

## PENNY – HOME SHARING



Penny grew up in Winfield, just north of Kelowna. When her mother moved into a care home, Penny tried out a few different arrangements. She lived on her own for a while and with a family friend, but eventually moved into a group home in Kelowna. She moved from the group home into a duplex that was set up to teach Penny the skills she needed to live independently. Penny was successful and moved to a subsidized apartment on her own.

She lived on her own with community support for several years, but felt somewhat unsafe and wanted to try something new. She moved into the roommate companion program until her health needs increased and then moved into a family home. She didn't enjoy this and told her social worker that she wanted to move into a group home. This was arranged and she stayed here for three years while her health improved.

When her service provider asked if she would like to move in with her best friend Susan, Penny agreed immediately. Susan lives with a family that Penny knows well. The pair now lives happily together. She and Susan eat supper with the family, but have their own space. Thanks to a trust set up by Penny's mom, she has been able to go on a cruise and has joined the local travel club on trips to Hawaii, Disneyland, and Mexico. She has also traveled to Scotland with her cousin Mac. Penny has a great life. She enjoys going to the library, painting classes and a painting group, and is a member of an advocacy group. She travels independently using public transportation. When she needs support, Penny relies on her cousin Mac and her caregivers.

At the age of 54, Penny feels that she has been there and done that. She wouldn't have it any other way. In her words, "I am really happy now and don't want to move."