

JobStart Launches the Peer Employment Mentoring Program (PEM) for Persons with Disabilities

JobStart was awarded a one year grant, from September 29, 2014 to September 28, 2015, for the **Peer Employment Mentoring (PEM) program**, funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The Ontario Disability Supports Program (ODSP) clients will be able to receive one- on -one and group mentoring support which will increase their awareness of available services for persons' with disabilities, such as, matching them with peer mentors who have lived experience and have been successful in breaking the barriers and achieving their goals, reduce their fears of job searching and ultimately increase motivation for ODSP clients to reach their short term and long term career goals. Services include information sessions and workshops on various topics such as financial & time management, accommodation and disclosure, industry specific information, job search topics and interview preparation. Networking opportunities will also be available.

JobStart strongly believes the Peer Employment Mentoring Pilot Program will have a significant positive impact on the lives of Persons with Disabilities who are in receipt of ODSP and live in the Toronto region.

Clients who have a verifiable disability – visible or invisible, and are 17 years of age or older are eligible to receive this service. Persons with a disability registered with other service providers in Toronto are also eligible to receive this support from JobStart.

The Peer Employment Mentoring program is offered at **219 Dufferin Street, Suite 1C**.