SUCCESS STORY

Click&Push *Accessibility Inc.*

www.clicknpush.ca

Click&Push Accessibility Inc. was originally established to commercialize technologies that promote improved accessibility for all. Their current project keeps in mind that accessibility is an exceptionally important consideration for those with mobility limitations. With Click&Push's community-sourced navigation app *The Atlas*, people with mobility limitations can "know before they go" – with advance information about societal spaces, they can ensure they do not encounter barriers that impede access, increase the risk of injury, and deplete energy reserves. This helps them to retain the dignity of independent mobility as they go about their daily life.

As progress in the digital age moves quickly, CTO Dr. Nathanial Maeda points out that local student talent is a "critical resource." He notes that because of the students they hire, Click&Push can complete vital, time-sensitive work and continue development of their projects on a tight budget.

Third-year University of Alberta Computer Engineering student Aidan Gironella is one of those critical resources. He applied for a position with Click&Push because he wanted to apply the theoretical skills he learned in class to a real-world environment, and because he wanted to learn more about the entrepreneurial environment of a start-up. He spent four months working on *The Atlas*, and says, "Working on a product that directly influences and improves people's everyday lives really inspires me. As someone who has never personally dealt with accessibility issues, this has been a very eye-opening experience to the difficulties that others face. The most exciting part of my time at Click&Push has been the number of new skills I've learned in such a short time. There are so many technologies that I have never worked with before! My coworkers made it a very welcoming and comfortable environment. The workflow is dynamic and there are always new tasks to work on."

Aidan Gironella

Dr. Maeda is complimentary: "Aidan has enabled us to integrate user-feedback from our closed beta testing into our app, thereby enhancing its offerings to our users and meeting their needs."

When it comes to growing the Alberta life sciences economy, funding is imperative, especially at the start-up level. According to Dr. Maeda, "Click&Push would not have been able to hire a student without the WIL funding! Through WIL funding for Aidan, we have been able to drive our product development forward from the closed beta testing into readiness for open beta testing." That gets Click&Push closer to full realization of *The Atlas*, continues to enhance the quality of life for those with mobility limitations, and makes societal spaces more accessible through use of accessibility data.

Learn more about *The Atlas* here: https://www.clicknpush.ca/the-atlas

To learn more about the BioAlberta WIL Voucher, visit our website.