

# VISIONS' VOICE

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## Ben Pardy's Retirement



Ben Pardy is the proud team member of the Colemans, Mount Pearl location where he works as a Front End Bagger and Cart Collector. Always greeting me with a pleasant smile, he often points to his safety vest while in the parking

lot saying safety first. Not only is Ben an employee of Colemans but he has also become part of the community in which he serves. When Ben is not working regular customers often question as to where he is because his absence does not go unnoticed. Over the past couple of years Ben had frequently stated that he would be retiring soon and this was always followed up with the question, "Are you going to miss me?" My response was then and remains now "I sure will miss you!" In February of 2019 Ben Pardy celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday and on May 24, 2019, he retired after 20 years with his employer. The Management and Staff of Colemans celebrated this by showing a touching video within the store's entrance of Ben's employment history and presented him with presents of his favorite hockey and baseball teams. Everyone then enjoyed a piece of their fabulous cake. Bonnie Whelan, HR Officer, Safety & Wellness from the Corner Brook Head Office and Corey Conrad, Manager of the Mount Pearl Store also gave congratulatory speeches to Ben wishing him well in his retirement. A number of customers within the store at the time also gathered for the event. As Corey Conrad stated afterwards "Ben's smile says it all." As it is with many things over the last 20 years Colemans Mount Pearl has seen many changes but one thing always remained the same the friendly gentleman

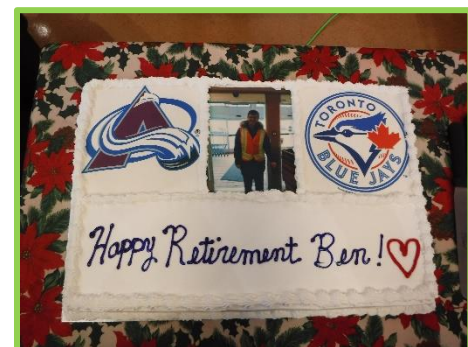


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at the end of the checkout who helped you bag your groceries. Enjoy your Retirement Ben. Thank you for allowing us to be part of your employment journey. May you always have your fabulous smile and infectious laugh. You will be missed by MANY!

*(Colemans Retirement video for Ben Pardy can be viewed on the Visions Employment Plus Inc. Facebook Page)*



### A Parent's Perspective: Employment Is More Than Just Financial Gain By Helen O'Rourke

Trudy O'Rourke is currently employed with Colemans Mount Pearl location and has been for the past 20 years. She loves going to work and has met many great staff. Trudy is supported by her Job Coach Pamela Brown and through the Supported Employment Program with Visions Employment Inc.

Many thanks to the Manager and staff at Colemans for giving Trudy the opportunity to prove her abilities and to expand on her skills.

Trudy's work is more than a paycheck. It has proven that she feels valued and included in the workplace. She is very proud of her success and the recognition she receives from the customers for the exemplary service she gives to them.

Working has created many positive outcomes, not only financially. Trudy has gained her independence and lives with support in her own apartment. She has gained many social skills and self-esteem.

Trudy has become involved as a volunteer with the Newfoundland Association for Community Living where she attends Board Meetings. She is a member of the NLACL which provides her with the opportunity to share, meet and network with other family members to create communities, events and moments where everyone belongs.

Trudy is involved with *The Changing Lives, Changing Communities Initiative*. At one of the Gala lunches she has shared her deeply personal story of how life has been changed as a result of the work done by NLACL.

Trudy is an amazing lady who is very kind and has a big heart. We are truly blessed to have so many great supporters.

Many thanks to Visions Employment Inc. for the commendable work, dedication, and commitment for providing the opportunity and encouragement for Trudy to be able to excel in life.



Photographed (left to right): Trudy O'Rourke, Pamela Brown (Job Coach), Colemans, Mount Pearl

### 20 Year Employment Anniversary Recognition

On Saturday, May 11, 2019, Corey Conrad, Manager of the Colemans Mount Pearl location presented Trudy O'Rourke with her 20 year service pin. Trudy is currently working as a Grocery Clerk stocking product within the store with the assistance of her Job Coach Pamela Brown. Congratulations Trudy on such a wonderful employment accomplishment! Your dedication to your job and your employer is outstanding! We wish you much more continued success.



Trudy O'Rourke



### Client Accomplishment

Visions Employment Plus Inc. is very proud of Andrew Hynes for being featured in an article by Special Olympics recognizing his important qualities and contribution to their program. The title of the article is "Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador's Andrew Hynes is the athlete every team needs". We believe this to be true for Andrew when it comes to sports however, we also believe that statement to be true when it comes to employment. Andrew has been employed with Walmart since 2014 and many of the appreciated qualities Special Olympics spoke about in their article are very much appreciated in Andrew's workplace as well. It has been expressed to Visions Employment many times how appreciated Andrew is by Walmart and what an amazing employee he is. He shows up for his shifts on time, rarely misses a scheduled shift, greets customers with a welcoming smile, and is always eager to help customers and other staff.

As Andrew's Special Olympics Coach Maher stated Andrew is "completely 100 per cent invested" and "he's always looking to improve himself". We see this in his employment as well. Andrew gives Walmart 100 per cent and he really does strive to be the best employee he can be and to provide the best customer service to the people shopping there.

In the Special Olympics article, Andrew stated "I have to train myself to get better. I think about what I had done wrong and what I have to do to make myself better and fix it and do it again". Being able to learn and appreciate advice is an amazing quality to have. It is important to want to grow and to accept advice on how to do that. It is Andrew's positive

attitude, energy, dedication, hard work, and desire to always do better that makes him such an incredible athlete and such an amazing employee. It is because of these qualities that in 2018, Andrew received the Shining Star of the Year Award from Walmart which is a huge accomplishment and in 2016, he received the Cindy Watts award from Supported Employment NL.

All the staff with Visions Employment Plus Inc. would like to Congratulate Andrew on receiving this recognition from Special Olympics for being such a valuable player in sports, and we want to mention how much of a valuable employee you are to Walmart as well.

Great Job Andrew! Keep up the great work!



*Andrew Hynes*

### New Employment Placements

Visions Employment would like to send a big Thank You to our Employer Partner Magic Foods Ltd. for their ongoing dedication to inclusion. Through two new placements at the A&W Restaurants on Torbay Road and Kenmount Road, owners Kellie and Todd Loveless continue to provide meaningful employment for our clients and we are truly thankful for their continued partnership.

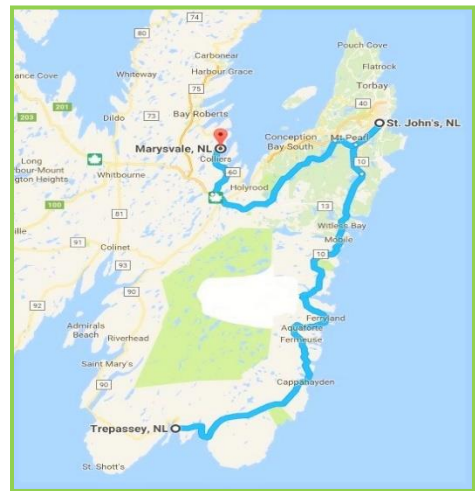
## National Volunteer Week



National Volunteer Week, April 7-13, 2019, was a time to celebrate and recognize those individuals who volunteer within their communities. Once again we would like to thank our Volunteer Board of Directors for their time, dedication and effort to Visions Employment Plus Inc.

THANK YOU!

## Our Service Area



### Questions?

Feel free to contact us!  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 2019**  
Annual Client Summer BBQ  
Lester's Farm Chalet

Interested in volunteering on our Board of Directors? We are currently looking for new members as well as a Consumer Client Representative. Contact us or visit our website to download an Application!

Interested in becoming a Job Coach? Contact us for more information or submit a Résumé!



Funded by the Provincial Government of Newfoundland and Labrador through the Department of Advanced Education, Skills & Labour