



# Step Up and Succeed In the Skilled Trades

## Skilled Trades: We've Got Your Back

**Welcome to the November edition of our Step Up and Succeed In the Skilled Trades newsletter!**

In this edition, we

- feature A1 Plumbing, an employer in the trades
- recount the great time we had at the Rethinking Disability Conference
- share the ConnectHER survey and info about the ConnectHER Skilled Trades Community
- give details for Literacy Link Niagara's Getting Connected event
- highlight the "Workplace Accommodations Quick Reference" resource

We are excited to share these stories with you and hope you enjoy reading them.

**If you know of a skilled trades business, apprentice, or LBS success story that you think deserves to be featured in an upcoming issue, contact us at [literacylink@llsc.on.ca](mailto:literacylink@llsc.on.ca).**

## Featured Employer: Jeff McKerracher, A1 Plumbing



### Building a Modern Trades Culture: The Story of A1 Plumbing

Jeff McKerracher is an Owner and Partner at A1 Plumbing. While his father was a plumber and ran a small business, Jeff began his career differently. He worked as a Child and Youth Worker for six years in supportive housing in Kingston, Ontario. Although Jeff liked mentoring young people, he realized that he wanted to become an entrepreneur. He returned to Trenton to work with his brother and business partner Nathan, and together they took over A1 Plumbing from their father in 2019.

**[Read on to learn more.](#)**

# Step Up and Succeed in the Skilled Trades



## What We've Been Up To

### ODEN's Rethinking Disability Conference

On November 3rd, 2025, we represented our Step Up and Succeed (SUAS) initiative, hosting an exhibitor booth that sparked meaningful conversations with employers, service providers, and community programs committed to building inclusive workplaces.

[READ MORE](#)



## Spotlight: ConnectHER

### Break Barriers. Build Futures. Industry Perspective Survey

ConnectHER's Break Barriers. Build Futures. Industry Perspective Survey is part of the national ConnectHER project, an initiative focused on improving recruitment, retention, and advancement opportunities for women in the skilled trades.

[READ MORE](#)



## Upcoming Events

### Lunch and Learn at Literacy Link Niagara's Getting Connected Event

We're especially excited that Literacy Link South Central will be the keynote speaker, and we'll be featuring both our Step Up and Succeed and ARISE Initiatives.

This year's 'Getting Connected' event will focus on Apprenticeship.

[READ MORE](#)

## Recommended Resource: Workplace Accommodations – Quick Reference

Workplace accommodations are simple changes to job tasks, tools, or schedules that help workers do their best. This resource is a free one-stop shop with examples, conversation tips, and links to local supports to help trades employers attract, support, and retain staff.

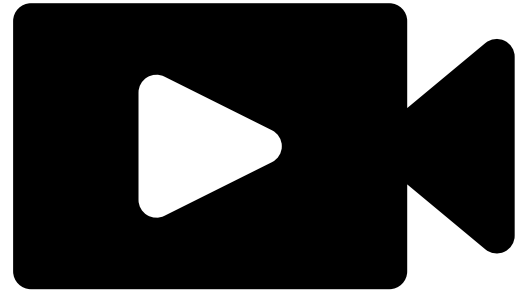
[More info and full resource here.](#)

Section	What you'll find
Overview	What accommodations are, why they matter in the trades
Ideas & Examples	Practical, low-cost accommodation ideas for real job tasks
Conversation Guides	How to talk with workers about needs and options
Checklists & Tips	Quick questions to spot when an accommodation might help
Need-to-Know Basics	Plain-language info on rights, responsibilities, and good practice
Local Supports	How to connect with free Learning Networks of Ontario services

# Step Up and Succeed in the Skilled Trades

## Video Spotlight

Join us for our video series designed to help your employees Step Up and Succeed in the skilled trades! This month we feature our Employer training video: "Attracting Talent."



[Click here to view the video](#)

## More Resources to Help You Get Ahead

Access the Step Up and Succeed Resource Hub to get tools designed to help you stay productive, train and retain your workforce, and become an employer of choice.

[Browse now](#)

### Step Up and Succeed in the Skilled Trades



Small and medium-sized employers: access **free resources** to help your staff and business step up and succeed in the skilled trades.

#### EMPLOYER HUB RESOURCES INCLUDE:

How to be an Employer of Choice for All	Skill Development for Your Apprentice
How to Find Talented Capable Apprentices	Communication Strategies
Become an Apprentice Sponsor	Building Your Support Network
Make your Writing Clear	

**We hope you enjoyed this issue of the Step Up and Succeed in the Skilled Trades Newsletter!**  
**We look forward to seeing you again with the next issue coming out in January 2026!**

---

Do you know somebody who you think would benefit from receiving our newsletter?  
Have them [visit llsc.on.ca/employer-resource-hub](https://llsc.on.ca/employer-resource-hub) to sign up today!

**Tell us your story! We would love to hear from you. What resource did you use/find most helpful?**  
**Email us at [literacylink@llsc.on.ca](mailto:literacylink@llsc.on.ca)**  
**Your quote may be featured in a future issue!**

