

“Roman has been working for Recreation Oak Bay for over a year and has done a great job. He is a pleasure to have helping out in administration and always has a smile on his face. It has been great to watch him grow and take on a more independent approach.”

*Grant Brown, Manager of Administrative Services, Recreation Oak Bay*

“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*

“A teenager with a severe disability may benefit from a community-based supported employment program in which special education services are provided by an employment specialist and the curriculum focus is on employment and work skills.”

*John Venn, Current Issues in Assessing Students with Special Needs, 2012*

“Steve’s experience at work is one of the highlights of Steve’s life and we are profoundly thankful for it.”

*Pam Fowles, Mother of TeenWork youth*

Call our  
TeenWork Program Coordinator  
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or visit our website at:

[www.canassist.ca/teenwork](http://www.canassist.ca/teenwork)



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- 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



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 meaningful, paid employment.

Program participants are employed in a real job for real pay and acquire 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 through the Discovery Process
- Creating a resumé and cover letter
- Developing interview skills
- Job searching and job development
- 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. HandyDart, parents, bus)

*\* 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 moral and enhance community networks

## Hiring a youth with a disability:

- Employers will be able to gain qualified, pre-screened youth, to ensure they are hiring an employee with skills that match their current business needs.
- Employers set the same work standards for TeenWork participants as other employees and the job coach will help teens meet or exceed these standards.

## Finding a job through TeenWork:

- Youth and families work with a job coach to identify employment goals
- Youth develops job-search skills while supported by job coach
- Once a work placement is secured, youth begins position with one-on-one, on-site support from job coach
- As necessary, youth and job coach develop customized tools and techniques to facilitate increased work independence
- Job coach support is gradually reduced, as appropriate