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Dillon Currie using the CareerLabsVR simulation technology

Upon meeting Tristian, it was immediately clear that he is an articulate, polite, and conscientious person. In working with Tristian more, I quickly discovered that he is an honest, matter-of-fact, and highly intelligent young man with a remarkable skillset. Despite moving across the country and being out of school this last while, Tristian's commitment to independent learning and the motivation he has shown in pursuing his career goals is inspiring"

Dillon Currie,
Partners in Employment Swift Current



Empowering Job Discovery Through Virtual Reality

In rural communities across southwest Saskatchewan, SaskAbilities' Partners in Employment services in Swift Current have served as a vital community hub, linking job seekers experiencing disability or barriers to employment with local employers. Recently, the Partners in Employment team in Swift Current has been leveraging virtual reality technology to provide clients with an interactive and immersive experience for career and job exploration. One of those clients, 17-year-old Tristian Gillert, a new Swift Current resident, is a testament to the life-changing impact of this initiative.

A vocational evaluation was conducted to better identify Tristian's strengths, skills, and interests, offering valuable insights into suitable jobs. Utilizing the CareerLabsVR simulation, Tristian was able to 'test drive' two potential jobs, one of which was a room attendant. "I was able to get a clear understanding of what would be expected of me in that role through the simulation. The room attendant was a better fit for me, and that's the one I chose," shares Tristian of his experience utilizing the new technology.

Working directly with Tristian, Dillon Currie, Community Connector at the Swift Current Branch, secured him a temporary work placement at the Super 8 Hotel. "Tristian values process and it shows in his work. He takes great care in his job and the tasks required of him, demonstrating a high attention to detail and strong work ethic. In addition to these important soft skills, he is highly intelligent and a natural learner who would benefit any employer," expresses Dillon.

After a successful placement, Tristian was offered a part-time housekeeping position and happily accepted the job. "We have seen a lot of growth in Tristian in the month he's worked here. At first, he was quiet and nervous, like any new employee, but that's normal. Tristian's strength is really in how good of a job he does at cleaning the rooms. He's getting quicker, remembering everything that needs to be done, and seems more comfortable around the staff. People come and go in this type of job, but we hope Tristian stays," shares Donna McFadden, Housekeeping Supervisor at Super 8 Hotel in Swift Current.

Your membership makes a real difference and transforms the lives of individuals experiencing disability or barriers to employment in Saskatchewan. Your support enables access to essential services like Partners in Employment and provides opportunities for more

The Monthly Giving Program is a simple way to make pre-authorized contributions to help SaskAbilities fulfill its mission of supporting people experiencing disability with programs and services to enhance their lives.

As a monthly donor, you can give as little as \$10 a month and make a positive impact on our ability to plan ahead and invest further in programs and services that serve thousands of individuals experiencing disability in Saskatchewan every year.

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Since 1950, SaskAbilities has shared its vision of building inclusive communities across the province for people of all abilities. You can join the many individuals in Saskatchewan who believe that everyone in our community has a right to access sustainable employment opportunities, person-centred programs and services, mental health support, transit services, and independent living. Become a member and mobilize your support in affirming individuals like Tristian deserve to access supported employment programs like Partners in Employment. You can join the many individuals in Saskatchewan who believe that everyone in our community has a right to access sustainable employment opportunities, person-centred programs and services, mental health support, transit services, independent living and so much more.



CONTINUED FROM OPPOSITE SIDE



innovation in program delivery. Everyone deserves the chance to earn a living, contribute their skills and abilities, and work in a supportive environment.

Watching Tristian on the job, it is clear he takes great pride in his work. With limited time to clean each room, Tristian is still perfecting his system to speed up the process while not skimping on quality and cleanliness. "I try to be as efficient as I can with my time, making sure I have everything I need on my cart, having my cleaning supplies...I still need some improvement, but it's getting easier," admits Tristian, as he fluffs the pillows before standing proudly beside the perfectly made beds, his final room of the day. Before exiting, Tristian does another walk-through, closes the blinds, cleans some barely seen fingerprints off the television screen, and sprays some air freshener for good measure. He's done for the day.

Join or renew your membership and help us continue creating job opportunities for individuals like Tristian. Your Membership includes voting privileges at our Annual General Meeting, our newsletters, and the comfort of knowing you are improving the lives of individuals and families impacted by disability or barriers to employment.

Sincerely,

Ian Wilkinson
Executive Director

You will make a meaningful difference today with a gift of \$25, \$50, \$75, or a leadership gift of \$150. In recognition of your generosity, Member Leaders, those who give \$150 or more, will be highlighted in our Annual Report, a provincial publication illustrating our progress and achievements. You can also choose to support SaskAbilities through automated monthly donations, which is easy and convenient when you join our Monthly Giving Club. You can become a leader in your community for as little as \$12.50 per month, about the same as a weekly coffee! Please donate. Your financial support brings positive change for individuals experiencing disability or barriers to employment in our community, including Tristian!