

April 5, 2007

Mr. Glenn O'Farrell, President and CEO  
Canadian Association of Broadcasters  
Radio/Television/Specialty and Pay  
306 - 350 Sparks  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S2

Dear Mr. O'Farrell: *Glenn*

Dr. Bob Fessenden, Deputy Minister of Alberta Advanced Education and Technology, forwarded your February 26, 2007 letter regarding your organization's initiatives to support the employment of persons with disabilities. I appreciate the opportunity to outline Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry's (AEII) activities in this area.

AEII plays an important role in helping persons with disabilities obtain and maintain employment. The department is the lead on Alberta's 10-year labour force development strategy *Building and Educating Tomorrow's Workforce* (BETW). BETW identifies persons with disabilities as a priority group for integration into the labour force to meet our labour market needs.

The department operates two streams of employment programs for all Albertans, which are also accessible to persons with disabilities. Work Foundations programs provide educational upgrading and fundamental skills for those seeking employment. Training for Work programs provide work-related skills training. We also partner with employers to provide industry-specific skills training. In addition, Disability Related Employment Supports offers employment supports to persons with disabilities who need them in order to secure or maintain employment. AEII cost-shares its spending on these programs with the federal government under the bilateral *Canada/Alberta Labour Market Agreement for Persons with Disabilities*.

In partnership with Alberta Education and Alberta Advanced Education and Technology, AEII maintains the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS) website, which is available at [www.alis.gov.ab.ca](http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca). ALIS is the provincial gateway for career planning, post-secondary education and training, educational funding, job search tools, labour market trends, and workplace issues. ALIS includes links to a variety of job banks including Canada-Alberta Jobs. ALIS also provides links to information for persons with disabilities.

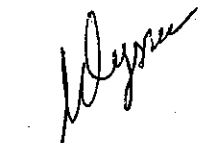
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In addition to ALIS, the department operates a network of Labour Market Information Centres across the province. These centres provide information and assistance to Albertans, including persons with disabilities, to help them make career, learning, and work decisions. Your document *Employment Opportunities in the Canadian Broadcasting and Affiliated Production Sector* is a welcome resource for our staff and clients.

I applaud the efforts of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters in promoting awareness of employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Sincerely,



Ulysses Currie  
Deputy Minister

cc: Rob Lougheed  
MLA, Strathcona, Chair, Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities

Bob Fessenden  
Deputy Minister, Alberta Advanced Education and Technology

Paddy Meade  
Deputy Minister, Alberta Health and Wellness

Keray Henke  
Deputy Minister, Alberta Education

Tim Wiles  
Deputy Minister, Alberta Seniors and Community Supports