

Essex supports Sarnia Mayor's Challenge for inclusion



Tim Wilson and Elisabeth Bain of Community Living Essex County presenting the challenge to Essex Mayor, Ron McDermott.

On Tuesday, January 26, Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley challenged all the province's Mayors "to do the right thing and take up the challenge of hiring persons who have a disability."

According to Statistics Canada, 15.9 per cent of the country's population (around 5.3 million Canadians) has a disability. Currently, there are almost 1.8 million working age people in Ontario alone who have a disability.

As a long-time advocate for hiring persons with disabilities, Mayor Bradley has ensured that the municipality of Sarnia leads by example. Sarnia strives to hire persons with disabilities.

Last week, the Sarnia Mayor's challenge was put to Essex Mayor Ron McDermott at the Essex office of Community Living Essex County (CLEC).

McDermott supports hiring people with disabilities and said that he would explore the options of hiring people with disabilities to work for the town.

The Essex Mayor said businesses in Essex are supportive and some hire persons with disabilities. He urges other businesses to do the same. "They do a great job where they work," McDermott said of the employees.

Elizabeth Bain, a person who CLEC supports, said, "I'm very interested in getting a full time job in the Food Industry. I'm ready to work and to contribute to my community."

Tony DeSantis, the Community Relations Manager for CLEC, said, "Mayor Ron McDermott and the Town of Essex has had a long history of being very supportive and opening doors to employment for people with intellectual

disabilities; but there is still lots of work to do in welcoming people

who are ready, willing and able to work."

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