



David C. Onley Initiative:

Our journey to improve employment outcomes for post-secondary students with disabilities

We carried out research with students, educators, employers and student support networks to:

- 1** Identify barriers that prevent students with disabilities from finding meaningful employment upon graduation.
- 2** Uncover opportunities to increase the readiness of students with disabilities to find meaningful employment upon graduation.
- 3** Interpret the influence of various partnerships on successful transitions to employment for students with disabilities.
- 4** Grasp the true value of accessible and individualized support for students with disabilities.

We used our research findings to dive deeper into:

- ▶ Pinpointing the activities and applied strategies post-secondary institutions can implement to best support students with disabilities along their employment journeys.
- ▶ Making sure any mechanisms we create for students with disabilities to gain work experience are accessible.
- ▶ Understanding fully the ways student services can provide meaningful and individualized services for students with disabilities to achieve work experiences and skills.

We turned this vast knowledge into action by:



Developing two comprehensive educational and support toolkits—[Tap Into Talent](#) for employers, and [The Field Guide](#) for post-secondary service providers.

+50

Creating more than 50 additional resources for students, employers, service providers and educators, and making them available on [AbleTo.ca](#)—a new online platform to share knowledge and raise awareness.



Conducting workshops and training sessions for employers to help them create accessible workplaces.



Hosting knowledge exchange events to amplify the voices of students and promote best practices in inclusive employment.

Our collective knowledge development and actions benefit all

Our knowledge and actions are delivering deep and widespread benefits. They are empowering students with disabilities to achieve their employment and career goals. They are equipping employers to build accessible and inclusive workplaces.

They are strengthening constructive partnerships among students, employer, educators, student service providers and student advocates. They are influencing policies to make employment more accessible and inclusive, and sparking a national conversation about the need for employment equity for all people with disabilities.



Join the conversation

Visit [onleyinitiative.ca](#) for information, resources and to get involved in creating a future where all students have access to meaningful and accessible employment opportunities and settings.