



There more than **500,000 working age Canadians with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorder (ASD)**. With an employment rate of only about 25%, they form a significant **untapped labour pool**. With **effective support and employer leadership** they can join the workforce at rates similar to their peers.

Ready, Willing and Able is an initiative of The Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL), in partnership with the Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorders Alliance (CASDA). It is designed to build on and increase employer capacity and demand to hire people with intellectual disabilities and people with autism spectrum disorder, and create the effective and responsive linkages necessary between employers and employment agencies supporting people with intellectual disabilities and ASD.

Our **Vision** is of an **inclusive and effective labour market** with an employment rate for people with intellectual disabilities and ASD on par with the national average.

Ready, Willing and Able is designed to:

- **Engage, connect and support** three key labour market actors – employers, people with intellectual disabilities and ASD, and community agencies; at three inter-connected levels - local, provincial/territorial, and national;
- **Promote understanding and awareness** among employers and the general public as to the value of hiring people with intellectual disabilities and ASD;
- **Enhance the capacity of employment service providers** to refer people with intellectual disabilities and ASD to employers and help them transition into employment.

Ready, Willing, and Able is creating job opportunities at the local level for people with intellectual disabilities and ASD and aligning community capacity to respond to employer demand. Ready, Willing, and Able corporate partners include employers at the national, regional and local level.

The Government of Canada has made a three-year investment in Ready Willing and Able to work with employers and community agencies in **20 communities** across the country and generate a minimum of **1,200 employment opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities and ASD**.

Employers cannot afford to overlook this untapped workforce. Ready, Willing and Able positions Canada as **the international leader** in development of labour markets that include those who are currently most overlooked and under-represented.