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## From job seeker to valued team member: Kody's journey at Shawnigan Lake School



Kody's first day at Shawnigan Lake School was filled with both excitement and nerves. As he stepped onto the campus, he was welcomed with warm smiles from staff and students. His new role as a food delivery assistant quickly became more than just a job, it became an opportunity to connect, contribute, and grow in confidence.

Navigating the school grounds with a golf cart driven by his natural support person on the job, Kody delivered meal orders to students, reinforcing his sense of belonging in the community.

Kody's journey began through Clements Centre's Supported Employment Program (SEP) –a pilot project launched in collaboration with Inclusion BC and Community Living BC. Over the past ten months, the SEP team guided Kody

through a personalized discovery process and learned about his interests, including police cars, athletics, animals, theatre, and entertainment. As Kody communicates through sign language, the team used visual career sheets, allowing him to point to roles he found appealing.

To explore his job preferences further, Kody participated in two situational assessments: assisting a gym teacher in setting up obstacle courses, and working at a car wash. His skills were filmed to create a video resume, which was a valuable tool in securing the right job match.

Shawnigan Lake School proved to be the perfect fit. With support from SEP, a customized role was created for Kody in which he ensures efficient and timely meal deliveries to student residences. His structured and reliable presence quickly became an asset to the school community.

On his second shift, Kody was invited to lunch with the students, followed by chapel, where 500 students and 300 faculty gathered. During the event, he was introduced on stage, congratulated on becoming an uncle, and officially welcomed as a new employee on campus. The crowd erupted into applause. When handed the microphone, Kody simply said, "Hi," receiving cheers and fist bumps from the students.

Today, Kody is more than just an employee. He's a part of a team, a role model for inclusion, and a valued member of the school community. With 800 people on campus ready to support him in reaching his employment goals, Kody's journey is a testament to the power of inclusion, meaningful employment, and community support.



For more information about SEP please  
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To contribute to this program,  
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