

WRFN Resource List – ASD and Employment

Waterloo Region Adult ASD Resources including Employment-Related:

Waterloo Region Family Network [Home Waterloo Region Family Network \(wrfn.info\)](http://wrfn.info)

- Ask-A-Self-Advocate
- Family Resource Coaches – Erin (ages 0-15); Leah & Marla (ages 16-99)
- community event calendar, monthly newsletter, regular social media

A-Team [A-Team Waterloo Region | A Peer Support Group for Adults with Aspergers Syndrome \(wordpress.com\)](http://www.a-teamwaterloo.com)

Sunbeam Developmental Resource Centre – resource for those 18+ with ASD who do not qualify for Developmental Services Ontario: [TRANSITION-TO-ADULTHOOD-RESOURCE-FALL-2021.pdf \(sdrc.ca\)](http://www.sdrc.ca/transition-to-adulthood-resource-fall-2021.pdf)

ODSP - Ontario Disability Support Program – Employment Supports: [Ontario Disability Support Program employment supports | Ontario.ca](http://www.ontario.ca) . “You don’t have to be receiving income support from ODSP to be eligible for employment supports.”

- one of the local organizations providing these supports is Lutherwood Employment Services –

ACE program: [Achieving Competitive Employment \(ACE\) | Lutherwood](http://www.lutherwood.ca)

- others locally are:

- March of Dimes
- STRIDE
- Marsay Treen – Hope Start
- The Job Centre

Kerry’s Place - Young Adult Program: **Young Adults Project (YAP)** is an initiative at Kerry’s Place Autism Services that focuses on supporting adults 18 years or older with Autism Spectrum Disorder, who are looking to enter the workforce and retain meaningful employment. The Young Adults Project provides individualized support to adults with ASD at any point in their employment journey. [Employment Support: Drop-In Consultation – Young Adults Project – Kerry's Place \(kerrysplace.org\)](http://www.kerrysplace.org)

Kerry’s Place – is the closest provider of Employment Works program (see below for this Canada-wide program): [EmploymentWorks – Kerry's Place \(kerrysplace.org\)](http://www.kerrysplace.org)

Brightside Autism Services offers various programs; for example May-August weekly online group program with ABA consultant, for ages 15-18, topic Job Readiness – resume, social skills on the job, interview skills; brightside@sunbeamcommunity.ca

KW Habilitation Career Compass Program [KW Career Compass - KW Habilitation](#) for employers and employees

KW Hab's "LEGUp! to Work" program - [LEG Up! to Work one pager \(kwhab.ca\)](#)

- 8 weeks, in person (twice weekly) Job Readiness program, includes workplace skills assessment

Autism Ontario - [Home | Autism Ontario](#)

- increasing their adult supports: [Adults | Autism Ontario](#)

- including Career Connections: [Autism Career Connections | Autism Ontario](#)

- partnership with Apex Academy Online; "Autism Career Connections is an online workshop that helps both job seekers on the autism spectrum and employers create safe and healthy workplaces"

- separate online learning modules for job-seekers and employers

Canada – employment-related:

Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work Conference: [Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work \(ccrw.org\)](#) – for employers AND for job seekers and employees

- includes WORKink™ - [WORKink™](#) - "a dedicated space for job postings by equity employers offering inclusive employment"

- candidates who are a good fit for CCRW are:

- Individuals who self-identify as having a disability
- Unemployed or under employed and ready to independently job search
- Interested in gaining support to create workplace accommodations and supports
- self-identify as a person with a disability
- Must be self-motivated and work ready
- aged 18+
- Apply to 5-10 jobs a week
- Send weekly job logs to employment facilitator along with follow up contact information
- have a job goal(s) in line with labour market and are seeking full capacity employment

Employment Works: [Home - EmploymentWorks \(employment-works.ca\)](http://employment-works.ca) – for employees and employers; an initiative of The Sinneave Family Foundation in partnership with Autism Speaks Canada; funded in part by Government of Canada’s Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities Program

Ready, Willing & Able: [Home - Ready, Willing & Able \(readywillingable.ca\)](http://readywillingable.ca) Funded by the Government of Canada's Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities, RWA is a national partnership initiative of [Inclusion Canada](#) and [Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorder Alliance](#) and their members. For employers and job seekers.

Disabilities Mentoring Day: disabilitiesmentoringday.org

Autism Speaks Canada – Autism Response Team (ART); 60% of ART inquiries are for adult services; 9am-5pm EST, Canada-wide, 1-888-362-6227 or email support@autismspeaks.ca

Anywhere:

“Different... Not Less: Inspiring Stories of Achievement and Successful Employment from Adults with Autism, Asperger’s, and ADHD”, by Temple Grandin, PhD, with foreword by Tony Atwood, PhD. “In these pages, Temple presents the personal success stories of fourteen unique individuals that illustrate the extraordinary potential of those on the autism spectrum”

Forward Motion Coaching - Barbara Bissonnette, certified coach, specializing in those with Asperger’s, Nonverbal Learning Disorder, and Other Communication Challenges: [Forward Motion Coaching | Barbara Bissonnette](#) ; has free online guides available for downloading; note some content is US-specific (Americans with Disabilities Act) but most information is universally applicable:

- Getting Hired: A Primer for Individuals with Asperger’s Syndrome & Nonverbal Learning Disorder
- Workplace Disclosure: Strategies for Individuals with Asperger’s Syndrome and NLD
- The Employer’s Guide to Asperger’s Syndrome

Also I would recommend Barbara’s blog on Forward Motion Coaching: [Blog – Forward Motion](#) – great real-life examples and suggestions