



## SPOTLIGHT

### Staff devotion to continuous learning benefits our participants!

**First Aid Training** – Darryl Spurr, Program Generalist, is now a certified Canadian Red Cross First Aid/CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Instructor. Participants are eligible for Emergency First Aid + CPR (c) + AED training after being in the program for 16 weeks. We are very excited about providing participants with this opportunity.

**WHMIS Training** - Colin Williams, Operations Coordinator, is a Nova Scotia Safety Council certified Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) Instructor. Youth LIVE participants are eligible for WHMIS training after 12 weeks in the program. We've received great feedback from participants about Colin's training sessions. They recognize that this certification is a valuable addition to their resume and makes them more safety conscious in the workplace.

**Mental Health First Aid** – Participant Relations staff members completed a two-day training session, Mental Health First Aid for Adults Who Interact With Youth, taught by Canadian Mental Health First Aid Instructors. The remaining Youth LIVE staff members will take this training to ensure we are cognizant of the challenges our youth clients may face and are better equipped to respond to their needs.

**Job Search Skills Modules** – Kate Apestiguy, Participant Relations Coordinator, completed a Career Practitioner Certificate at the Dalhousie College of Continuing Education. Kate has brought new information to the program and has worked with her

team to develop modules around Skills Identification, Resume Writing, Interview Skills and other topics. A participant portfolio process has also been implemented and each participant leaves the program with a portfolio of their accomplishments. Staff and participants have embraced this change, recognizing that participants now finish the program better prepared for success in their future job searches and interviews.

**Human Resource and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) Essential Skills Assessment** - We recently implemented HRSDC Essential Skills Indicators pre and post-testing with our participants. Essential Skills are the skills people need for learning, work and life. At the 15 week-point of the program, participants complete three Essential Skills Indicator tests to identify their level in reading, numeracy and document use. Kate Apestiguy currently administers this process one-on-one with participants.



*A participant learns job search tips from Participant Generalist Darryl Spurr.*

Knowing their level allows participants to determine their strengths and identify areas where they need further development. Practices tests and tips are available for enhancing their skill levels, and interested participants can request referral information for outside resources on academic upgrading or tutoring. This new process has received a great response from our participants. In fact, some have even requested the address for the Essential Skills website so they can go home and practice.

## OTHER NEWS

### Welcome back!

Welcome back to Courtney Matheson, Program Generalist, after one year of maternity leave. Thanks to Tamara Matheson, Team Leader, (no relation to Courtney) who took on the acting role of Program Generalist while Courtney was off. We are very fortunate to have both of them on our team.

### Referrals and Tours Reminder

We encourage youth service providers to keep Youth LIVE in mind for their clients who need job skill development in a supportive environment. Clients can contact us for a tour and/or interview. We have a continuous intake process; new youth clients are accepted into Youth LIVE as participants leave the program. At present, we are completing intake approximately once per month for 1-2 youth.

# PARTICIPANT PROFILE

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## Fast Facts

Name: Kirill Grishin  
Age: 18-years-old  
From: Minsk, Belarus, a republic between Poland and Russia. Kirill came to Canada with his mother and sister in 2003.  
Special Skills: Speaks English, Belarusian and Russian

## What brought you to the Youth LIVE program?

The quality-of-life where I'm from wasn't good. There are a lot of gangs, crime, lower paid jobs and poverty. Minsk is a large city, 4-5 times the size of Halifax. If school wasn't working out for you and you weren't going to go on to university and become successful the only other alternative was crime. There was no in between.

School was difficult for me and my math skills were really poor. When I came to Halifax and entered Grade 5, it was a completely different way of learning but I found that the classroom setting didn't work for me. I left school in 2008 and haven't looked at returning. I was referred to Youth LIVE by a friend. I was having issues at home and wanted to move out. I had been looking for work and put in resumes at a number of places, but didn't hear back from anyone. I called Youth LIVE and the process for getting an interview was fairly simple. I successfully completed the interview and then got a call to start in January 2011.

## What were your expectations of Youth LIVE?

Upon entering the Youth LIVE program, I didn't really have high expectations. I was just looking for something that gives people another chance. I didn't think there was much for me to learn, but I was wrong about that. I learned how to get and stay motivated. When the clock rings in the morning, I jump up. That's never happened to me before. The work is not always fun but I stay motivated because I don't want to go back to the way things were before.

## What are your most memorable moments at Youth LIVE?

One Saturday working with Team Leaders Jeff and Richard, I was assigned to basically lead the crew that day. I kept everyone going with little or no direction from the team leaders. I was proud of how natural it was for me and that I did well.

It may seem strange but another memorable moment was when I tipped over a pallet of beer one day while working in the depot. I felt really stupid for doing it. The staff handled it well. They make the work fun. I reflected after this and normally would have been really hard on myself but I realized it was a mistake and that I probably couldn't have stopped it from happening.

## What do you like best about Youth LIVE?

I like that the program gives people a chance and the help we get with our resume and job search. There are nothing but benefits here. My resume wasn't that good before, but I will leave Youth LIVE with a good resume, a reference and a portfolio.

## What have you learned from being a Youth LIVE participant?

The main thing I learned from Youth LIVE is how to be motivated. I can keep myself going based on knowing how much I am accomplishing here and what I can take with me. I like the leadership opportunities too. You get a chance to learn skills by helping new people.

## How has Youth LIVE impacted/changed your life?

This program has positively impacted me. I think all the time about where I'd be if I hadn't come here. I'm definitely a happier person.

## Has Youth LIVE helped you in achieving your future goals?

My plan is to do my GED in the summer and then join the Army. Youth LIVE has helped by providing an opportunity for me to get used to a schedule and giving me responsibility.

## What's the one thing you'd like people to know about Youth LIVE?

One thing I'd like people to know about Youth LIVE is that everything isn't always like it seems. The people here are good and everyone is different. Don't make assumptions about Youth LIVE or the people involved with the program.

Youth LIVE

490-5589 or [ylrecruit@halifax.ca](mailto:ylrecruit@halifax.ca)

[www.halifax.ca/police/YouthLIVE](http://www.halifax.ca/police/YouthLIVE)

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