



DISABILITY RESOURCE NETWORK OF BC FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Spring 2015

Message from your Executive Committee

Welcome and thank you for taking your time to read your first biannual newsletter!

DRNBC has several committees, one of which is the Provincial Executive Committee and it has the following functions:

- Support the DRNBC's mandate
- Represent field based concerns in a coordinated fashion to the Provincial Ministries responsible for post-secondary education
- Raise public and government awareness about the educational needs of people with disabilities
- Identify issues of interest and concern to the members of DRNBC
- Be an information sharing body to all personnel regarding disability related issues in the post secondary system

Please visit our website to learn more about our provincial organization: <http://www.drNBC.org/>

We'd love to hear from you if you have any suggestions to improve the newsletter.

Would you like to make a difference by participating in your professional community?

We are in need of additional members and there are many committees to choose from.

For more information about participating for the DRNBC Executive, please contact Donna Lowndes, DRNBC Nominations Committee: lowndesd@douglascollege.ca

For more information about participating for the DRNBC Conference Committee, please contact Kathy O'Donnell: kodonnell@vcc.ca

The DRNBC for PSE is a provincial organization committed to providing programs and services, professional development, resources and news events that effect individuals who have a disability (disabilities), in the British Columbia Post Secondary Education system.

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DRNBC for Post-Secondary Education Annual Conference— MAY 2015

Join us May 21 & 22, 2015 @ VCC's Downtown Campus.
Honoring the Cultural Diversity in Disability

DRNBC two-day conference brings together educators, disability service providers and community members from across the province to share knowledge, research, new ideas and common experiences.

Keynote Address Featuring: Jonathan Mooney—
Re-drawing the Lines <http://www.jonathanmooney.com>

- 11 workshops sessions
- Interactive and creative closing plenary sessions with VCC's Aboriginal Services Advisor
- Exhibits from local service providers
- Conference Materials
- Annual General Meeting with Box lunch
- DRNBC Awards honouring excellence in Corporate, Programs and Services

Wine and Cheese Networking Event at 4 corners restaurant featuring Roshi's Chutney (VCC Alumni self-employment success story <http://www.roshschutneys.com/>)

To register click: <http://www.eply.com/2015DRNBCConference1171423>

More info:

@DRNBCConference #culturaldiversitydrn

<http://www.drnbc.org/annualconference.php>

DRN.manongelinas@gmail.com

The Sharing Corner

Each month we'll bring you some tips, links and items of interesting . This month we have some links of general interest for you to check out!

Interactive links for students and safety awareness:

<http://www.hs101.ca/> Health and Safety 101 is an e-course developed by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) in Ontario, to provide young workers with important health and safety information

<http://www.safework.sa.gov.au>

Web-based educational activities from Australia offer a convenient alternative to expensive classroom work health and safety (WHS) training. Follow the links Resources/Activities and Education/Online Learning and check out some fun games including: Safety Check, Virtual Hotel, Virtual Office, and Virtual Supermarket

www.mysafehome.org

My Safe Home is an online tool designed to help learners detect dangers in their home



Celebrating Success and Innovation

The Gift of Hands-on Experience...a success story from TRU

Students in the Education and Skills Training program are now operating a new retail kiosk at the University. [Read more about this...](#)



TRU Students in the Education and Skills Training program working in the kiosk

Pilot Projects address training for learners with disabilities in BC ...

As part of **B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint**, 20 public post-secondary institutions have each received \$75,000 in one-time funding to help learners with disabilities access training programs for high-demand job skills. **The B.C. Skills for Jobs Blueprint: Re-engineering Education and Training** was launched on April 29, 2014. It outlines a number of shifts in post-secondary education, including providing better access to technical and trades-related training for learners with disabilities. The Skills Development Employment Benefit funding supports the Ministry of Advanced Education's mandate to align training and education to jobs that support the economy. The programs are designed to increase learners' success in trades and technical training areas, as well as other programs that are in high demand in B.C.'s labour market. <http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2014/10/15m-helps-learners-with-disabilities-access-skills-training.html>

Environmental Sustainability and Employment: an Interview with Camosun's David Greig

Wander up to the greenhouses at Camosun College Interurban campus and you will likely meet **David Greig**. He offers visitors a warm handshake, and exudes a passion, enthusiasm and positivity for working with students and the earth. David blends his knowledge and expertise of horticulture, with a unique approach, empowering students for future employment. The result has been positive change on campus as well as providing a stepping stone for future life success of students.

Who are you and what do you do on campus?

I have been teaching at Camosun since 1996. I teach the Customer Service Training and the EARTH Gardening Programs as part of the Employment Training and Preparation programs. I am a registered horticulture therapist, a certified organic landscape professional, and a worm farmer.

What positive outcomes have you seen coming out of the Employment Training and Preparation (ETP) program? How does composting and working with worms meld with teaching employment skills?

The ETP program is for non-traditional learners or for students who have had barriers to learning and who may be unable to access regular academic programs. It provides a learning opportunity for those who otherwise wouldn't have one at a post-secondary level. For some, it is a step on the road to gaining employment. For others, it helps to integrate them into a more normalized existence where there are regular schedules, time management expectations, and they have to use communications skills to complete tasks in the classroom, gardens and greenhouse. Some students haven't had the opportunities to learn, are simply lacking the confidence to put their skills to use or have had a gap in their learning. Some of our graduates have since moved on to other post-secondary programs. For others it's a stepping stone – some have started community gardens, or have gone on to work for landscapers, in nurseries or have opened up small businesses of their own.

For more on this article please follow the link: <http://camosun.ca/sustainability/stories/faces/David-Greig.html>.

News and headlines from around the province

Adult Basic Education

Some of our public education is about to get a lot less

ABE is a critical part of fully-funded post-secondary education and training.

Together, we can dispel the myth that BC can't afford post-secondary. Please support the call for investment in public education by sharing this petition with your friends and family.

Here's the full petition: http://www.openthedoors.ca/take_action?recruiter_id=1428

We call on the BC government to restore full-funding to education in our province and permanently restore Adult Basic Education as a tuition-free program across BC. People shouldn't be charged for education we already offer for free.

Contact Us

We welcome any feedback! If you have ideas or articles for the next newsletter please contact

Wendy Parry at

parryw@douglascollege.ca

Update from your rep on the Expert Panel on Employment Access and Inclusion

Since April 2012, Laverne Thompson has sat on this advisory committee to the Ministry of Social Development and Innovations. This group of advocates for job searchers with disabilities meet in Vancouver at least four times per year for all day meetings. Guest speakers have included the Deputy Minister of MSDI, the new Accessibility Secretariat (Susan Mader), reps from the BC Centre for Employment Excellence.

The committee has focused on two initiatives including improved outcomes data by disability groups and a consumer feedback mechanism on the WorkBC website. To read summary notes for this year's meetings, see the link on the DRN website.