



# idea conference

AUTHENTICITY  
IN ACTION

PRESENTED BY



OCTOBER 2026 (EXACT DATES TBD)  
EDMONTON, AB

Canada

Alberta



deam  
DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT  
AWARENESS MONTH

## Background

Alberta Employment First Network (AEFN) is pleased to present the 5th annual DEAM Idea Conference.

October is Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM), celebrating the skills and talents of people with disabilities. The 5th annual DEAM IDEA Conference connects employers, advocates, and industry leaders, equipping them with actionable tools to drive workplace inclusion and innovation.

2026 marks the 5th annual DEAM IDEA Conference and nine years of celebrating and raising awareness for Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM) in Alberta. Over the past four years, the conference has reached significant milestones and brought together people from across the province. These milestones include a steady rise in employer participation, broader industry representation, a 100% increase in overall attendance, multi-year sponsorship commitments, speakers from the disability community, and a growing provincial reach that now includes many chambers of commerce—among them the Alberta Chambers of Commerce.

**Join us in building a stronger, more diverse workforce in Alberta.**



## About Alberta Employment First Network

- ✔ Creates connections between job seekers with disabilities, employment service providers, and employers.
- ✔ Fills workforce gaps by addressing barriers and promoting inclusive hiring practices.
- ✔ Provides resources, events, and webinars to support sustainable employment.
- ✔ Advocates for workplace diversity and long-term career growth for people with disabilities.



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## Who is DEAM Alberta?

DEAM Alberta is a collective of disability service providers, employers, community stakeholders, community members, self advocates, and people with disabilities across the province.

During DEAM, multiple organizations around the province host capacity building events to recognize our diverse Albertan workforce. These organizations are dedicated to promotion, recruitment, and inclusion of employees with disabilities that contribute to the workforce and to Alberta's economy.

“67% of job seekers consider **diversity** and **inclusion** when evaluating a **job opportunity**, so being an **accessible employer** can help your business attract **top talent.**”

- From Glassdoor



## What is the DEAM IDEA Conference?

- ✓ Hosted by AEFN, this conference highlights the voices of Albertans with disabilities.
- ✓ Teaches employers practical ways to create inclusive workplaces, from hiring to company policies.
- ✓ Covers key topics like accessibility, hiring biases, and disability intersectionality.
- ✓ Brings together employers, service providers, community members, self-advocates, and government representatives.
- ✓ Offers resources to help businesses embrace disability inclusion and workforce diversity.

In recent years, conference programming has focused on strengthening Alberta's workforce as well as intersectional approaches within the pan-disability community. This conference has a broad reach, attracting participants from as far south as Medicine Hat and as far north as Grande Prairie, as well as representation from BC.

We've also seen representatives from the following industries: Pipeline, oil and gas, healthcare, Hotel and Lodging, Entertainment, Employment Supports, Post Secondary Institutions, Indigenous organizations, Food , Environmental, Inclusion Consultation, Government.



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## Why Sponsor?

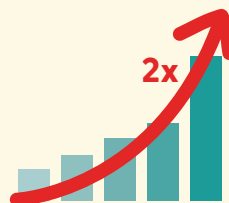
- ✓ **Support Meaningful Change** – Help break down employment barriers for individuals with disabilities.
- ✓ **Foster Inclusivity** – Contribute to sustainable and inclusive workplace practices.
- ✓ **Make a Lasting Impact** – Support educational and professional development opportunities that drive real change.
- ✓ **Drive Innovation & Growth** – A diverse workforce enhances creativity, problem-solving, and economic impact. This is an opportunity to support professional development opportunities to drive change.
- ✓ **Connect with Changemakers** – Network with leaders committed to inclusive workplaces.
- ✓ **Flexible Sponsorship Options** – Explore a variety of sponsorship opportunities tailored to your organization’s goals.

There are a wide range of sponsorship options available, and we’re happy to work with you to find the best fit for your organization.

**+271%  
attendance  
growth**  
(2022- 2025)



The Conference has **transformed** from a stand-alone conference to a combined **Networking + Conference**



Strong **momentum** & increased **visibility:** Attendance in 2025 **doubled** compared to the 2024 conference

“The 2023 DEAM IDEA Conference featured inspiring stories from advocates and people with lived experience with disabilities, speeches from representatives of senior levels of government, and was attended by employers, allowing us to raise our awareness and profile with these key stakeholders.”

- EmployAbilities



# Premier Sponsorship Opportunities

Please note that there are customizable sponsorship opportunities available that will align with your community pillars.

	<b>PRESENTING SPONSOR \$20,000 (1 Available)</b>	<b>INCLUSION CHAMPION - GOLD SPONSOR \$15,000 (1 Available)</b>	<b>ACCESSIBILITY ALLY - SILVER SPONSOR \$10,000 (1 Available)</b>	<b>A/V SUPPORT SPONSOR \$10,000 (1 Available)</b>	<b>SUPPORTER OF EQUITY - BRONZE SPONSOR \$5,000 (1 Available)</b>	<b>CONFERENCE LUNCH SPONSOR \$8,500 (1 Available)</b>	<b>NETWORKING RECEPTION SPONSOR \$8,000 (1 Available)</b>
<b>Presenting sponsor rights (Conference Name presented by Sponsor)</b>	●						
<b>Opportunity to showcase a promotional video (maximum 2-mins in length)</b>	●	●					
<b>On stage speaking remarks (maximum 2-mins in length)</b>	●	●	●	●		●	
<b>10x10 booth featuring your company</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Access to &amp; rights to use DEAM's professional digital photos of the conference</b>	●	●	●	●			
<b>Conference passes with premiere seating</b>	10	8	6	6	2	4	2
<b>Onstage verbal recognition</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Featured company profile and link on the AEFN Website</b>	●	●	●	●		●	●
<b>Logo recognition on all print and digital marketing materials leading up to, during and after post-conference</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Social media recognition with your company's handles</b>	10	10	8	8	3	6	6
<b>Newsletter recognition to over 300 unique subscribers</b>	●	●	●	●		●	
<b>Branded opening and closing in-program slides</b>	●						
<b>Activation booth in high-traffic area</b>	●						

# Signature Sponsorship Opportunities

Please note that there are customizable sponsorship opportunities available that will align with your community pillars.

	<b>OPENING KEYNOTE SPONSOR \$6,500 (1 Available)</b>	<b>CLOSING KEYNOTE SPONSOR \$6,500 (1 Available)</b>	<b>VIDEO SPONSOR \$6,500 (1 Available)</b>	<b>BREAKFAST RECEPTION SPONSOR \$5,500 (1 Available)</b>	<b>BREAKOUT ROOM SPONSOR \$3,000 (3 Available)</b>	<b>EMCEE SPONSOR \$3,000 (1 Available)</b>	<b>PRESENTER SESSIONS \$3,000 (Up to 3 Available)</b>
<b>10x10 booth featuring your company</b>	●	●	●	●			
<b>Conference passes with premiere seating</b>	4	4	4	2			
<b>Onstage verbal recognition</b>	●	●	●	●		●	●
<b>Featured company profile and link on the AEFN Website</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Logo recognition on all print and digital marketing materials leading up to, during and after post-conference</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Social media recognition with your company's handles</b>	4	4	4	3		1	1
<b>Newsletter recognition to over 300 unique subscribers</b>	●	●	●			●	●
<b>Opportunity to introduce Keynote Speaker (maximum 2-mins in length)</b>	●	●					
<b>Opportunity to distribute promotional products and collateral during conference</b>	●	●					
<b>Breakout Room Naming Rights</b>					●		
<b>Opportunity to introduce Emcee (maximum 2-mins in length)</b>						●	
<b>Opportunity to introduce Presenter (maximum 2-mins in length)</b>							●

# Supporting Role Sponsorship Opportunities

Please note that there are customizable sponsorship opportunities available that will align with your community pillars.

	<b>FRIEND OF DEAM SPONSOR</b> \$1,500 (2 Available)	<b>BREAK SPONSOR</b> \$1,000 (2 Available)	<b>BARRIER-FREE SPONSOR</b> \$3,000*	<b>ACCESSIBILITY ASL SPONSOR</b> \$3,000	<b>ACCESSIBILITY CART CAPTIONING SPONSOR</b> \$2,500	<b>SENSORY ROOM SPONSOR</b> \$2,000
<b>Onstage verbal recognition</b>		●	●	●	●	●
<b>Featured company profile and link on the AEFN Website</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Logo recognition on all print and digital marketing materials leading up to, during and after post-conference</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Social media recognition with your company's handles</b>		1	1	1	1	1
<b>Newsletter recognition to over 300 unique subscribers</b>		●	●	●	●	●
<b>Opportunity to introduce Presenter (maximum 2-mins in length)</b>						
<b>Breakout Room Naming Rights</b>						

\* Ramp, podium, signage, cups, straws, lids



## Interested in a Multi-Year Sponsorship?

We offer exclusive reduced pricing for sponsors who commit to longer partnerships. Take advantage of the following savings:

- **2-Year Commitment:** Save 10% off the total cost
- **3-Year Commitment:** Save 15% off the total cost

These multi-year opportunities not only offer significant savings but also provide increased visibility and value for your brand over time.

# Sponsorship Commitment

**YES!** \_\_\_\_\_

NAME

**WOULD LIKE TO SECURE SPONSORSHIP FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

- PRESENTING SPONSOR - \$20,000 (1 AVAILABLE)
- INCLUSION CHAMPION - GOLD SPONSOR - \$15,000 (1 AVAILABLE)
- ACCESSIBILITY ALLY - SILVER SPONSOR - \$10,000 (1 AVAILABLE)
- A/V SUPPORT SPONSOR - \$10,000 (1 AVAILABLE)
- SUPPORTER OF EQUITY - BRONZE SPONSOR - \$5,000 (1 AVAILABLE)
- CONFERENCE LUNCH SPONSOR - \$8,500 (1 AVAILABLE)
- NETWORKING RECEPTION SPONSOR - \$8,000 (1 AVAILABLE)
- OPENING KEYNOTE SPONSOR - \$6,500 (1 AVAILABLE)
- CLOSING KEYNOTE SPONSOR - \$6,500 (1 AVAILABLE)
- VIDEO SPONSOR - \$6,500 (1 AVAILABLE)
- BREAKFAST RECEPTION SPONSOR - \$5,500 (1 AVAILABLE)
- BREAKOUT ROOM SPONSOR - \$3,000 (3 AVAILABLE)
- EMCEE SPONSOR - \$3,000 (1 AVAILABLE)
- PRESENTER SESSIONS SPONSOR - \$3,000 (3 AVAILABLE)
- FRIEND OF DEAM SPONSOR - \$1,500 (2 AVAILABLE)
- BREAK SPONSOR - \$1,000 (2 AVAILABLE)
- BARRIER-FREE SPONSOR - \$3,000 (RAMP, PODIUM, SIGNAGE, CUPS, STRAWS, LIDS)
- ACCESSIBILITY - ASL SPONSOR- \$3,000
- ACCESSIBILITY - CART CAPTIONING SPONSOR- \$2,500
- SENSORY ROOM SPONSOR - \$2,000

CONTACT NAME AND TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ PROVINCE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**BY SIGNING BELOW, I AGREE TO SPONSOR THE 2026 IDEA CONFERENCE:**

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT PREFERENCES:**

INVOICE ME OR THE CONTACT NOTED

E-TRANSFER OR EFT:  
accounts2@aefn.ca

CHEQUE:  
Gateway Association  
10941 120 St NW #201  
Edmonton, AB T5H 3R3

CREDIT CARD\*:

CARD NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRY DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

CARDHOLDER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE:  
\_\_\_\_\_

*\*Please note that your company will pay for the credit card fees associated with payment*

**THANK YOU!**

*Thank you for your investment. For additional information, please contact Stephanie at 780-991-6723 or stephanie@planitsound.com.*