Carolyn MacDiarmid, a former preschool teacher, has been employed with the Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work (CCRW) since 1997. She has worked in various roles and is the author of CCRW’s “Wendy Blair” storybook series completed in 2005. As a writer who has low vision, she enjoys writing whimsical material that challenges the notion that people who have disabilities are incapable. MacDiarmid is a proud Ontarian who has lived in Toronto all her life and currently lives in the city’s east end with her husband and daughter.

James Tuer is a Toronto-based artist who works at an animation studio by day, and illustrates fun projects (such as the book you’ve just read) by night. He enjoys working on projects that positively impact people’s lives. James and Carolyn first worked together on the Wendy Blair series, and have teamed up again over a decade later to bring you three new stories that help to break down stereotypes about living with a disability.

Benjamin-Bob Can Do the Job

Story: Carolyn MacDiarmid
Art: James Tuer

A Project of The Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work
About This Book...

This book is a project of the Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work (CCRW), a national, non-profit organization that promotes and supports the meaningful and equitable employment of Canadians with disabilities. Funding for this project was provided by the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario (ADO) to celebrate Ontario’s 150th anniversary and this province’s diversity.

Benjamin-Bob Can Do the Job is a delightful story that challenges stereotypes. Benjamin-Bob is in many ways the same as everyone else in his community, except that he is much taller. As the local giant, he has been given the job of watching over the hills around his town to scare away bears and other potential predators. Benjamin-Bob feels stuck and decides that it’s time to break out of the role that has been set for him. This story follows Benjamin-Bob as he practices some of his other job skills, exceeding expectations and challenging stereotypes. People with disabilities often have limitations set upon them as well due to assumptions and stereotypes. However, it’s important to recognize and celebrate individual talents, strengths, knowledge, and achievements.

Carolyn MacDiarmid
The Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work
Benjamin-Bob can do the job.

Written by Carolyn MacDiarmid; illustrated by James Tuer. “A project of the Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work.”


I. Tuer, James, illustrator  II. Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work, issuing body  III. Title.
Benjamin-Bob Can Do the Job

This project is funded by the Government of Ontario’s Ontario 150 Partnership Program.

A project of
Not long ago in the Collingwood hills,  
There lived a tall man with remarkable skills.

His full name was Benjamin Robertson Porter,  
But “Benjamin-Bob” sounded simpler and shorter.

He was a giant, gigantic in height –  
As high as the hills and the trees and a kite.
He was expected to keep bears away
By guarding the Collingwood hills every day.

But this gentle giant did not like to scare,
“I’ll want to be friends if I notice a bear.”

“My work doesn’t suit me,” sighed Benjamin-Bob,
“Perhaps it is time that I found a new job.”
“I know how to fix, and I know how to build,
And using my tools, I’m certainly skilled.”
He went for a walk, and way up in the air
He noticed the banner of A+ Repair.
“A+ is now hiring,” thought Benjamin-Bob, “I’ll knock on the door and apply for a job.”

Then out stepped Marina, the head of her team, “Hello! May I help you?” she asked with a gleam.
Suddenly, like he had turned on a switch, Benjamin-Bob gave Marina his pitch:

“Hello and good day, I am Benjamin-Bob – Today I am actively seeking a job. I can fit anywhere crawling or kneeling, Or when I am stooped with my back to the ceiling. I can build houses, and basements, and stairs, I can do minor and major repairs. I can fix floors that are noisy and squeaking, I can fix pipes when the water is leaking. My skills are impressive – I know you’ll agree, Please take a few minutes to interview me.”
Marina was pleasant and very polite, 
But somehow her answer just didn’t sound right:

“Benjamin-Bob, you’re amazingly tall –
Your number one task is to scare and appall.
We need a protector to work in the hills –
I don’t think you’re meant to use hammers and drills.”
Benjamin-Bob didn’t know what to say –
He turned on his heels and ambled away.

“People won’t listen and don’t understand –
I’m meant to do work with a tool in my hand.
I’m not just a giant, I’m Benjamin-Bob –
I build and I fix, and I do a great job.
Some giants are gentle and don’t like to scare –
I’d rather fix houses, I’d rather repair.”
That night the weather took on a new form, creating high winds and a blustery storm.
The next day the town was a bit of a mess,  
But Benjamin-Bob had kind words to express.

He called to his neighbours, “Please do not despair  
For I will rebuild and replace and repair!”
There was no time for his third bowl of cereal – Benjamin-Bob loaded building material.
He fixed every window, he fixed every roof – He knew he could do it, and now there was proof.

He hammered each shingle one home at a time, “Hey, look everybody, I don’t need to climb!”
The people were watching, and he was admired – Marina called up, “I’m impressed...you are hired!”

Benjamin-Bob was a man on a mission, “I will accept under one small condition: Appreciate me and my talents and skills – Please don’t send me back to scare bears in the hills.”

Marina shook Benjamin-Bob’s giant hand, “I see what you mean, and I do understand.”
Now “Benjamin-Bob” is a recognized name –
He’s now in demand...
At the top of his game!
Carolyn MacDiarmid, a former preschool teacher, has been employed with the Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work (CCRW) since 1997. She has worked in various roles and is the author of CCRW’s “Wendy Blair” storybook series completed in 2005. As a writer who has low vision, she enjoys writing whimsical material that challenges the notion that people who have disabilities are incapable. MacDiarmid is a proud Ontarian who has lived in Toronto all her life and currently lives in the city’s east end with her husband and daughter.

James Tuer is a Toronto-based artist who works at an animation studio by day, and illustrates fun projects (such as the book you’ve just read) by night. He enjoys working on projects that positively impact people’s lives. James and Carolyn first worked together on the Wendy Blair series, and have teamed up again over a decade later to bring you three new stories that help to break down stereotypes about living with a disability.