

About

Over the past twenty years, Canada has experienced an increase in students with disabilities attending colleges and universities, and who are in turn graduating with diplomas and/or degrees. This rise is likely a result of recent anti-discrimination laws, an increase in support services offered to persons with disabilities, and an increasing need for higher education to obtain employment. While a post-secondary education provides students with knowledge and enhanced skills that will assist them in the workforce, students with disabilities are employed at rates lower than their non-disabled peers, and/or experience long periods of under-or-un-employment.



NEADS' Breaking It Down's Project Goal

The Breaking it Down employment portal is the final product of a national two-and-a-half year project funded by Labour Canada through its Workplace Opportunities: Removing Barriers to Equity program. The initiative is aimed at connecting recent graduates and students with disabilities and employers in the federally regulated sector, through a unique web portal designed to create on-going relationships and resource sharing.

The National Educational Association of Disabled Students (NEADS) and our project partners facilitated discussions in 7 cities across Canada over two years with post-secondary students and recent graduates with disabilities, federally regulated employers and career professionals in the private sector and on campus. These discussions included but were not limited to inclusive hiring practices and the various barriers to employment that have a profound impact on creating a diverse and inclusive workforce. Those events and the dialogue that took place led to the development of this online employment resource. The project and this Breaking It Down employment portal aim to increase the level of employment for college and university students and graduates with disabilities.

What makes NEADS' Breaking it Down Web Portal Unique?

The Breaking it Down Web Portal is an interactive space designed to create and share information around various topics specific to students, recent graduates with disabilities, and potential employers.

Collaborating with employers and institutions, users can learn about issues such as: disclosure and accommodation, social media and personal branding as a job seeker with a disability, and creating an inclusive and diverse workplace.

Disclaimer

NEADS recognizes that disabilities can occur in a range of forms and severities. The materials provided are meant to address core foundations and/or major popular issues; we encourage users to use and adapt the knowledge to their individual or organizational needs as they see fit. NEADS materials are a collection of content created by academics, staff, people with lived and relevant experience, and students. NEADS is not held liable for the accuracy of third party employers and organizations that may be linked or referenced. NEADS retains the rights to update and present all website content. We encourage all users of the portal to contact us with suggestions, comments, or questions.