

Chamber of commerce teams up with Neil Squire Society

THE DAILY GLEANER STAFF
December 29, 2013



Photo: James West/The Daily Gleaner

The Fredericton Chamber of Commerce is partnering with the Neil Squire Society, a group that uses technology to empower people with disabilities.

“The Fredericton chamber is thrilled to enter into this partnership with the Neil Squire Society,” said Krista Ross, CEO of the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce, in a release.

“The society has a long history of doing great work in communities across the country, and their employment programs are a natural fit for us here at the chamber. As an interested stakeholder, we are always looking for opportunities that benefit our members but also the community as well,” Ross said.

Specifically, the chamber will promote the various programs offered by the society, which are mutually beneficial to businesses and the society’s clients.

“I’m delighted that the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce has agreed to become one of our partners in helping us to connect to the business community of Fredericton,” said Gary Birch, executive director of the Neil Squire Society, said in the same news release.

“Their partnership will be instrumental in helping us build stronger relationships with employers across the region.”

The society operates the Working Together Program, which connects job seekers with disabilities to employers by providing a wage subsidy for a minimum of six months. The goal is to help organizations create a more diverse and inclusive working environment.

Participant employers are required to provide an individual with a disability a part-time or full-time employment opportunity with the likelihood of long-term employment and to maintain contact with the Neil Squire Society staff and provide feedback to assist in the individual’s professional development, the news release said.

The advantages for employers are:

eliminate the hiring and training cost of a new employee,

experience a reduced turnover rate when hiring someone with a disability,

learn the value of hiring an individual with a disability,

encourage a more diverse and inclusive working environment, and

learn a positive business case.

The Moncton Chamber of Commerce and Saint John Board of Trade have also entered into similar partnerships with the Neil Squire Society.