

EmploymentWorks Online Job Supports:

"...a little hope and someone who believes in you."

After nearly a year on disability leave during which she received both autism and ADHD diagnoses, Katelyn discovered the EmploymentWorks Online program. In preparing to re-enter the workforce she knew she could benefit from some additional workplace strategies and support and decided to register.

"During my leave, I gained a deeper understanding of myself," she says. "However, I felt the need for better support and skills to manage myself in the workplace to avoid burning out again."

So far, the program has been incredibly beneficial for her. "It reinforced things I already knew while also introducing me to new skills and providing access to practical supports," she says, adding, "EmploymentWorks even funded noise-canceling earplugs for me to use at work."

The supports extend beyond on-the-job equipment, like noise-cancelling earplugs. Participants in the Online program have a wealth of resources to draw from. Benefits like:



- Access to program staff for guidance and support
- 1:1 help to develop and improve job-seeking skills
- Opportunities to join group-based discussions on program topics
- Funded certification training to support employment (such as: First Aid, Food Safety, WHMIS).
- Connecting with employment agencies or supported employment providers
- Connecting to a paid work experience
- Funded on-the-job supports (such as: equipment, job coaching, wage support for employers).

Access to program staff for guidance and support has been a huge benefit to Katelyn. "Having my facilitator, Joannie, available to discuss my work challenges and explore different approaches has been invaluable."

Joannie Rosevear is one of EmploymentWorks Online's dedicated Program Facilitators. Her passion for the work and for the success of the participants is evident when asked about Katelyn.

“Before her leave, Katelyn was in a workplace situation that, in the end, was not a good fit for her,” says Joannie. “She was trying really hard to make it work, but it was very discouraging.”

Joannie says she has seen the same situation play out again and again for many participants. “They’re doing everything they can to make the workplace fit and they end up just feeling terrible about themselves. They feel as though they are the failures because it didn’t work out.”

“My job is to show participants the reality of the situation,” she says. “Katelyn needed to know that she wasn’t doing anything wrong and the situation she was in wasn’t a reflection of who she was or the skills she brought to the position. She needed to know that she’s not flawed just because she didn’t fit into a box that society says should look a certain way.”

Joannie maintains that her work is simply to help participants stay on track, and to encourage them to persevere. “Sometimes, in order to keep going, all they need is a little hope and someone who believes in them,” she says. “When the right job, right fit, right environment comes along—that becomes very clear, and things usually fall into place. It just takes time.”

Working with Joannie has been particularly encouraging for Katelyn because Joannie is also neurodivergent. “It’s been especially meaningful to receive support from someone who understands the unique struggles of a neurodivergent individual navigating a neurotypical workplace,” she says.

While the program modules and structured learning are self-guided, according to Joannie, Katelyn’s success can be attributed to good communication, building accountability into her schedule and following up with coaching sessions. And, not giving up.

The best part is it’s FREE; all you need is access to a computer or tablet and a reliable internet connection.

The 12-module, self-paced program is designed to help participants:

- Identify their employment goals
- Develop and practice work related skills
- Build confidence to be successful in a workplace

Whether you are a new graduate ready to find a job, you are re-entering the workforce, or you have some work experience and want to improve your skills and employability, visit employment-works.ca to sign up for EmploymentWorks Online.

