

Worktopia Program

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As part of the Worktopia initiative, the Calgary Board of Education in collaboration with the Sinneave Family Foundation has offered a unique employment preparation program for students with autism to prepare them for future employment.

Since 2015, more than 200 students with autism or other developmental disabilities have participated in school-based, community or intensive summer work experience placements. School-based educators, off-campus learning and job coaches assist students in the development of employment skills in areas related to social-communication, resume building and interviewing, transportation, job etiquette and job safety. In addition to participating in meaningful learning opportunities, where students with autism explore their interests and abilities in a variety of workplace settings, students earn credits from Alberta Education as they complete related high school competencies.

Worktopia is a unique national initiative designed to improve the employment futures of youth and young adults living with autism. It offers three employment preparedness programs focused on improving employment readiness and enhancing the employment skills of individuals with autism between the ages of 15 to 29 as they transition from high school to independent adulthood. There are currently 12 leading autism and pan-disability service organizations located in seven provinces across Canada engaged to deliver the Worktopia programs. The initiative is sponsored by [The Sinneave Family Foundation](#) and [Autism Speaks Canada](#), and is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities Program. For more information, please visit www.worktopia.ca.

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