

WISE Ambassadors Club: Voices That Inspire Change

This article was written by Deepika Gupta, Employment Specialist at WISE Employment Solutions



Left to right: Trevor Che, Akshay Sachdeva, Tamara Gowdyk

The WISE Ambassadors Club (WAC), under the guidance of [Uniti's WISE Employment Solutions](#), is a group where every voice matters.

[UNITI](#) is a Surrey-based not-for-profit organization and a service provider funded through Community Living BC (CLBC). Through referrals from CLBC, eligible individuals can access UNITI programs like WISE Employment Solutions, which support people with developmental disabilities to prepare for, find, and succeed in meaningful employment.

Led by people with disabilities for people with disabilities, WAC helps members speak up for their rights, build confidence, and develop valuable skills. This kind of self-advocacy and leadership development is a key part of building inclusive communities across B.C.

WAC members take part in workshops on communication, problem-solving, technology, and other work-related areas. They learn practical skills while also understanding their rights, workplace accommodations, and how to stand up against discrimination.

“Diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance.” – Verna Myers

WAC is also about community and support. Members mentor each other, share their lived experiences, and build networks. They take what they learn out into the community, giving presentations to Youth, leadership groups, advocacy groups, and local businesses. These

presentations teach others about disability rights, inclusion, and the importance of diversity.

One highlight from the past year was WAC's presentation at Inclusion BC Conference in Richmond, where members shared their stories and experiences with disability, inclusion, and employment. Their presentation inspired both peers and professionals, showing how self-advocacy and leadership can create meaningful change. Attendees left with a deeper understanding of the barriers people with disabilities face and how communities can support inclusion.

Over the past year, WAC members have also spoken at meetings, client groups, and conferences. Their message is clear: people with disabilities are leaders, innovators, and valuable contributors to society.

"Equality is treating everyone the same. But equity is taking differences into account, so everyone has a chance to succeed." – Jodi Picoult

WAC also works closely with employers and community partners to remove barriers, promote inclusion, and create accessible spaces. Members gain confidence in self-advocacy, public speaking, and leadership while helping others understand the importance of equity and inclusion.

"Inclusion is not a matter of political correctness. It is the key to growth." – Jesse Jackson

At its heart, WAC is about making change happen from within. It's a place where voices are heard, skills are built, and futures are shaped. Through CLBC-funded services like WISE, individuals are building skills, finding their voice, and helping create more inclusive communities across B.C.