



# ISLAND DISABILITY COALITION

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

## OUR MISSION:

IDC's mission is to bring together community members dedicated to promoting the full and equal participation of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of life.

## NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 2020 | ISSUE 2

### When one door closes...

December 2019 saw the closing of a beloved business, Chilmark Chocolates. The reaction was unique, as the community raised the question, "what's next", referring to next steps for employees of the Chocolate Shop. Well, as the saying goes, when one door closes, a new opportunity generally presents itself. In this situation, it is up to the community to open their doors, and create opportunities for employment for individuals with disabilities.

The IDC is committed to building the capacity of the Island to provide inclusive opportunities and experiences, this means that we are committed to supporting employers in the process towards inclusive employment. through training, education & networking. We begin 2020 focusing on employment & transition from school to "the real world" for young adults with disabilities.

### How to Get Involved:

To "open the next door" and increase employment opportunities, we need your help. Consider joining the conversation:

#### -New-

- **IDC Employment Workgroup** is meeting on February 6th at MVCS from 12-1. Please join us if you are interested in brainstorming, exploring, & planning next steps on increasing inclusive community employment.
- **Employer Breakfast** will take place on February 19th. We will invite community businesses & organizations to join us for networking, and conversation. Location and time to be determined. More information to follow.

### Leadership for Longevity

Since the Coalition was created in 2017, a group of volunteers have served as the initial members of the IDC Steering Committee. These individuals worked to create the strategic plan, by-laws, and are currently creating a sustainability plan to ensure the longevity of the IDC. We are currently seeking nominations to join the Committee. Please contact Beth Wike to learn more about the Steering Committee, or to make a nomination.

### Inclusion Institute

We are thrilled to sponsor the Inclusion Institute on February 13th from 9-2 at Camp Jabberwocky. This workshop is free and open to all community members. The morning will cover the foundations of inclusion, and part 1 of Make & Take in which participants will gain insight into what constitutes a "respectful accommodation". The afternoon will be hands-on learning and making accommodations with everyday items. Lunch is provided. Registration required. Contact Beth Wike to register: [idcmvy@gmail.com](mailto:idcmvy@gmail.com) or [bwike@mvcommunityservices.org](mailto:bwike@mvcommunityservices.org)

### Save the Dates:

February 6th Employment Workgroup  
@MVCS 12:00-1:00

February 13th Inclusion Institute\*  
@Camp Jabberwocky 9:00-2:00

February 19th Employer Breakfast  
Location & Time TBD

March 12th General IDC Meeting  
@MVCS 12:00-1:30

### Contact:

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