

## RESIDENTIAL OPTIONS PROJECT

### **Overview**

Community Living BC was created because individuals and families told the government they wanted more control over their lives. The Residential Options Project allows for increased innovation in the area of residential support.

The project will give people with developmental disabilities a chance to make informed decisions about where they live. It will help people find homes that are best suited to their needs, wants, and dreams. If people are happy with their current situation, they will not be asked to move. However, the project will provide choices for those who have indicated that they would like a different home and for those who have never been asked about their preferences.

This project is about exploring different possibilities. If individuals or their families already have ideas for a better living arrangement, we want to help remove the barriers that prevent them from achieving their dream.

We are committed to enabling people with disabilities and their families to develop individual support plans that identify how their disability-related needs and their goals and dreams for living in community will be met. While this may seem like common sense, it actually represents a profound shift in the field. This will ultimately enhance the social fabric of communities, as people with developmental disabilities contribute their gifts and talents. It will also add vitality, creativity, and energy to community life. This project will help to ensure that we meet the needs of those we support and that British Columbia continues to be seen as an international leader in the field of community living.

### **What will happen**

We will meet with every person in a staffed residential resource by the end of March 2007. Subsequent phases may include those individuals who are residing in family care homes who wish to have another form of residential support. Individuals who, along with their support network, wish to explore an alternative living arrangement will be given an opportunity to have a new plan developed.

### **What this means for individuals**

We will work closely with those who would like to explore something new. Through consultation and planning, individuals will be supported to develop innovative residential options that maximize their independence and involvement in community life. Individuals who already know that they would prefer an alternative residential arrangement can contact us directly or get in touch with a service provider or CLBC staff member to discuss their idea.

Regional CLBC staff will work with agencies and families to help implement a plan that is reasonable, affordable, and viable. We will work together to develop systems that help people

adjust to the new arrangements. Most importantly, when people choose a new model, a place in their original home will be held for up to four months so they have the option to return.

### **What this means for families**

Many families and their relatives in staffed homes did not have the opportunity to choose their accommodations or design something that would support their unique circumstances. Instead, they were often required to accept what was chosen for them. CLBC is actively making changes to the way supports are developed and implemented. We will work with families to remove barriers and to create an ideal home. Together, we will ensure that important safeguards are established.

### **What this means for agencies**

Project staff will work with service providers to identify individuals who might be interested in exploring residential alternatives. We will work collaboratively to support those who wish to make a change. CLBC staff from the local community services office will be available to develop a plan for each individual requiring a different option. Throughout this initiative, project staff will highlight various residential options and creative approaches that have been successful for individuals and service providers. We will be available, at all times, for consultation.

This is an exciting opportunity for agencies to transform existing services. Many service providers across the province have already developed residential alternatives that are both person-centred and cost-effective. In addition to creating more responsive services, this innovative approach has allowed agencies to provide a broader range of supports to more individuals.

### **Feedback**

We welcome your feedback on this important initiative. Please visit our website for regular updates on the project ([www.communitylivingbc.ca](http://www.communitylivingbc.ca)) or contact the project managers directly.

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