



CLBC Community Recognition Awards and Dinner

**Monday, April 21, 2008
Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel
Richmond, BC**



**COMMUNITY LIVING
BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Introduction

Welcome to an evening of recognition and entertainment. Tonight is about recognizing the people in our province who have made a significant contribution to helping all people lead "good lives in welcoming communities." Community Recognition Awards are being given in the categories of Innovation, Community Service and Lifetime achievement. Recipients were selected by a nomination committee of family members and self-advocates.

Honourable Minister Tom Christensen

Tom Christensen was appointed Minister of Children and Family Development on August 15, 2006. He previously served as Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and Minister of Education. Mr. Christensen was elected to represent the riding of Okanagan-Vernon in 2001 and re-elected in 2005. He currently serves as chair of the Cabinet Legislative Review Committee and is also a member of the Government Caucus Committee on Social Development. Mr. Christensen graduated from the University of Victoria with a law degree in 1994, and was called to the BC bar in May 1995. Prior to entering politics, he practiced law at Davidson & Company and was a partner in the firm from 1999 to 2001. Mr. Christensen was born and raised in Vernon, the fourth generation of his family to raise a family in the Vernon area. He is married and has three young children.



Itinerary:

- 6:00 p.m.** Dinner
- 7:15 p.m.** Welcoming Remarks,
Rod Gunn, CLBC Board Member
- 7:20 p.m.** Keynote Remarks,
Honourable Minister Tom Christensen
- 7:30 p.m.** Community Recognition Awards,
Tom Christensen and Marsha Goldford
- 8:00 p.m.** Dancing with the Shiny on Top Band

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARDS

Innovation

Cathy DiBernardo is the third of seven children and her oldest brother has a developmental disability. This is one reason she got into the field of community living. Over her career, Cathy has had several interesting occupations. She lived, worked, and taught her children in an isolated logging camp, was an armed guard for an armoured car company for four years and has owned two businesses. Cathy currently works with Supportive Apartment Living in Nanaimo, a job she considers almost as rewarding as raising her three daughters. At Supportive Apartment Living she has to be flexible, creative and innovative in facilitating the learning of the many life skills by the people she works with in order for them to have the lives they want to create for themselves. Cathy believes that focusing on a person's abilities is the key to success.



Mimi Davis was born in Vancouver and after completing her education at the University of British Columbia, moved to Victoria to marry and start her teaching career. All her life, she has cared about children and families. Her career choices have let her serve this group of individuals. As a teacher, she acquired many skills and learned the importance of compassion, encouragement, humour, integrity, honesty and the gift of recognizing and strengthening the worth of individuals. She is a wife, mother, grandmother and friend. Mimi loves volunteering, quilting, golden retrievers, walking, reading and cooking. She is involved with her church and with causes such as Ronald McDonald House and Cops for Cancer. As an administrator and coordinator of programs at the Cridge Centre for the Family in Victoria, she has had 18 wonderful years filled with opportunities to fulfill The Cridge's mandate of caring for families. Mimi is humbled by the commitment and dedication she sees in the families she serves.



Community Service

Lynne Ford has been learning and working in the community living field for 29 years. She currently works for Semiahmoo House Society in Surrey as one of the managers of the Community Support Network. In this role she plans with and supports people with developmental disabilities and their families to explore alternate living situations, as well as monitors contracts. During her career, she has worked as a frontline staff member in the areas of mental health and community living and been a manager at various group homes. Lynne is a certified Essential Lifestyle Planning Trainer which includes teaching person-centered thinking and how to facilitate an Essential Lifestyle Plan. She believes people should be supported to have the life that makes sense for them.



Bryce Schaufelberger lives in Mission, BC and is active in the community living movement. Bryce is an active volunteer and seeks to make a difference in the lives of people with developmental disabilities. He is the founder and past president of the Mission Self-Advocacy Group. Bryce hosts and manages a website developed for self-advocates to share information and make connections from all over the world. Bryce was an original board director with the Interim Authority for CLBC, representing the voices of BC self-advocates. He was also actively involved in the creation of CLBC. Bryce is a past director with the Mission Association for Community Living. He currently sits on the CLBC Upper Fraser Community Council. Bryce is actively involved in the Special Olympics. He won a gold medal at the World Special Olympic Games in Shanghai with the Team Canada soccer team. He feels fortunate to have worked with so many amazing people over the years in his efforts to help people have great lives. Bryce's website is www.selfadvocatenet.com.



Lifetime Achievement

Cathy Anthony has been involved in the community living movement for over 20 years. She lives in Coquitlam and is the proud parent of Lani, 28, and Joshua, 23. Josh has a disability and uncontrolled seizures and is supported through his microboard. Cathy credits her learning and passion to the many individuals and families she has shared her experiences with, and to her son Josh, who has grown her mind, heart and soul immeasurably. Cathy is the coordinator of the Family and Individual Support Program for the Simon Fraser Society for Community Living.



Keith Pennock has been involved in the development of competent communities for the past 35 years and is committed to the self-advocacy movement. He worked with individuals, their families, volunteers, professionals and government authorities, in a collaborative effort in Canada and the US to close six major institutions and move over 4,500 people to community homes. Mr. Pennock is the Executive Director of the Glendale Foundation for Research and Community support and a community living consultant to MCFD and CLBC. He is the author of "Essence of Life."



In Memoriam - Arnold Bennington

(July 30, 1949 - January 10, 2008) was an artist, activist and People First advocate. He was an active member, mentor and mover and shaker in the disability rights movement. He was a passionate and outspoken advocate for inclusion, opportunity and full citizenship for people with disabilities. Arnold inspired others to help him with his life's work. During his life, he taught others to never underestimate the abilities and gifts of people with disabilities.



SUCCESS STORIES

Facilitator taps into community

Vancouver CLC

Vancouver facilitator Vikki King has had great success in expanding the use of generic services in Vancouver. She initiated and enrolled CLBC's Vancouver's CLC with Kids Up Front, an organization that donates unused tickets to local community events. Thanks to this connection, supported children and their families have been able to participate in events that they would not have been able to otherwise. Some of the children have gone to their first hockey game and will even have the opportunity to watch the Vancouver Giants in the playoffs. Vikki also enrolled the CLC with Gather and Give, a non-profit organization that provides families in need with household items through agency referrals, and Home Start, an organization that provides families in need with furniture and household items. In addition, Vikki took a large map of Vancouver and with input from her colleagues, marked off the various generic services in the community. The map is colour-coded for an easy visual of services for children or adults, and services for both children and adults.

Facilitator becomes boy's fairy godmother

Central Island CLC

Pam Huggins, a facilitator in Port Alberni, went far beyond what most people would do to make sure a child in care in her community had his "date" with Snow White. This boy lives with a foster family who arranged to take him to Disneyland on Christmas Day because he is in love with Snow White. Unfortunately, there were several delays in applying for his passport and as a result, it still had not arrived by Christmas Eve. Pam spent countless hours on the phone the week before trying to rally MLAs and other government officials to get the document in time. When the mail on December 24 did not include the passport as promised, Pam tried to get the child's father to go with her to Victoria. He was unable to take the day off work, so she came up with an alternate plan. Pam had the child's father sign a border crossing authorization and took it to Victoria herself, hoping that as a guardianship worker, she could work things out. After a full day and much fancy footwork, Pam managed to deliver a temporary passport to the foster family by 5:15 p.m. on Christmas Eve, ensuring the young boy's dream vacation could go ahead as planned. On a day most people are thinking of their own Christmas plans, Pam selflessly went the extra mile (literally) for this child.

Tree House respite support option

Kelowna QSO

The Tree House respite support option was developed about two years ago by CLBC and the South Okanagan Association for Integrated Community Living (SOAICL), a non-profit society that provides supports to individuals with developmental disabilities. The service issue being addressed was a provision of respite support to children and adults with mobility issues or who utilize wheelchairs. In the community, there had been difficulty recruiting foster homes or home sharing situations where the physical structure of the home allowed for accessibility adaptation. There was also a concern that costly adaptation would be completed, and the provider would move, thereby draining the funding available for direct service.

In response, SOAICL built an apartment building in the town of Oliver specifically for rental to people who have a developmental disability. Lynn Middleton, Quality Services Manager, was able to negotiate renting a two bedroom apartment on the ground level that is accessible for people with mobility issues. Start-up funding from CLBC enabled the society to furnish the apartment, install tracking for a lift system and complete minor renovations to make the space wheelchair accessible.

The apartment is now utilized by families needing respite for their children or adult sons and daughters, and also by home sharing providers needing relief support outside of their homes. The apartment can be booked for one to seven day usage. The respite provider then brings the service user to the apartment for the reserved time. The unit is operated like a self-catering option, as users are responsible for bringing their own groceries, laundering the sheets and tidying up for the next visitors

SOAICL has also been able to create an employment opportunity for one of the individuals they support through a contract to ensure overall cleanliness and upkeep of the apartment. The benefits of the service include a respite option for children and adults with mobility issues, more consistent access to support for families and care providers, employment for an adult with a developmental disability and reduced need for CLBC funding for adaptation of private homes resulting in the retention of funding for direct payment to respite providers.

Day program filled with summer fun

Dawson Creek CLC

In May 2007, the community of Dawson Creek identified that they had several youth with a disability in their city that would have no services available to them over the summer when school is out.

Communication with parents indicated that families wanted an intervention-based program to assist their family member improve independence, social and community access skills. The youths indicated that they were interested in spending time with their friends from school and having fun into community.

Dawson Creek facilitator Kate Makuch worked with the parent group and community organizations to discuss partnerships and create a program. These efforts resulted in an individualized day program which was offered and utilized by 15 youth, age 12 and older, for the summer of 2007. The youth took part in various physical, cultural and outdoor activities ranging from bowling to word searches to visits to the local rodeo.

Home sharing opens new doors

Prince George QSO

Jason has lived in a staffed group home in Prince George since he was a toddler. His physical challenges due to Cerebral Palsy make him totally dependent on others for his care. He uses a wheelchair for mobility. Jason talks with a computer he activates with head movement. Jason's dream was answered when he was able to move in to the home of a welcoming family of six in Surrey through a home sharing arrangement.

In Jason's words: "They decorated my room to reflect my personality and beliefs. We have made many trips to my favorite places such as Metrotown, Pacific Centre and Downtown Vancouver riding the skytrain and seabus. I am now closer to my favorite hockey team, the Vancouver Canucks. I can now watch hockey games at GM Place whenever I want! I have been attending mass regularly in my new Parish and I was able to attend the Easter celebrations such as Good Friday and Easter Sunday mass. I have also joined a prayer group for the developmentally disabled every third Sunday of the month where I can connect with others in my community. We are working on finding a wheelchair van so I can go out on outings easier and spur of the moment!"

It's notable that making Jason's 'dream' come true offered significant cost savings to CLBC. Those savings can be reallocated to help others' dreams come true.

Christmas comes early

Kelowna CLC

Samantha is a lovely, energetic young woman with an infectious grin. Finding it difficult to speak, Samantha relies on an individualized communication program to interact with others. In the fall of 2007 her foster parents were informed that the computers in the resource room at the school could not accommodate her individualized communication program. Despite efforts to find computers from other agencies, CLBC facilitator Jasmin came up empty handed.

Not to be discouraged, Jasmin enlisted the support of her husband, a manager at the local Future Shop. He suggested that she talk to the store manager to see if they could assist in getting a personal computer for Samantha. After explaining that Samantha was dependent upon the

computer for communication, the store manager wholeheartedly agreed to initiate, along with the entire staff, fundraising events to purchase and donate a computer to Samantha. The Future Shop in Kelowna ran numerous 50/50 draws and a Jeans Day to raise money. Managers provided a \$250 gift card and the computer technicians donated their own time to set up the computer.



Samantha receives her new computer at Future shop.

Shortly before Christmas, Samantha was presented with a state-of-the-art computer of her very own, which has greatly enhanced her life by allowing her to learn and give her a sense of accomplishment.

The generosity and community spirit of the Future Shop staff, as well as Jasmin's extra effort to find a suitable computer have made a great difference in Samantha's life.

Tool increases community inclusion

Abbotsford QSO

Analysts who specialize in home sharing at the Abbotsford QSO are testing a number of different strategies that would make their work more meaningful and effective. One strategy is to increase the involvement of self-advocates in their communities outside of traditional workday hours. To implement this strategy, the home share analysts have developed a tool called a Day Map. The Day Map was fine-tuned with the input of self-advocate Karen Assels, who works as an administrative assistant in the Abbotsford Quality Service Office.

A Day Map is a calendar covering all seven days of the week. It captures day, evening and weekend activities the individual currently takes part in and is filled out by the self-advocate with help from the home sharing provider.

These analysts anticipate that the Day Map will help to identify patterns of community inclusion and strengths as well as gaps across the region. This information could then be utilized to engage relevant stakeholders in developing and implementing strategies for making community inclusion outside of the traditional work week more meaningful and relevant.

The Day Map is now being used by analysts during their annual home visits when they review health and safety standards with home sharing providers using the current checklist form. While the Day Map has only been used by a small group of self-advocates and home sharing providers in the region, initial feedback has been positive. It has been described not only as a useful tool, but also a process for engaging interested parties in discussions about community inclusion.



Self-advocate Karen Assels helped develop the Day Map tool.

Group Planning Program helps families plan Surrey CLC

In the summer of 2007, Anya Mostrenko, facilitator at the Surrey Community Living Centre, designed a Group Planning Program to assist individuals and their support networks develop plans for CLBC supports and services.

The Group Planning Program's main goal was to empower individuals and their support networks to explore government and community assisted programs as required for each individual. The program also aimed to provide the information and support that is required to complete the planning process, the opportunity to network with individuals and families who are in similar situations, reduced wait times for facilitator involvement and quicker completion of the planning process.

The program participants met with Anya at the Surrey CLC six times over a 10-week period. In addition, Anya made herself available to visit their home, school and/or places of work, for support and consultation.

The process was deemed successful based on the mail-in survey responses received from the participants. The participants indicated that the individuals and their support networks were pleased to meet other individuals in their community who were experiencing similar life transitions, and through these connections the participants were able to explore options that may have otherwise gone unknown. In addition to the networking opportunities, the participants reported a high level of satisfaction with the information and support offered, as well as the reduced time frames. On the final day of the program, all but one participant submitted their plan to the Quality Service Office, while the other participant made some further revisions. Finally, each participant was able to benefit from the community supports that they researched and utilized as a result of the planning program.



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Going Green:

CLBC is a Crown agency of the Government of British Columbia and is committed to being carbon neutral by 2010.

This program has been printed on FSC certified paper.



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