

# MATTHEW CORKUM, PhD

*Seeing the ABILITY in disAbility*



## What Business Owners Don't Know That's Hurting Your Bottom Line and Your Success.

Diversity and Inclusion are hot topics these days as workplaces try to navigate their way to practical, profitable, success. But how do we see past stigma, discrimination, and often unconscious prejudices to what unites us? How do we tap into the hidden potential in a disabled workforce? Everyone benefits from knowing how to create, and be part of, a truly inclusive workplace. And how can businesses easily accommodate loyal, disabled customers?

### Many people exclude those with disabilities due to:

- A fear of doing or saying the wrong thing.
- Concerns about their ability to do the work—and potential liability issues.
- Assumptions they make about the capabilities of those who are different.
- “Ableism” prejudices that they may not even be aware of.

### Walk a Mile in My Shaky Shoes Tap Into the Ability in disABILITY in the Workplace (30 - 60 minutes)

In this lively presentation you will hear a unique, first-hand perspective on disabilities in the workplace. Become aware of the challenges, and potential, of hiring disabled employees and how your organization can capitalize on this untapped and valuable resource and client pool.

### Business owners, managers and supervisors will:

- Learn how the myths about disabled employees are adversely affecting your retention, culture and bottom line.
- Learn how to capitalize on the Ability in all of your workers!
- Know when to make accommodation and when to hold disabled workers accountable for results.
- Understand how accommodating special needs creates a loyal client base—the little things make a big difference!
- Set your staff up for success—know how to serve customers with special needs.

## Those who benefit from Matthew's messages include:

Business owners, managers, board directors, human resource workers, those who provide customer service, and those with disabilities.



*"Matthew never lets the fear of risks and challenges caused by his disability get in the way of achieving goals. He helps people in the workplace know how to interact with those with disabilities. He had countless negative experiences that could have made him feel sorry for himself, but instead he uses those negative experiences to fuel his passion to make a positive change for others with disabilities. He helps all of us focus on our ABILITIES which leads to success."*

**-Leah Wood, MSc, OCC, CCRPPMP  
Researcher, Dalhousie University.**

Having experienced bullying and discrimination his whole life has made Matthew Corkum passionate about ensuring that people with disabilities feel as worthwhile and wanted as everyone else! He is a stand for helping everyone focus on the ABILITY in disABILITY.

Matthew has not let his Cerebral Palsy limit his love of living an active life of contribution. Whether getting his PhD, advocating in his advisory role on the City of Calgary's Accessibility Committee, speaking professionally, or simply enjoying his favorite pastime of biking on three continents and counting, he is all-in!

As an atmospheric scientist Matthew works as a head meteorologist in Calgary, Alberta. His humor, helpful insights, and contagious enthusiasm give audiences practical ways to eliminate the stigma, judgement, and misunderstandings that happen when dealing with people that are different. In his off time if he is not developing diversity and inclusion programs, or working out with his trainer, you can find him competing in 'fat bike' and endurance road races.

## Other presentations in the "Seeing the Ability in disABILITY" series:

- What the Medical System Doesn't Know That's Impacting Quality of Care
- What the Education System Doesn't Know That's Keeping Kids Back, Bullied, and Behind
- What Parents Don't Know That's Keeping Their Kids Held Back, Harassed, and Hidden
- Walk a Mile in My Shaky Shoes (for general audiences)

## Just a few places Matt has presented at :

