

Signs Restaurant, Toronto Ontario

Presentation at UWindsor Accessibility Awareness Day, March 18th 2015

At the 2015 UWindsor Accessibility Awareness day, attendees were delighted to learn about an inclusive and innovative restaurant located in downtown Toronto. Anjan Manikumar is the founder of *Signs Restaurant*. “Signs” is the first of its kind in all of North America in which about 70 – 80% of its workers are Deaf and speak Sign Language.

What is Signs Restaurant all about?

The idea of having a Sign Language speaking restaurant is to eliminate the barriers between the Hearing and the Deaf communities and also to help create employment opportunities for persons who are Deaf or hard-of-hearing. *Signs Restaurant* has created awareness about the Deaf community in Canada and what it endeavours to do is include every person regardless of disability, race, ethnic background, age, sexual orientation, colour, etc. It also helps to increase the diversity of the City of Toronto.

During his presentation at UWindsor’s Accessibility Awareness Day on March 18th 2015, Anjan Manikumar discussed the following with attendees:

Signs restaurant strives to...

- ▶ become the best restaurant in Canada, give all the staff who work with us a friendly, cooperative and rewarding environment which encourages long- term, satisfying employment and builds relationships between the Hearing and Deaf communities.
- ▶ create awareness for the Deaf Community
- ▶ show that given the tools, Deaf persons can work and succeed in different fields
- ▶ spread Sign Language within the Hearing Community
- ▶ showcase talented individuals from the Deaf community.

For more information on Signs Restaurant please visit www.uwindsor.ca/AAD2015 or www.signsrestaurant.ca

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