



## Annual Report

April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019

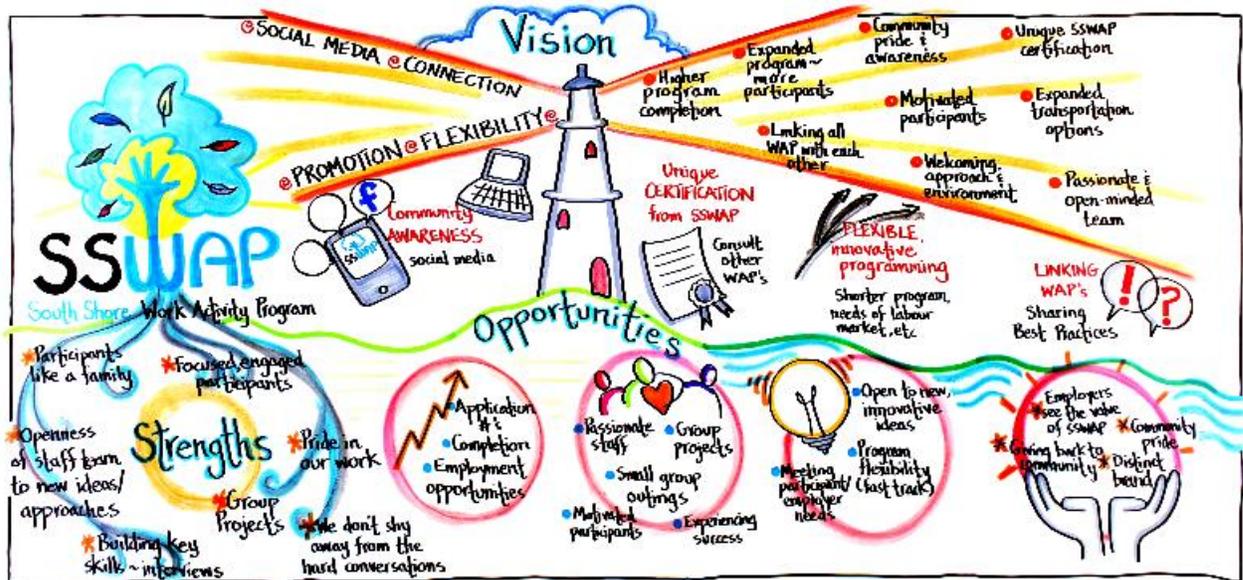


*Turning Abilities Into Opportunities*

# South Shore Work Activity Program

Each year each year brings new opportunity and new participants to South Shore Work Activity Program, or SSWAP as it is commonly known. We work with participants in-house and through work placements to assist them in building and practicing skills so they are ready to explore work options, gain and maintain employment. We continue to adapt our programming to best meet the needs of participants and potential employers in our community through our strategic plan (below).

We also started working on program renewal provincially that will change some of the program structure at South Shore Work Activity Program while still delivering core components.



## Highlights from this last year include:

- Working with 25 employer partners who hosted participants for work placements all over the South Shore
- Supporting 50 program participants
- Re-launching our Facebook Page
- A well-attended Recognition Day in November to celebrate participant accomplishments
- Building a shed with participants in our wood working shop for a fundraising effort



## Abilities to Possibilities

***Sometimes we may feel like we are stuck. And sometimes that is because we have been using skills and behaviours that no longer serve us and may impede our success in finding and maintaining employment. At SSWAP we endeavor to assist people in discovering and enhancing abilities and developing new skills for success. We also assist participants to work through any challenges that may be holding them back from getting employed and staying employed and being more contributing members of their communities.***

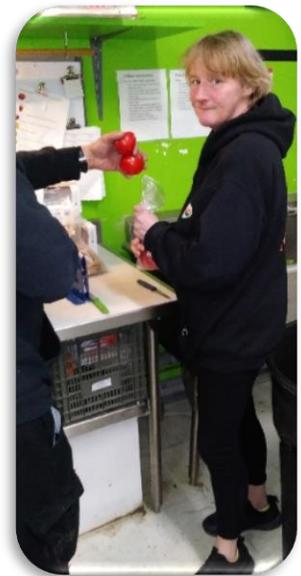
At SSWAP, people get to enhance and practice employability skills like motivation, accountability, presentation, team work, adaptability, stress management, problem solving as well as personal success skills, computer skills and workplace essential skills. They discover abilities and gain confidence that open doors to exploring work options and gaining employment. Participants are provided with a well-rounded program that exposes them to a variety of work areas in customer service, food services, woodworking and environmental /janitorial services where they can practice their work skills to be more successful in the labour market.

**Over the last year we celebrated many participant successes. Here are a few:**

**Charles completed the program in October 2018. When he came to SSWAP he had little work experience and no plan as to how to gain more. He wanted to work.** At SSWAP Charles built on the skills he had and refined ways to manage and make better choices to put a plan to action. He demonstrated great work ethic at SSWAP and applied these at his work placements. **We are happy to report that Charles was hired on by his work placement host upon completing the program.**

**Tammy had tried our program before. This time she came with unwavering determination to complete it.** It was her dream. She even wrote a poem about it. Throughout the program, Tammy gained more confidence in her abilities and skills. She recognized the value of applying these abilities through her work placements. **With exemplary resolve, Tammy worked through the program, completing it in March 2019. To top it off, Tammy was hired by her work placement host employer in her home community.**

**When Josh started at SSWAP he did not have any work experience and was not sure what he wanted to do for work. He had an excellent work ethic, which he demonstrated in each of the work exposure areas.** He explored work possibilities that matched his interests and built confidence in his skills as an employee through work placements. **Josh was pleased to be hired on by one of his work placement hosts and has been working steadily since leaving the program. Josh says: "My goal when I first started was to get a job. By the end of the program I completed that goal. Thanks to all of the staff at SSWAP for helping me."**



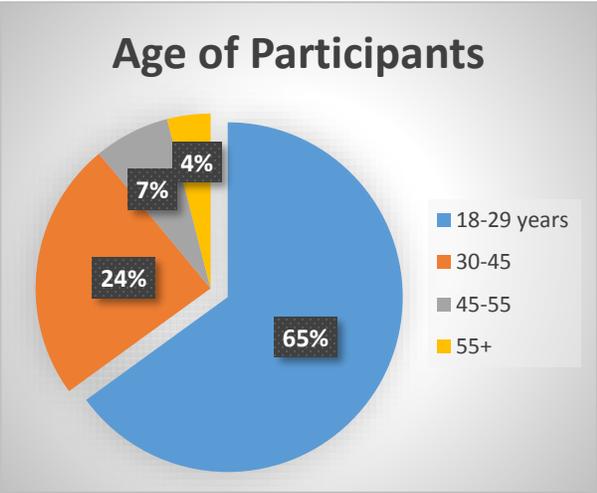
**South Shore Work Activity Program**  
**Statistical Report and Outcome Summary**  
*April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019*

**General Information**

Total participants served	50
Total applications screened	46
Total participants enrolled	54
Total females	18
Total males	36

**Home Communities**

Queens County	11%
Municipality of the District of Lunenburg	24%
Town of Bridgewater	48%
Town of Lunenburg	2%
Town of Mahone Bay	2%
Municipality of the District of Chester	13%



### **More On Our Participants**

Many agencies refer people to The South Shore Work Activity Program and people can also self-refer. Actually 35% of people self-referred to our Program during this time period.

A number of people in our program are financially supported by their families while other program participants are in receipt of public assistance.

Numerous people in our program experience challenges in entering the workforce including: learning disabilities; medical health issues; mental health issues; lack of work experience and social barriers.

### **Status of Graduate and Other Program Participants**

Employment - Full time	13%
Employment - Part-time	56%
Job Search	31%

## **Work Placements**

April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019

1. Ian's Automotive, Bridgewater
2. Bonny Lea Farm, Maintenance – Chester
3. Chester Home Hardware – Chester
4. Shopper's Drug Mart - Bridgewater
5. The Dawson Daisy, Bridgewater
6. Dollarama – Bridgewater
7. Sweet Spot Farm, Chester
8. Chester Variety Store
9. Lunenburg Hardware
10. Bonny Lea Farm – Residences Office
11. Bridgewater Day Care
12. Wendy's – Bridgewater
13. Petite Riviere Winery
14. Foodland - Lunenburg
15. Pharmasave - Chester Basin
16. Chester Service Centre
17. Foodland - Chester
18. Sobeys – Bridgewater
19. Fresh Cuts – Bridgewater
20. A1 Pizza – Liverpool
21. White Point Beach Resort
22. Dani's Laundromat – Chester
23. Hillside Pines Nursing Home - Bridgewater
24. Curry Express – Bridgewater
25. Elaine Collicutt & Sons - Chester

*“At South Shore Work Activity Program, we continue to believe that the majority of people who come through our doors have a desire to learn, contribute and / or improve their lives. We at SSWAP get to assist with these wants by offering a supportive program that allows participants to discover and enhance practical abilities that can be put to work with employers and in their communities. Any challenges that may inhibit applying these abilities are also addressed through the program. SSWAP's dedicated team assists in making it all happen – facilitating participants so they may recognize their abilities and transform these into opportunities to act on to achieve their work and life goals.”*

- Sharon LeBlanc, Work Centre Manager