

## AMBER – HOME SHARING



Amber is a young woman who enjoys a very full life in the Cowichan Valley. She lived for many years in a series of different group settings in Victoria. As she got older, it became increasingly apparent that this was not an ideal situation. She is sensitive to her environment and to those around her. She was far away from her family and was not compatible with many of the individuals with whom she was living. Her mother, Maureen, recognized that Amber needed something different and advocated for her to move to a family care situation that would bring her closer to her home.

The transition was challenging and took a great deal of perseverance, but Amber has now settled into her new life with an amazing caregiver named Chris. Maureen visits at least once a week and has seen big changes in her daughter. Amber spends more time in the community and enjoys riding, swimming, and hiking on her trailrider. She is meeting new people and feels understood. Amber seems secure and has even taken a couple of steps with her caregiver's assistance. She and Chris recently piled into her van (the one with "AMS VAN" on the licence plate) for Amber's first road trip. They visited Chris' sister and her golden retriever puppies in the Slocan Valley. Amber will be getting a trained companion dog when her puppy is ready to leave its mother. These are all huge steps. For Amber, the destination has been worth the journey!