




Every Place of Employment Needs a Mr. Reliable

Scott Friesen is a very familiar face at the Recycling Depot in Swift Current having spent the last 14 years working at the facility operated by SaskAbilities. When customers drop off their recycling or yard waste at the depot, they can expect to see the 42-year-old Production Worker greeting them with a big smile, helping them sort their items into the proper bins, and then seeing them off with a cheerful "thank you" and "goodbye." Scott does his job efficiently, and with immense joy!

Involved with SaskAbilities for close to 20 years, Scott has been developing his skills and professional acumen with previous opportunities working in the assembly department, wood products, and the ReUse Store before it closed. With a drive and keen motivation to work, he has become one of the most dependable employees at the Recycling Depot. "Scott is my Mr. Reliable, every day he shows up, never misses a day, and he's never late for work. He's like my third line centre, he's just always there, always doing the job, and doing the job well," explains Brian Lemay, Recycling Services Supervisor, using a trusted hockey analogy to explain the value Scott brings to the team.

"He's such a good-natured guy. Yes, he's a hard worker but he also makes friends easily, which is why he establishes such a quick rapport with his customers and is able to fall easily into the comradery that happens with the rest of the team," expresses Melissa Smart, Program Services Coordinator at SaskAbilities. Scott admits that his favourite aspect of the job is of course the social interactions. While he may come across as quiet and a man of few words, Scott takes great pride in knowing many of the Recycling Depot customers by their first names. He also has a great relationship with his supervisor and colleagues, not to mention that he also works alongside his best friend Kyle. The two are known to have some minor disagreements when it comes to which NHL teams are going to make the playoffs, but they also share a lot of laughs.

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A photograph of Scott Friesen, a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a baseball cap and a high-visibility safety vest over a white shirt. He is smiling and has his arms crossed. The background is slightly blurred, showing some outdoor equipment.

“Scott has always been interested in working, he wants to work and that automatically makes the learning of any job easier. If someone is interested in it and they want to do it, they are going to learn what they need to learn to make that happen. Scott was able to do that. He is such a good fit with the rest of the team and that’s important too. He never hesitates to fill in for people when they are on holidays or if someone gets sick, he doesn’t give it a second thought, he’ll show up.”



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– Brian Lemay, Recycling Services Supervisor

Scott is thriving in his role with the Recycling Depot and is striving to move from a casual to a full-time employee. You can be part of the success story of individuals like Scott who are experiencing disability or barriers to employment in your community. Since 1950, SaskAbilities has been on a mission to provide programs and services to enhance the lives of individuals experiencing disability. Part of that mission includes providing support to secure meaningful and accessible employment opportunities. Everyone has something to contribute, and everyone deserves the opportunity to work!

Having a consistent job and steady income has also provided Scott with the opportunity to exert his independence as he recently moved into his own apartment – just him and his grey cat, Miss Kitty. Taking full advantage of his new space, Scott is putting his kitchen to good use as he's testing his cooking skills by making homemade soups. His top favourite creation thus far? The classic hamburger soup! "It's a real shame he doesn't share with the rest of us," jokes Brian while looking at Scott who can barely contain his laughter!

When Scott is not working, watching his favourite NHL hockey team (the Edmonton Oilers to be exact), or making some delicious soup, you won't find him kicking his feet up at home. In the summer, Scott loves to camp at Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park, often testing his fishing line out hoping to catch some hearty walleye or pike. Scott is also an avid traveller and is planning to add more destinations to his growing list of

places visited. He especially loves escaping the cold weather for a few weeks with his parents down south in places like Florida or Arizona. Most recently Scott has been getting active and applying his spirit of comradery to the Special Olympics floor hockey and softball teams that he joined in Swift Current. The life Scott is creating for himself with the support of his family and SaskAbilities is a vibrant and full life - something everyone deserves regardless of ability.

Meaningful employment opportunities provide more than just a job to individuals like Scott. They provide a sense of purpose and are often a social sanctuary where individuals can engage with colleagues and interact with the community. This is where new skills are built, self-confidence grows, and independence is fostered. When given the right opportunity in the right environment, people experiencing disability or barriers to employment excel and become valuable assets. Let's work together to continue to build inclusive communities that celebrate diversity of all kinds in the workplace.

Sincerely,

Ian Wilkinson
Executive Director