

Byron's Story: Paralympian and YVR Employee



“Byron has been great to work with, he always has a smile on his face and ready to take on new challenges with a positive attitude.”

- Kenji Okada & Andrew Nordwall, Byron's Co-Workers

Byron Green joined the Vancouver Airport Authority (YVR) in 2016. He currently works part time (five days a week, four hours a day) and trains as a Paralympian at the Richmond Olympic Oval. His experience in team sports has proven to be an asset both on the court and in the office.

Byron was in the early months of his final year of high school, and at the age of 17, he had a mountain biking accident, which caused a spinal cord injury, breaking his neck and leaving him a quadriplegic. The following September, after having spent almost a year in rehab and hospitals, Byron returned to school and completed grade twelve. He graduated and went straight to university at UBC.

After graduating from UBC in Civil Engineering in 2009, he worked for Wireless Water, a small engineering company and in 2016, he started working at YVR as a Junior Project Engineer. When the team at the Airport Authority met Byron, they knew he was the right fit for the job because of his positive attitude, education and experience. In this role, he is responsible for initiatives such as: a fire alarm upgrade, a water-saving toilet retrofit and improvements to the Canada Line. If that wasn't enough to keep him busy, he also spent a year and a half training for the 2016 Paralympics. He was able to manage this schedule by working part time – five days a week, four hours a day - so he could train five to six days a week at the Richmond Oval.

His managers have been flexible with his schedule, and support his dream of continuing to compete at an international level with hopes of participating in the 2020 Games in Tokyo.



Byron's ability to learn and adapt to the world around him for over a decade, means that he not only knows the adjustments he needs at work to make him most successful, it also has made a lasting impression on the projects he's involved in. Aside from a flexible schedule and the ability to work a part time position (in a predominately full-time role) very little was required to accommodate Byron. One accommodation was adding automatic door openers to several doors around the Alymer Road Complex.

By supporting these adjustments, YVR has gained an amazing employee. When asked what it's like working with Byron his co-workers had this to say:

"Byron is a natural communicator who learns quickly and is fully capable of tackling any challenge thrown his way. I think Byron's greatest strengths are his ability to remain calm and his positive attitude. No matter what the situation may be – whether a project has hit a major roadblock or tension starts to build in a meeting – Byron remains cool and tackles the issues with a practical and upbeat mindset." – Amanda Chow, Environmental Analyst.

As a high-level athlete, he brings his team mentality to the workplace, ensuring that everyone feels included.