

ACCES Employment receives \$CDN 1 million grant from The TD Ready Challenge

The TD Ready Challenge awarded to ACCES Employment to help propel innovative solutions to prepare workers for an inclusive future

Toronto, Ontario, Wed. October 24, 2018 – ACCES Employment has been named one of the ten winners of the inaugural 2018 TD Ready Challenge presented by TD Bank Group.

ACCES Employment delivers employment programs to help individuals to overcome barriers to find employment. Their vision for the future is a fully inclusive labour force that reflects the skills, diversity, and experience of Canada's population. ACCES's Women in Technology (WiT) initiative will work to provide immigrant women with training and employer connections to secure IT related jobs in high-growth fields such as programming and cybersecurity. WiT will extend the reach of existing ACCES programs for women including START and Empowering Women. Training will be provided by ACCES in collaboration with an academic institution and participants will connect directly with hiring employers through a range of mentoring initiatives, guest speaker events and experiential learning projects. Participants will develop essential technical and soft skills to help them achieve success. Once they graduate, they will be given a chance to mentor and coach other learners.

The TD Ready Challenge is a signature initiative, ladder up to The Ready Commitment, TD's new corporate citizenship platform, aimed at opening doors to a more inclusive and sustainable tomorrow. Acting as a springboard for social innovation, TD established the TD Ready Challenge to identify and support scalable solutions to a specific issue identified within the drivers of [The Ready Commitment](#). In its inaugural year, the TD Ready Challenge encouraged organizations across North America to create scalable solutions to help increase income stability and give people the skills they need for the economy of the future. In total, TD awarded \$10 million (CDN) for the 2018 Challenge.

"ACCES Employment has brought forward a creative and scalable solution to help address the uncertainty associated with technological acceleration and the future of work." said Andrea Barrack, Vice President, Global Corporate Citizenship, TD Bank Group. "Being a winner of the TD Ready Challenge is a testament to the skill, ingenuity, and vision of its creators, as well as their dedication to opening doors to a more inclusive and financially secure tomorrow."

"ACCES Employment is honoured to be an inaugural recipient of this grant. Our Women in Technology (WiT) initiative will bring a much-needed technology training option to immigrant women and will make a significant difference in their lives and those of their families. Building on our existing program innovation and success, we look forward to offering women the chance for a more successful career in a high-demand field of work," says Allison Pond, President & CEO, ACCES Employment.

A full list of The Ready Challenge winners as well as more information about the challenge can be found at www.td.com/thereadychallenge.



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About ACCES Employment

ACCES Employment is a leader in connecting employers with qualified employees from diverse backgrounds. More than 34,000 job seekers are served annually locations across the Greater Toronto Area and virtually and pre-arrival through our online services. As a not-for-profit corporation, ACCES receives funding from all levels of government, corporate sponsors, various supporters and the United Way Toronto and York Region. For more information about services and programs at ACCES, please visit www.accesemployment.ca

About The Ready Commitment

TD has a long-standing commitment to enriching the lives of its customers, colleagues and communities. In March 2018, TD launched The Ready Commitment, a new multi-year program to help individuals and communities prosper. As part of The Ready Commitment, TD targets CDN \$1 billion (US \$775 million) in total by 2030 towards community giving in four areas critical to opening doors for an inclusive tomorrow – Financial Security, a more Vibrant Planet, Connected Communities and Better Health. Through The Ready Commitment, TD's aspiration is to link business, products, services, and community giving to help people feel more confident - not just about their finances, but about their future and their ability to achieve their personal goals in a changing world. For further information, visit www.td.com/thereadycommitment