

December 7, 2022

## Supporting Adults with Intellectual Disabilities with Job Skills

Continuing Job Training for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities

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**Request:** Concord is looking for parking options to allow us to to run our coffee truck at full capacity and continue the job training program year round, An example would be the parking lot owned by the city of Brampton at 8850 McLaughlin Road, this would be an ideal and preferred location.

### Executive Summary

Mission: Job training and securing a job can be very challenging for people with intellectual disabilities, Concord has created its own Coffee truck staffed by adults with intellectual disabilities and is seeking parking to continue this initiative.

### Presentation:

- Who we are
- What we would like to accomplish

# Concord in the City Day Program

**C**oncord is a registered charity that supports adults with intellectual disabilities in downtown Brampton. One of our main goals is to end the stigma that results in most individuals not being employed. Therefore we have developed job skills for all our participants. As stated by Stats Canada, over 50% of people with disabilities are unemployed and of those employed, the majority are below the poverty line\*. Further, a 2016 report on youth unemployment in the region of Peel described systemic barriers to employment including discrimination faced by young people with disabilities. Systemic discrimination and exclusion can lead to disparities in access to services, supports and opportunities in health, social and economic outcomes. To help our participants not be part of these statistics, from May 2022 to October 2022 Concord in the City pooled its resources and purchased a mobile truck. We then retrofitted and launched a self sufficient mobile coffee truck with the sole purpose of giving these individuals with developmental disabilities job experience and skill training.

## The Coffee Truck:



This is Concord Coffee at Gordon Graydon School. We were hired for Teacher appreciation day.



\* <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-006-x/2014001/article/14115-eng.htm#a3>

The inside has been retrofitted with machines that are easy to use and adaptable for our baristas in training. The truck has also been licensed by the City of Brampton and passed Peel health standards. We were selling 3 days a week at the downtown Brampton GO station and we work at least twice a month at markets or fairs.

## The Challenge

The coffee truck is still in its infancy and training continues for our baristas. As the cold weather approaches we have been faced with a new challenge, the effect of Canadian winters. More specifically: how to keep our coffee shop running without our pipes freezing, while also locating affordable parking. We are currently paying around \$300 a month to rent a space at Access Storage which does not allow electrical connections. Without an affordable parking solution we may be forced to

stop our successful program over the winter. This may affect baristas training and retention of employment skills



We are reaching out to the City of Brampton in the hopes that they can support this employment training program by assisting with parking and potential access to an outlet to run a heat line on our pipes. We are looking

for nightly access to an outlet, where we would require 100 watts on the coldest days. This would allow the truck to run year round, creating consistency for the baristas without losing the skills and training that they've been working so hard on.

We are asking for this option for the short term. Our goal is to continue to search for alternative heat options and parking by winter 2024, therefore we no longer require support from the City of Brampton.

Some might say, if we do this for them, we will have to do this for every one. I respond with; if you find another registered charity like this that has an employment skills program that works directly with a demographic that is chronically underemployed or unemployed at almost no cost to the tax payer for only a year or two, then yes, you should help every small business initiative like this. We would be very appreciative of the support from the city that I call the Jewel of the GTA. Thank you for your time.



