

Autism CanTech!

SUMMARY

The Autism CanTech! (ACT!) Research Project aims to know how effective the ACT! program is for helping to respond to the barriers faced by people with disabilities to gain and maintain meaningful employment. Researchers will study the experiences of Autistic youth participants and employers as they move through the program. This knowledge will be used for advancing policy, employment practice, and training programs.

Research Objectives:

To build understanding about the barriers to employment that exist for the disability community, and to make recommendations to fix these barriers by:

- learning about the experiences of the disability community and what supports they need.
- learning about the experiences of the business community and what supports they need.

Research Questions

- What can be learned from ACT! employers, participants and their supports about barriers to employment for Autistic workers, and the wider disability community?
- What can be learned from ACT! employers, participants and their supports about supports needed to gain and maintain meaningful employment?
- What can be learned from the ACT! program to redress employment barriers for the Autistic community?

The plan for this study has been reviewed by a Research Ethics Board at the University of Alberta. If you have any questions regarding the rights of you or your ward as a research participant or how the research being conducted you may contact the Research Ethics Office at 780-492-2615 or reoffice@ualberta.ca.

INFORMATION

Participants will be contacted to be part of the following research activities:

- **Participant Focus Groups:** ACT! Participants will gather once every 2 months to discuss their employment experiences. Participants will be able to network with and provide support to Autistic peers across the country via Microsoft Teams.
- **PhotoVoice:** the research team wants to see photos of barriers and supports to ACT! as well as changes in Quality of Life. Photos will be submitted after the program (training and work placement), 3 months, 6 months and 12 months, after program completion.
- **Interviews:** Participants have the option to be interviewed about their experiences
- **Support People Focus Groups and Interviews:** people who are supporting ACT! Participants in their lives will be encouraged to meet once throughout the ACT! Process. We will discuss program strengths and challenges. Through the focus groups, people will also be able to network and problem solve across the country with other parents and support workers.

QUESTIONS?

Info Session details will be sent to you via email!

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