiday (Civic Holiday)	6 Volleyball at Somba K'e Park	7 Traditional Games at Ptarmigan Studio	8 Ecology North at Yellowknife River	9 Swimming at Ruth Inch Memorial Pool	10	11
12 Fishing Workshop at Grace Lake	13 Dance Class at Ptarmigan Studio	14 Dinosaur Talk at Ptarmigan Studio	15 Yoga at Racquet Club Gym	16 Picnic at Fred Henne Park	17	18
19 Golfing at Yellowknife Golf Club	20 Treasure Hunting at Frame Lake Trail	21 Hay Ride at Northern Stables	22 Arts and Crafts at Somba K'e Park	23 Bbq and Games at Abe Miller Building	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Improve your Access 2 Entertainment™

*Free movie admission for support persons
accompanying an individual with a disability
at Capitol Theatre in Yellowknife and beyond!*



by YKACL staff

BLOCKBUSTER MOVIES, such as the upcoming *Spiderman: Far From Home* (July 5), are one of the joys of summer for many families, but some film-goers may be unaware of the Access 2 Entertainment™ Card. The card can make the cinematic experience much

more affordable.

Managed by Easter Seals Canada, the card provides free admission for support persons accompanying a person with a disability at participating movie theatres and attractions across Canada, including Capitol Theatre in Yellowknife.

The person with the disability pays the regular admission price.

People with a permanent disability who require a support person when attending a movie theatre or attraction are eligible for the card.

The applicant must agree to follow certain terms and conditions for use of the card.

**For full terms & conditions
visit: www.access2.ca**

Who is a support person?

A “support person” is a person who goes with a person with a disability to provide supports that are not provided by the movie theatre or attraction employees. This may include help with such things as eating, administering medication, communication, and use of the washroom.

Is there a cost for the Access 2 Entertainment™ Card?

The card costs \$20. It is valid for five years and can be used at all Access 2 Entertainment™ Partners.

How do I apply for the Access 2 Entertainment™ Card?

Download an application from www.access2.ca.

There are two ways to apply for the card:

1. If the applicant has a CNIB client ID card or a Disability

Travel Card™, complete Section B of the application form. Send the application, a photocopy of the CNIB card or Disability Travel Card™ card, a \$20 cheque or money order (made payable to Easter Seals Canada), and a self-addressed, stamped business-sized envelope to the address below.

2. If the applicant does not have a CNIB client ID card or a Disability Travel Card™, complete Section B and have your health care provider complete Section C.

Send both sections and a cheque or money order (made payable to Easter Seals Canada), and a self-addressed, stamped business-sized envelope to the address below:

**Access 2 Entertainment
c/o Easter Seals Canada
40 Holly Street, Suite 401
Toronto Ontario
M4S 3C3**