

PEOPLE  
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OF CANADA



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## *Help Wanted* - Sheltered Workshops and the Steps to Ending Employment Segregation in Canada

### OVERVIEW

In the past and up to today, people with intellectual disabilities have been placed in sheltered workshops and 'make-work' projects. This is because many in society think that people with intellectual disabilities can't have a regular job. In these workshops, the work is often meaningless and the pay is only a few dollars a day.

One of the priorities of People First of Canada (PFC) is making sure people with intellectual disabilities have real work for real pay. We believe that everyone should have a choice and the opportunity to earn a living through a regular job. And that wages and benefits are the same as those of people without disabilities.

### OUR PROJECT

People First of Canada is pleased to announce a new project. The project will look at the issue of sheltered workshops in Canada. The project will show solutions that can give real work opportunities to people with intellectual disabilities. The project is funded by the Government of Canada's **Social Development Partnerships Program - Disability Component**.

Our project will happen in three parts. It will take just over two years to finish. Below are some of the goals of the project.

- We will make people aware of sheltered workshops across Canada.
- We will show people different ways to do things so they can stop using sheltered workshops.
- We will give people with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to define their own issues and work on solutions.

This project will have the following activities.

- We will talk to people with intellectual disabilities from across the country. We will find out what they expect from the project. We will find out what words we should use to show the views and experiences of people with intellectual disabilities.

- We will develop research (information) about sheltered workshops across Canada. The research will include the followings parts.
  - We will find information about the laws, policies, and funding around sheltered workshops in the country. This will be done in British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia.
  - We will get information from key interviews with different people. This will be done in British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia.
  - We will develop a tool to collect and show the information from this research. Then we will do a pilot survey in British Columbia and Ontario using that tool.
- We will develop a toolkit that educates people on sheltered workshops in our country. This toolkit will help people to do things in a different way so they can stop using sheltered workshops.
- We will share the toolkit with the PFC membership network. We will use a ‘train the trainer’ model to teach members about the toolkit.

## **RESEARCH PARTNERS**

These are the groups we will partner with for the research part of the project.

- Institute for Research and Development on Inclusion and Society (IRIS)
- Chronicle Analytics
- Pooran Law

## **OUR MANDATE**

People First of Canada is a national non-profit organization for people with an intellectual disability. We support each other to reclaim our right to be recognized as full citizens. We work together to educate and influence community and government. We want to make sure that all people with intellectual disabilities are fully included and supported to live as equal citizens.

Our vision is a country that values diversity; and honors, respects and includes all its citizens.

Canada prides itself on being a welcoming and diverse country that is full of opportunity. Our government protects and promotes human rights – including the right to employment. There are many benefits that come from being in the regular workforce. These include financial, social, personal, and community benefits that come with having a regular job. This project will help to make sure that the right to be treated equally in employment will be recognized for all people with intellectual disabilities.

**For more info about this project, please send your inquiries to: [monica@peoplefirstofcanada.ca](mailto:monica@peoplefirstofcanada.ca)**