

Workforce Diversity



Diversity at the table

DENNIS GANE, COMMERCE NEWS

The Edmonton Chamber of Commerce's Workforce Diversity Edmonton and partners held the first Canadian Dining with Diversity event on April 22, 2009, at Ruth's Chris Steak House located in the World Trade Centre Edmonton.

This pilot event invited business leaders, including guests from the boards of the Chamber of Commerce and Edmonton Economic Development Corporation, to enjoy an evening that will no doubt be memorable.

Created by business for business, Dining with Diversity is a unique event featuring an evening of fine dining in an intimate setting to create a comfortable, informal discussion on disability. Each table of diners was led by a dining director, a successful professional who brings his or her expertise on disability issues to the proverbial dinner table to share.

While dining directors addressed the disability culture, diners were encouraged to provide their views, sharing information on their business's point of view. Both the dining directors and dinner guests attained a new perspective on the



Carman McNary, Colin Simpson, Cindy Gordon, Rick MacSwain, Donna Bulger, Peter Pilarski, Debra Morin, Lindsay Dodd, Joanne Beaton, Linnie Tse, Jeff Sundquist, Patrick LaForge, Diane Bergeron

business benefits of embracing a diversified workforce and consumer market as we continue to work towards creating an inclusive business community in Edmonton.

Based on the evaluations of the event, the overwhelming responses were extremely positive. Several of the guests indicated they would be taking the information back to their respective organizations, and one guest indicated interest in offering this event to their membership – representatives from one of the largest sectors in Alberta.

Workforce Diversity Edmonton intends to bring Dining with Diversity to interested businesses as a training and awareness event to help Alberta businesses unlock the added value in diversity. A large business, for example, may have some managers who are actively recruiting people with disabilities in its workforce; other managers may have doubts. Invariably, these managers will meet annually en masse at one location to discuss past, current and future directions. Why not hold a Dining with Diversity event, where the managers who are successful in recruiting and retaining people with disabilities assist their peers who are experiencing challenges?

Dining directors share a wealth of personal knowledge and experience to work together to accomplish the inclusion of people with disabilities in the workforce, the community and a growing consumer market. Through this unique event, Workforce Diversity Edmonton can assist your organization to succeed in addressing its diversity needs.

Martin Salloum, president and CEO of the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, congratulates Workforce Diversity Edmonton, chaired by Jeffrey Sundquist, VP, Zedi Inc., its members, and the staff of Network Development, led by VP Wilfred Barranoik. In addition, he extends special thanks to the Dining with Diversity 2009 dining directors: Diane Bergeron, Donna Bulger, Cindy Gordon, Colin Simpson and Linnie Tse.

For more information on the Dining with Diversity event and/or Workforce Diversity Edmonton, contact Dennis Gane, diversity business development specialist, Edmonton Chamber of Commerce at 780-409-2628 or by email: dgane@edmontonchamber.com.

SHIFTING GEARS Building Connections in New Directions

All Inclusive Labour Force Panel Discussion
Mayfield Inn Conference Centre, Ballroom
Monday, May 11, 2009
1:30 pm—4:30 pm



WORKFORCE DIVERSITY
EDMONTON

SERVING

- People with Disabilities
- Aboriginal Peoples
- Youth
- Immigrants
- Seniors
- Women
- Visible Minorities

Business Owners
Human Resource Personnel
Employers
Business Development Managers
Decision Makers

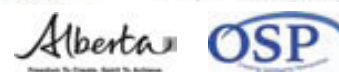
Panel Members

- **Jim Gurnett**, Executive Director, Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers
- **Komala Pepin**, Asst. Manager, Alberta Health Services
- **Dale Nally**, Manager, Home Depot Canada
- **Blair Lundy**, Distribution Manager, Company's Coming
- **Bruce Miller**, Asst. Principal, L.Y. Cairns School
- **Robert Laboucane**, Ripple Effects Ltd.

An exclusive panel discussion addressing the business benefits of embracing a diversified workforce and consumer market

Register Now
Cost Included in Meet the North
Registration—Space is Limited

RSVP to Melissa Johnson
Ph (780) 409-2135
Fx (780) 424-7946
Email: mjohnson@edmontonchamber.com



Employment services for people with disabilities

Alberta government funded non-profit agencies assist people with disabilities seeking work and provide employer supports that aid in the successful recruitment and retention of individuals with disabilities. The following job seekers are ready, able and willing to work.

EmployAbilities
780-423-4106

www.employabilities.ab.ca

Contact Jon at
jon@employabilities.ab.ca

Charles is seeking a full-time position as an INSIDE SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- Extensive past inside sales experience.
- Maintains a high level of professionalism when dealing customers.
- Positive team player willing to work towards common goals.

- experienced.
- Able to prioritize tasks and responsibilities to meet deadlines.
- Proofread work to ensure accuracy and attention to detail.

Toni is looking for a full-time position as an ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

- Highly motivated and

- Gloria is seeking a part-time position as a DISHWASHER/ KITCHEN HELPER.**
- Motivated worker willing to learn and take on new challenges.
- Past experience as a dishwasher.
- Flexible and willing to work evenings, nights and weekends.

Work safe with NorQuest College

Our safety and equipment training offers a practical approach in a hands-on, easy-to-learn fashion. Courses include:

- **Flag Person Certification**
- **WHMIS**
- **HD Equipment and Driver Training** (you must supply your own equipment)
- **Forklift**
- **First Aid**
- **Train-the-Trainers**

Training is offered evenings, weekdays and weekends, on or off worksites – the choice is yours.

Call NorQuest at 780-644-6755 for more information and a complete list of courses.

www.norquest.ca

