

Sarah Delassi Building Workplace Community Transcript

Interviewer: So today we have Sarah Delassi with us. Sarah is the Vice President of one of Alberta's leading manufacturing organizations. Thanks so much for coming and visiting us today, Sarah.

Sarah: No problem. I'm happy to be here.

Interviewer: So, one of the things that we'd like to ask you about is your experience working for organizations, who are particularly good at building workplace community. So maybe a little bit about what they've done and what you've done to build strong, effective workplace communities.

Sarah: Sure. Well, you know what, I've been lucky. Every company that I've worked for ended up with a community and hopefully I was part of the reason for that. When it comes to bringing people together, one of the first companies I worked for was in British Columbia and people enjoyed getting together on the weekend or something like that for a game of baseball, helping out with a fundraiser, I know we did the corporate challenge as well, and we got everybody involved. We also raised money for various charities to help bring something back to the community. In a way it was a little bit of a network system and if someone needed help, you know, help moving, help with

some issues that they were having, then everybody helped out, and it was hard to leave that company. So that was the first organization where we built community, and then I got a chance to go to another one. And it ended up being almost a counseling service but people still again meshed together and we did a lot of things that tried to help people. We had a strong LGBTQ community there that did great work in the broader social community with fundraising and awareness-raising. It was the strength of the group that made the work so special. Not everybody in the company always helped out but it brought a sense of belonging to an area. Even this company that I work for now, I mean people love getting together and inviting each other over for dinner and parties and socializing, and things like that. So it's been nice to be part of that and everywhere I've been has been that...It's been great.

Interviewer: Thanks again Sarah for joining us today and for telling us so much about effective workplace communities and how you've built them and been part of organizations that have done the same.

Sarah: Thanks for having me.