

## **Dana Coleman's journey from education, to unemployment, to full- time work**

*In Dana's words...*

The centre I accessed to is located in Ottawa on Ogilvie Road. I was out of work for three years, but have only been looking for work since last fall, and was getting very frustrated. I attended Algonquin College for a year – I graduated just over a year ago. My certificate is in Office Procedures and Business Management, so understandably I wanted to find a job using these skills.

The Employment Counsellor that helped me was Joanne Hough. Kayla Wharton helped as well, who is an Employer Liaison. It was great having people on my side that didn't get discouraged. Joanne drove to Hawkesbury several times to meet with me, and once Kayla even came out. Kayla was usually in the Ottawa office searching job fairs and such to help find me employment.

I received all kinds of help, including career decision making, resume, and interview skills. They also called businesses here in town on my behalf. Oh I forgot to mention.....I live in Ontario, BUT in a French community and the funny part is I'm not 100% bilingual, which didn't make my job search easy.

Finally a light at the end of the tunnel! I heard through the grapevine that Herbal Magic was going to be hiring. Joanne and I emailed my resume and cover letter back and forth while talking to each other on the phone making sure they were perfect. I sent in my resume and spoke to one of the owners but I couldn't get a straight answer. Joanne and Kayla came into town that week to meet with me. They decided to talk to the owner of Herbal Magic on my behalf. An agreement for a four week work trial was made, and I started on March 26, 2012.

The last week of my work trial I was hired....WOO HOO! I'm being trained to do everything at Herbal Magic, such answering the phones, bookkeeping, learning all the products, and how to be an effective personal health coach for the clients. I love it. I was originally told it would only be part time, but I am now hired as full time with 37 to 43 hours a week. Plus I am learning to be more confident with my French!

Without the help of Northern Lights Canada, I honestly believe I would still be looking for a job.

Merci à Joanne et Kayla pour la totalité de leur aide.

Sincèrement,  
Dana Coleman