

"We were able to customize a position for a TeenWork participant that reduced my costs in advertising and increased my customer base."

*Dan Milbrath, Owner and Operator of Costa Verde Landscaping*

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TeenWork is most grateful to the following 2014-15 funders:



University of Victoria



- 84% of young people (ages 15 to 24) with disabilities are able to hold permanent employment positions in Canada.  
– *2009 Survey of Labour and Income Dynamic*
- 87% of the public prefers to give their business to companies that hire people with disabilities.  
– *National Survey of Consumer Attitudes towards Companies that Hire People with Disabilities*

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CanAssist TeenWork



## Supporting youth with disabilities in reaching their employment goals

### Who are we?

CanAssist at the University of Victoria is dedicated to improving the quality of life of those with disabilities. CanAssist's TeenWork is an innovative employment program designed to help youth with disabilities find and retain paid part-time employment while they are still in high school.

Program participants work with job coaches to find meaningful employment, acquiring practical skills and self-confidence as a result of being a contributing member of an employment team.

### What does TeenWork do?

We support youth in achieving their employment goals. This participant-centred service includes:

- determining strengths, skills and interests during the Discovery Stage
- creating a resume and cover letter
- developing interview skills
- job searching online and in the community
- one-on-one, on-site job coaching, which is not time-limited
- ongoing job maintenance and support

### Who is eligible?\*

Any youth who:

- has a disability and is between 15 and 19 years old
- is attending school
- is safe toward self and others in the community
- is independent in personal care
- has access to transportation (e.g. bus, parents, HandyDart)

*\* Please note: TeenWork is a small program with limited participant capacity.*

### How can your business benefit?

- gain loyal, hard-working employees
- increase retention in entry-level positions
- gain recognition by customers and the community as an inclusive employer
- improve workplace morale and enhance community networks

### Hiring a youth with a disability

- employers gain qualified, pre-screened youth
- they can be confident that they are hiring an employee with skills that match their business's current needs
- TeenWork participants work to the same standards as other employees
- job coaches help the teen meet or exceed these standards at no additional expense to the employer

### Finding a job through TeenWork

- the youth and his or her family work with a job coach to identify employment goals
- the youth develops job-search skills while supported by a job coach
- once a job placement is secured, the youth begins working with one-on-one, on-site support from the job coach
- as necessary, the youth and job coach develop customized tools and techniques to facilitate increased work independence