

# EMPOWER

Employment & Training



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## Editorial

□ Daniel P, Coordinator, CTI

2011 was a great year for the Career Training Initiative (CTI). It was a year where many students came through the doors of The DI seeking change and opportunity, and hoping to come out gain meaningful employment. Many of our students had never been to The DI before. They may have been a little hesitant at first, but most, if not all, came out pleasantly surprised. The students graduated equipped with not only the certifications they needed, but also computer training, fine-tuned resumes, life skills, new friends, and most importantly, a sense of accomplishment.

For the clients of the DI and other low-income individuals, the Career Training Initiative was able to provide hope and a chance for people to improve their lives. Our three-week program has been able to help people back on their feet and get them running again. But the program would be nothing without our students' own initiative and desire to succeed.

The Career Training Initiative is a strong stepping stone for people to move ahead, and we plan to make it even better. One major improvement we have made is to work closer with the DI's Employment Office. In this new capacity, we will be able to provide students with work opportunities and provide industry training to those already utilizing the DI's Employment Office. We hope to have even more qualified individuals to place in the market and provide those in need with work opportunities.

With 2011 ending as a great success, we look forward to 2012 as a year of promise and opportunity. The DI's Employment Office and Career Training Initiative will be evolving into a better service for our students, employers and the community.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff of the DI and the CTI department. Having a highly qualified and motivated team has made this program what it is today. On that note, while 2011 was a great year, we hope 2012 will be the best yet.



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## A Time for Reflection □ Valerie S, Assistant Coordinator, CTI

The holidays are just one of many reminders that deep down we all have core values that cannot be shaken, no matter what the circumstance.

This month we held the 6th Annual Holiday Party for December's graduates and alumni of the Career Training Initiative's 3-Week Program. During the party I sat down and talked to various graduates, specifically asking them two questions.

I asked students what the holiday season means to them, and what their future goals for the New Year might be. Of course I didn't expect the answers from each person to be similar, but there were three common themes that stood out.

It didn't matter who I spoke to, but it seemed as if family was the most important part of the holidays. My conversations with the graduates reaffirmed the belief that family is more than just those who are related by bloodlines; family can include anyone you choose to let into your life with unquestionable love and acceptance. In their voices, I heard gratitude and appreciation for the people in their lives, and in some, I heard the unmistakable waver that confirms they are alone this holiday season. But each answer is followed with a smile because they are at the Drop-In Centre sharing laughs with people they've known or someone they've just met.

When asked what else they look forward to, the response was the "little things." Karen always anticipates her mom's shortbread cookies during the holidays; Randy and Jason want to give back to the community by volunteering; Gerald enjoys the free time that the season brings, and Jessica beamed with excitement just telling me that her favorite part of the holidays was watching her children open their presents.

But it all came back to employment. It only makes sense that a group of graduates from an Employment Training Program would be eager to put their freshly developed skills to use in the New Year! With customized cover letters and resumes, each graduate was eager to showcase their new certifications and apply for the jobs that only 3 weeks ago they had been unqualified for. As they each spoke about their goals, I could hear a level of confidence in their voice that had not been as clear 3 weeks prior.

One graduate, Randy, had already secured employment, and although his expression did not give it away, his eyes were lit up with pride and a strong sense of accomplishment for he cannot wait to be in a job where he can take pride in his work and be valued.

The lesson I took away from this small exercise is that no matter what your socioeconomic status or belief system, the holidays are a time

to reflect on love and family, even if those two things haven't always been steady in your life. I am grateful to have had the chance to share the three weeks with thirteen amazing students, and spend one day catching up with some graduates I had the pleasure of meeting almost 3-years ago as a Co-op student. While my New Years goal may not quite be the same, I am not too far off by wanting to continue working in an environment where I too take pride in my work and know that I am valued.

May the New Year bring the same happiness to everyone!



## Thank you to our Partners!

Your involvement with The DI contributes to approximately 1500 people being empowered by industrial certifications each year.



## Back in Gear

□ Peter A, Manager of Employment Services

On November 29, 2011 there was gentleman who arrived at the door of the Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre in a very distressed state. This person had just spent all of his savings on a plane ticket from Toronto to Calgary in an attempt to get a new start on life. Upon his arrival at the Calgary Airport he learned that the airline had lost his luggage which contained work boots, coveralls and clothing; things that were vital for securing future employment. He left the airport with only a bunny that his daughter had given him before he left Toronto.

After attempting to secure shelter at various places, he kept being turned away because he had the bunny. This man then turned to the DI. He had been here years ago (in his drinking days) and was not keen on returning due to some bad memories. Security staff (Shad) greeted him and attempted to console the man. In doing so he offered to foster the man's bunny for a period of time while he stayed at the DI and got things together. The man graciously accepted the offer (although he didn't want to burden anyone else to have to care for his bunny) and for the past week and a half Shad has been caring for the bunny at his home.

The man was then encouraged to meet with a counsellor to discuss his situation. He managed to connect with counsellor Landon the next morning and displayed a great deal of anxiety and panic surrounding his current situation. After conquering his overwhelming emotions, it was decided that the first step was to acquire some basic work gear so that he could at least get some temporary employment. On the man's behalf, Landon inquired with the Employment Office to see if there was any work gear available for this gentleman. Luckily (as there has been a very limited supply) we were able to set aside some new work boots, new winter coveralls, a jacket, and a toque for the man.

After spending some time resting in our day sleep program, Landon informed the man that we had the work gear he needed. The man was overjoyed. It was the first bit of positive news that he had received since arriving in Calgary. The man insisted on thanking the individuals from the Employment Office personally. After meeting the man and witnessing the gratitude he displayed towards me and the DI, it reaffirms to me (as situations like this always do) why I am here. It made me very proud to be a part of the DI team and the work that we all do.

## Summary of Employment Services

There are four different ways that low-income individuals can utilize our Employment Training Services:

1. **Employment Office:** The Employment Office operates as a staffing agency without the associated fees. To access job opportunities or place a job opportunity through the office, contact Peter A at 403-263-6217.
2. **Free 3-Week Employment Training:** CTI offers 12 courses a year that run from Monday-Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm for 3 weeks at a time. Students complete courses in Life Skills, Computer Skills, Employment Strategies, and Industry Certifications. Interested individuals must complete an application form as well as an in person interview.
3. **Free Evening Online Certifications:** For those unable to dedicate a full 3-weeks to programming but still require either a Standard First Aid ticket or Forklift Operator ticket for employment. Interested individuals must complete an application form to be considered for the course.
4. **Free Certification Only Forklift and First Aid:** CTI computer lab is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays every week from 4:30pm-8:30pm for individuals to complete online certifications. To participate, interested individuals need to show up at 4:30pm and wait by the main floor elevator for pick-up by a staff member, or if they arrive later they must notify security so that a staff member can bring them up to the computer lab.



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# Upcoming Training Calendar of Events

mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri
02 Lab Closed All Day	03 P-83 Begins Open Lab for Online Certification (4:30pm-8:30pm)	04 Open Lab for Online Certification (4:30pm-8:30pm)	05	06
09	10 Open Lab for Online Certification (4:30pm-8:30pm)	11 Open Lab for Online Certification (4:30pm-8:30pm)	12 CTI 3-Week Program P-84 Application Deadline	13 C-84 Certification Only Application Due by Sunday, Jan 15
16	17 Open Lab for Online Certification (4:30pm-8:30pm)	18 CTI 3-Week Program P-84 Interview Deadline Open Lab for Online Certification (4:30pm-8:30pm)	19 C-84 Certification Only Notification Day	20 P-83 Ends (Graduation)
23 Open Lab (9:00 am-4:00pm) CTI 3-Week Program P-84 Notification Day C-84 Cert Only First Aid & CPR (7:45 - 4:30)	24 Open Lab for Online Certification (9:00 am-8:30pm) C-84 Cert Only First Aid & CPR (7:45 - 4:30)	25 Open Lab for Online Certification (9:00 am-8:30pm) C-84 Forklift Part 1 (7:45 AM - 12:30 PM)	26 Open Lab for Online Certification (9:00 am-12:00pm) C-84 Forklift Part 2 (7:45 AM - 12:30 PM)	27 Lab Closed H2S Alive for CTI 3-Week Graduates (7:45 AM - 5:00 PM)
30	31 Open Lab for Online Certification (4:30pm-8:30pm)	01	02	03

- CTI 3-Week Program
- Lab Closures
- Open Lab Time
- Certification Only

mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri
30 P-84 Begins	31 Open Lab for Online Certification (4:30pm-8:30pm)	01 Open Lab for Online Certification (4:30pm-8:30pm)	02	03
06	07 Open Lab for Online Certification (4:30pm-8:30pm)	08 Open Lab for Online Certification (4:30pm-8:30pm)	09 CTI 3-Week Program P-85 Application Deadline	10 C-85 Certification Only Application Due by Sunday, Feb 12
13	14 Open Lab for Online Certification (4:30pm-8:30pm)	15 Open Lab for Online Certification (4:30pm-8:30pm) CTI 3-Week Program P-85 Interview Deadline	16 C-85 Certification Only Notification Day	17 P-84 Ends (Graduation)
20 Family Day Lab Closed	21 Open Lab for Online Certification (9:00 am-8:30pm) C-85 Cert Only First Aid (7:45 - 4:30) CTI 3-Week Program P-85 Notification Day	22 Open Lab for Online Certification (9:00 am-8:30pm) C-85 Forklift Part 1 (7:45 AM - 12:30 PM) C-85 First Aid (7:45AM - 4:30 PM)	23 Open Lab for Online Certification (9:00 am-12:00pm) C-85 Forklift Part 2 (7:45 AM - 12:30 PM)	24 Lab Closed Flagger (7:45 AM - 5:00 PM)
27	28 Open Lab for Online Certification (4:30pm-8:30pm)	29	01	02

- CTI 3-Week Program
- Lab Closures
- Open Lab Time
- Certification Only