COMMUNITY LIVING
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Community Councils

Summary Report of Board Approved Recommendations

A Response to CLBC's position paper "Making Community Councils Work"; with input from 26 community members from across British Columbia

> ***"Community Living BC is committed to enabling meaningful community involvement by establishing Community Councils throughout the Province. The main roles of these local bodies will be to stimulate new approaches to service delivery, share decision making about the allocation of resources and provide feedback on how CLBC and community agencies are providing services and supports to individuals and families."***

Community members were invited to respond to a series of 17 questions regarding proposed recommendations developed to guide the implementation of Community Councils across BC. Questions ranged in scope from ensuring outcomes were reflective of need, to the size and scope of Community Council membership, to the identification of incentives to ensure sustainability of Council membership.

Listed below are the recommendations that flowed from this consultation in response to 17 identified questions:

Summary of the Community Council Recommendations:

- That the outcomes be adopted as outlined in the Position Paper (http://www.communitylivingbc.ca/pdfs/community-council-position-paper_final2.pdf) as stated with two additions to CLBC outcomes: "Improved communication between CLBC and all stakeholder groups" and "Improved service equity"
- That Community Councils be at least seven members but no more than 15 to18 members depending on the geographic make up of the area and the expressed wishes of the community
- That Community Councils be appointed by the CLBC Board
- That Community Council selection be based first upon the percentage of parents and self-advocates (50 % +1), service providers (up to 25%) and community members (25%) with council representation reflecting the geographic area as a whole
- That service providers be invited to participate fully, remove themselves from discussions that would place them in a conflict of interest, and not serve as Council Chair
- That a nomination process be implemented, through the solicitation of self nomination and/or the nomination of others, for membership on each Community Council. This process will be consistent with the Guidelines for Appointment to the Provincial Council
- That Community Council Members be trained on how councils run and the outcomes expected
- That Council members be reimbursed for expenses including: travel and accommodation to and from meetings, respite for family members who participate, administrative support,

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(including ongoing communication to the Council) and support for self-advocates as required

- That an annual celebration for Council Members be held with acknowledgement from the CLBC Board
- That 17 Community Councils be developed as initially stated, but that councils consider how they are going to gather information from outlying areas and consider the establishment of local advisory committees where requested by communities
- That CLBC managers be given up to six months, after transformation to establish their Community Councils to encourage a broad representation from a diverse perspective of opinion and experience
- That membership on a Community Council be limited to a maximum term of six consecutive years
- That the Code of Ethical Conduct be adopted as stated in the Position Paper and that each council member is supported to follow the code
- That council meeting attendance expectations be included in the Terms of Reference

Within the next two months we will be developing Community Council guidelines, terms of reference and implementation plans with measurable objectives. We will keep you apprised of our progress through the CLBC Newsletter and Web Site. In addition, we will be defining the nomination process for interested individuals and will ensure you are all notified once the call for nominees is set to go out in your community. This will be supported by a communications strategy that will ensure broad promotion of our search to assist in the best Community Council memberships possible.

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