

This report includes all reports submitted by Community Councils in British Columbia for 2010 /2011. Each Council was asked to summarize: 1] highlights of Community Council projects or initiatives; 2] groups, people and organizations the Community Council met with during the past year; and 3] what is working well in the region covered by the Council? Additionally, Councils were asked to update their membership list.

## **List of Community Councils**

- ❖ Surrey/Delta Community Council
- ❖ Central and South Okanagan Community Council
- ❖ Upper Fraser Community Council
- ❖ Thompson Cariboo Community Council
- ❖ South Island Community Council
- ❖ Vancouver Community Council
- ❖ North Okanagan Shuswap Community Council
- ❖ Richmond Community Council
- ❖ North Region Community Council

<b>Community Council</b>	<b>Surrey/Delta</b>
<b>Council Chair</b>	<b>Marie Sabine</b>

## 1. Highlights of your Community Council projects or initiatives

Surrey/Delta Community Council continues to be a productive and effective Council. We have had a few members leave Council; however, we have used this as an opportunity to recruit Delta residents as they have been under represented on Council. We hope to recruit a few more Council members in 2011. We are energized by CLBC's recognition and action to deal with ageing issues for developmental disabled individuals and their parents/caregivers. Highlights from 2010 include:

- A Council committee worked with Jule Hopkins, Accountability & Safeguards Manager, and Brenda Cowie-Hannsen, contractor, to finalize the content and design of the 'Ageing Parents' pamphlet
- As an increasing number of youth with developmental disabilities are ending up in the legal system, partially because of their need for social acceptance and lack of cognitive functioning, they are easy targets for recruitment into illegal activities. Council supports a 'diversion program' specifically for youth with developmental disabilities. This justice diversion program would be funded by the Ministry of the Attorney General. The aim is to raise awareness in the court system. Supporting hopes, goals and skills would be an integral part of the diversion program. Council fully supports the development of a justice diversion program to accommodate developmentally disabled youth up to age 25. A Council member represents our Council on the Surrey Mayor's Crime Reduction Strategy Taskforce
- To address transportation issues, a Council member continued to attend Translink sponsored discussion meetings to review rapid transit plans. Attendance is to ensure concerns of people with developmental disabilities are addressed. A Council member was also part of a United Way sponsored committee to address seniors' transportation issues. Many seniors' transportation issues mirror those of the developmentally disabled. Findings from this committee were shared with Translink and the City of Surrey.

Highlights from January – March 2011 include:

- Council members worked together to distribute the Ageing Parents pamphlet throughout Surrey, Delta and White Rock. A spreadsheet was created to track the number of pamphlets distributed. Requests for additional pamphlets will be added to the spreadsheet
- Council has initiated gatherings to help families with individuals with developmental disabilities to network and find positive solutions to challenges. The monthly meetings named 'Families Connecting With Families', offer families the opportunity to connect with other families to share information, experiences and resources. Speakers will also be recruited to provide information on estate planning; long term planning and safeguards for individuals; building friendships; intimate relationships; and sharing resources

- Council is hosting three Ageing Forums, one each in White Rock, Surrey and Delta. The Forums take place in April and May
- A Council member will participate on the WOW!clbc Awards nomination review panel
- Council held a strategic planning session in March. Issues raised included transportation; at risk youth and adults; planning for connectedness/planning proactively; planning for advocacy; allowing appropriate risk taking/changing course; emergency response preparedness; safety and safeguards; employment; housing; poverty; friendships ‘normal belonging’; community attitude ‘people are people’; and focussing on accomplishments. Obviously, we will not be working on all these issues. Upcoming Council meetings will debate all issues and likely choose three to four to form the 2011 Strategic Plan

## 2. Groups, people and organizations your Community Council met with during the past year

- Jule Hopkins, CLBC Accountability & Safeguards Manager and Brenda Cowie-Hannsen, contractor
- Angela Clancy, Executive Director, Family Support Institute
- Leo Spalteholz, CanAssist, University of Victoria, to learn about social media
- Stephen Russell, CLBC Special Projects Manager

## 3. What is working well in your region?

Our Council has a great mix of talented community members, service providers, and family members. Council is motivated and feeling we are ‘making a difference’. It was particularly gratifying to have the Ageing Parents pamphlet strongly supported by the Board of Directors and Provincial Advisory Committee and that this project is moving forward.

We have a very positive relationship with CLBC staff. Sharon Rose, Manager, Community Planning and Development, and Bryan Oulton Acting Manager, Community Planning and Development, provided information when requested and have been a great resource to Council. Josefina Marchetti, Supervisor of Administrative Services, has also been very helpful.

<b>Community Council</b>	<b>Central and South Okanagan Community Council</b>
<b>Council Chair</b>	<b>Anna Caruso</b>

## 1. Highlights of your Community Council projects or initiatives

- Strategic planning sessions facilitated by Kim Lyster in the late spring
- Participated in “Start with Hi” with the Mayor and council members on October 6th, 2010
- Participated in a resource fair hosted by MCFD on October 15th, 2010 in Kelowna
- Coordinated and hosted a resource fair for individuals and their families in Penticton on October 15th, 2010
- Aging Forums occurred in Kelowna, Penticton and Princeton
- Sponsored two council members to attend the CACL in Whistler
- Provided funding to the self advocates for a brochure project
- Provided support to PLAN for “Beyond Graduation”
- Supported “Employment First” Initiatives

- The council hired a self advocate to provide the administrative support needed
- Rachel Schmidt presented to the council on the topic of “community engagement”
- Council contributed funding to the upcoming regional self advocate conference occurring in Kamloops in the fall

**2. Groups, people and organizations your Community Council met with during the past year**

- Many individuals and their families whom attended the forums or resource fairs as mentioned above
- The Kelowna Self Advocate Group and the Oliver Self Advocates
- Mayor Sharon Shepherd of Kelowna and City Council Members
- Generic employment agencies
- MCFD CYSN and Protection Teams around the Okanagan
- Numerous service providers
- HSCL, DDMH Team Members and Interior Health Staff (varied roles)
- Numerous generic community supports
- PLAN Okanagan
- The Family Support Institute (Okanagan Members)
- UBC Okanagan, Okanagan College: Kelowna and Penticton Campus staff
- Members of the RCMP
- Staff from various centres for seniors (all Okanagan communities)
- Media contacts in Kelowna

**3. What is working well in your region?**

- A focus on community engagement and developing projects that flow from this
- A dedicated and committed council
- A sound strategic plan
- An ability to get large numbers of people to participate in events
- Partnerships with various community agencies

<b>Community Council</b>	<b>Upper Fraser Community Council</b>
<b>Council Chair</b>	<b>Maggie Metcalfe</b>

**1. Highlights of your Community Council projects or initiatives**

After a strategic planning session with John Talbot, the Community Council embarked upon three initiatives: housing, transition to adulthood and creating an inclusive drama group. With housing, we have made connections with BC Housing as well as with the Fraser Valley Housing Network. In terms of transition to adulthood, we had a variety of community people meet with us to discuss the strengths and barriers to the current practices of a successful transition. The Chilliwack Society for Community Living has provided the community with their research project on transitions. Although the Council is still interested in developing an inclusive drama group in partnership with the Upper Fraser University and Imagine Ministries, other than those connections, very little progress has been made in that direction.

The Council helped host a Fraser CLBC staff training event on working with families. The council also participated in a number of meetings on a planned regional response to crisis. The Council chair has been involved in the interviewing and selection of two facilitators in the Upper Fraser.

By the end of April 2011, we will have hosted three forums on aging, five presentations on transitions and one family gathering around the sharing of resources.

On June 14, 2011, John Talbot will be joining the council and facilitating another strategic planning session.

## 2. Groups, people and organizations your Community Council met with during the past year

- Two reps from BC Housing
- Reps from MCFD, Upper Fraser University, Langley Association for Community Living, and Chilliwack Society for Community Living regarding transitions
- Rachel Schmidt on community engagement
- A rep for social networks
- Jule Hopkins and Kim Lyster on ageing
- Shirley Martins from Imagine Ministries regarding volunteer respite and drama
- James White on the WOW awards and ETSA (self advocates providing training)

## 3. What is working well in your region?

- For the past year, we have enjoyed a stable, committed council who work well together
- Imagine respite (a church affiliated group) provides free respite to families who are not in receipt of any funded services was initiated in Abbotsford and has now spread to Chilliwack and Hope
- We supported two self advocate committee members to be leaders in the planning and presentation of a Fraser Self Advocate Conference
- One of the self advocate committee members has changed to being a service provider representative on our council due to his contracted paid role with CLBC as a peer advisor
- Two understanding, empathetic and creative facilitators were hired in the Upper Fraser with input from the Council

<b>Community Council</b>	Thompson Cariboo
<b>Council Chair</b>	Doug Butler

## 1. Highlights of your Community Council projects or initiatives

Through a series of workshops and discussions we established 3 future goals for our Council. The goals being:

1. Self-advocate development
2. Employment
3. Community Engagement

Each member of Council joined a committee which created goals and target dates for accomplishing those goals. Workshops included:

- Community Engagement, June 2010
- Goal Setting, December 2010
- Ageing Families, April 2011

We supported the following projects:

- Self-Advocate Support
- Family Governance Support
- Employment Support
- Self-Advocate Summit to be held in Kamloops in October of 2011

## 2. Groups, people and organizations your Community Council met with during the past year

- 100 Mile Self Advocacy Group
- Provincial Advisory Council Chairman
- Aboriginal Agricultural Educational Society of BC
- Elizabeth Fry Society
- Jane Holland - Advocate for Service Quality
- Sylvie Zebroff – CLBC Family Partnership Advisor
- Rizallee Castillo - Thompson Rivers University
- Shelley Nessman – CLBC Self Advocate Advisor
- Kim Lyster - Aging Families Workshop
- Rachel Schmidt –CLBC Community Relations Specialist
- City of Kamloops

## 3. What is working well in your region?

- A very hard working, cohesive Council with clear goals for our future
- We now have 3 self advocates
- Good support from our regional CLBC staff

<b>Community Council</b>	South Island
<b>Council Chair</b>	David Steeves

## 4. Highlights of your Community Council projects or initiatives

- Members of the Self Advocates (SA) Committee were involved in organizing and hosting the “My Community” Self Advocates conference (June 2010). Self Advocate Michael Langridge spoke at the BCACL/CACL/Family Focus Conference in Whistler (October 2010) re organizing and hosting the conference
- The SA Committee assisted in hosting the second annual “One Day” event in Victoria (Sept. 2010)
- The Families Committee (FC) organized and hosted a Forum on Aging (October 2010), attended by service providers, families and community members

- Members of the SA Committee participated in the development of the self advocacy Bingo game, SANGO. This was made possible through a grant from the CLBC Self Advocates Seeding Innovation (SASI) project
- SICC is supporting and participating in the development of a video, Best Practice Approaches to Including and Engaging Self Advocates on CLBC Community Councils
- Meet & Greet sessions (a forum for families and service providers to share information, concerns, etc) were held in Sooke and Salt Spring Island
- In collaboration with Recreation Integration Victoria, the FC met with families on the Saanich Peninsula to discuss the sharing of ideas and/or resources
- The FC, along with three Victoria service providers, organized an annual Resource Fair. Council members attended and worked at the Fair, alongside CLBC staff
- The SA Committee partnered with Self Advocates for a Brighter Future to host a half day workshop to introduce the CLBC Support Networks handbook
- Michael Langridge has been accepted to sit on the BC People First Board of Directors, representing the South and Central Island. Self Advocate Mary Emmond continues to sit on the Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC)
- The Communication Committee (CC) was involved in developing, promoting and attending events such as 'One Day', the Forum on Aging and the WOW awards. An electronic distribution list has been created by the committee to reach out to a wide range of agencies in the region
- Members of the CC met with all south island MLAs and the Military Family Resource Society
- In 2011 the SICC plans to focus on the recruitment of additional council members, issues of aging and transitioning youth, engaging minority groups, and connecting with other Community Councils. In addition, the SICC recognizes that additional work needs to be done to ensure that self advocates feel connected and that their contributions are recognized as valuable.

## 5. Groups, people and organizations your Community Council met with during the past year

- CLBC Staff: 1) facilitators regularly attend SICC meetings 2) M&P met regularly with CPD Manager and Director of Regional Operations 3) Manager of Special Projects attended a meeting 4) Community Relations Specialist sits on the Families Committee and has attended SICC meetings
- Recreation Integration Victoria, Garth Homer Society, Community Living Victoria, Integra Support Services
- Service providers InclusionWorks! and Second Wave (both support young adults) attended and presented at a SICC meeting
- CanAssist attended a SICC meeting and conducted a consultation on a study they are performing: Accessibility to Social Media (for CLBC supported individuals)
- CLBC Aboriginal Advisor
- CLBC staff Kim Lyster and Jules Hopkins
- University of Victoria Centre of Aging
- Self Advocates for a Brighter Future
- South Island MLAs
- Military Family Resource Society

## 6. What is working well in your region?

- The SICC has connected with hundreds of people in our geographic area. Through this process we have been able to identify areas of concern, identify gaps in service, connect families to one another and provide clarity on issues that have been at the forefront of the media (i.e. service redesign, group home closures, etc).

<b>Community Council</b>	Vancouver
<b>Council Chair</b>	Peter Swayne

## 1. Highlights of our Community Council projects and initiatives

### Community Engagement

- Workshop: Vancouver had an informative and encouraging workshop from Caitlynn Sassaman and gained useful insights into the engagement activities of other Councils. Caitlynn also joined one of our Council meetings by phone to update us on a number of topics
- YMCA: As described in “The Citizen”, a council member – Mara St.Onge – with the endorsement and support from Council members, has held a number of successful workshops at the YWCA to help broaden and enhance the lives of self advocates. She will receive a WOWclbc award in recognition of this and other efforts to promote good lives in welcoming communities
- Social Activities: a sub-committee has begun implementing a plan to provide more social activities for individuals eligible to receive CLBC services

### Business connections

- One of our Councillors, Mark Perry, a businessman, has shown the CLBC DVD to business colleagues, promoted the work of CLBC and encouraged employment of people with developmental disabilities. He is working with a service provider Council member to further employment opportunities

### Community Living Month

- Council members participated in the CLBC initiative handing out Globe and Mail newspapers with “Start With Hi” promotional material

### Forums on Aging

- Vancouver held 2 forums in February with over 130 attendees. Many suggestions, concerns about the consequences of aging were raised and recorded as contributions to CLBC’s future policy on aging

### Strategic Plan

- In March, we held a strategic planning session with John Talbot. We established “Families Helping Families” as the theme of our major project going forward. We have held one Council meeting to hear about successful examples, are holding a family meeting in June on the topic and will be developing ways of promoting more inter family connections in the fall.

### Family Meetings

- In May 2010, 40 Vancouver self-advocates and family members attended a gathering to hear general CLBC information and participate in group discussions on housing, employment, transportation and recreation facilitated by members of the Council

- In June 2011, self-advocates and their families will again be invited to a meeting to hear presentations on and to discuss our Strategic Plan topic – “Families Helping Families”

**Proposals to the Provincial Advisory Committee**

- The council has held numerous discussions on service redesign, equity, housing and funding and forwarded several recommendations to the PAC

**Connecting For A Better Future**

- In May 2010, members of the Council attended a forum hosted by PLAN that was intended to promote a broad discussion around the future of community living

**2. Groups, people and organizations our Community Council met with during the past year**

- Our Manager and Chair received Vancouver City Council’s proclamation of October as Community Living Month
- CLBC video presented to a Kerrisdale business group
- 2 Forums on Aging held in February with 130 members of the community
- Hyad Society and Parent Support Group for Families of Mentally Handicapped Adults Society made presentations to the Council in May
- Community meeting for self-advocates and families on the topic “Families Helping Families” to be held in June

**3. What is working well in our region?**

- Workshops on Networking
- Service provider initiatives on employment
- Forums on Aging
- Several parent groups
- The Vancouver Community Council as a committed, concerned, active, cohesive and mutually supportive group

<b>Community Council</b>	North Okanagan Shuswap
<b>Council Chair</b>	Sue Phillips

**1. Highlights of your Community Council projects or initiatives**

- Development of a strategic plan
- Power point presentation development
- Holding Hands Art Program enhanced community inclusion
- Continuation of newspaper articles on awareness
- Ageing Forums in Vernon and Salmon Arm

**2. Groups, people and organization your community Council met with during the past year**

- Aging parents
- SMART presentation

- Self Advocates
- 2010 – concerns of home share providers: large residential settings

### 3. What is working well in your region?

- Our relationship with CLBC
- Strategic Plan has worked well as a process
- Recruitment process is working well
- Holding Hands project concept has worked well

<b>Community Council</b>	Richmond
<b>Council Chair</b>	Bob Robertson

### 1. Highlights of your Community Council projects or initiatives

- Held a facilitated strategic planning day and developed a community council work plan which provided focus for the year’s activities
- Developed / maintained positive working relationships between CLBC and key community partners and elected officials towards inclusion
- Supported and encouraged community based opportunities for adults served by CLBC
- Hosted CLBC forum on ageing with a total of 55 participants which included families, self-advocates, elected officials, agency staff, and community members
- Ryan Groth profiled in an edition of the CLBC newsletter
- Ryan Groth represented the council on the CLBC provincial advisory committee
- Jan Weber on the selection committee for the WOW awards

### 2. Groups, people and organizations your Community Council met with during the past year

- While the council as a group has not met with outside organizations, individual members are connected in a variety of places including:
  - Richmond Society for Community Living – employment services & co-op
  - Richmond transition committee – attended the transitioning youth and family joint presentation by CLBC, MCFD, MSD and the PGT
  - Richmond education committee

### 3. What is working well in your region?

- The Richmond council is comprised of Richmond stakeholders which include 2 self-advocates, 3 family members and 1 service provider and 2 community members
- Each council member brings to the table a diversity of community living experience and knowledge and a willingness to participate in the council initiatives and goals
- The council met 6 times this past year; meeting agendas were prepared in advance and attendance at each meeting was good
- Some new council members joined the council due to turnover but good representation continues
- Megan continues to provide good support and patience with us which all of us appreciate!

<b>Community Council</b>	North Region Community Council
<b>Council Chair</b>	Bonnie Fallowfield

## 1. Highlights of your Community Council projects or initiatives

### April 2010

- Bonnie Fallowfield, Terry Robertson and Barb Warkentine attend the FSI training weekend

### May 2010

- Ann Peltier attended the Federation Community Consultation on the redesign of residential services
- David Johnston was nominated to be on the BC Peoples First provincial Board
- Council members attended the PLAN FORUM- Connecting for a Better Future, a conversation about encouraging creativity and innovation in community living
- Ruth Stanton and 6 other Self Advocates attended the leadership conference in Abbotsford. Ruth and 3 other Self Advocates also led the session in Vanderhoof – “What being a Self Advocate is all about

### June 2010

- Bonnie Fallowfield, Terry Robertson and Pat Marshall attended the Provincial Advisory Committee/Community Council discussion centered around the Aging Project, Communications, Inclusion and Community Engagement

### October 2010

- Jackie Allen, Barb Warkentine and David Johnston attended the BCACL Conference in Whistler. David said the conference was good – dance was awesome, David was the social butterfly. David had a lot of people ask him questions. David helped facilitate the Reciprocal Relationships: The Final Frontier workshop. Terry Robertson attended the as the Chairperson of Family Focus, the National Family Conference hosted by Family Focus/BCACL and ACL and giving a presentation to over 500 registered professionals and family members
- Colleen Hermanson attended the Employment for Self Advocates conference October 14-16, 2010

### March 2010

- Council members’ Bonnie Fallowfield and Sharon Taylor discussed the use of iPod’s with the Proloquo2go software for individuals who are non verbal. Bonnie has experience with her students using the device and Sharon Taylor has experience with some of her clients and their successes. Sharon Taylor brought one of the devices to the Council meeting and demonstrated its’ functions. Council members’ and staff were very impressed with the opportunities the iPod and the software provided to individuals with developmental disabilities who are non verbal. After some discussion, Council members suggested to staff that a “Pilot Project” be initiated using Community Development funding to provide 7 of these devices to individuals throughout the North Region. Community Council members and staff provided the CPD manager with names of likely individuals in their respective communities who may benefit. The submitted names were reviewed and requests for a release to

publish the names of these folks and their experiences were provided. The recipients are:

- Mark Gairdner – Fort Nelson
- Brett Warkentine – Prince George
- David Leblanc – Quesnel
- Arthur Kipling - Chetwynd
- Ryan Blackwell -Smithers
- Max Kauth – Port Edward
- Deanna Freeman – Terrace

At the time of this writing, the folks were just beginning to use the iPods and have not reported back yet with their experiences.

### **October's Community Living Month Events**

Dawson Creek – October 1st BBQ - hot dogs, hamburgers, cookies, cake, drinks, music, self advocate speakers, prizes. David delivered a presentation and was interviewed on local TV

Smithers – October 1st, held at High Roads, the Appreciation BBQ had speakers, displays and lots of food. This event was attended by approximately 110 community members, self advocates, families and friends

Quesnel – October 8th - WALK THE TALK – Quesnel Youth and Adults with Developmental Disabilities met at City Hall – marched down Kinchant Street –past the Court House on Barlow Avenue, and up Reid Street to assemble at the Four Corners stage. Cake and Refreshments were served. The Mayor's assistant proclaimed October to be Community Living Month in Quesnel

Fort St. John – Oct 8th –Appreciation Luncheon – Northern Grand hosted by Fort St. John Association for Community Living

Prince George – October 15th Appreciation Luncheon 11 am to 2 pm. Displays and information tables. Speech given by the Mayor

Terrace – October 22nd Skeena Mall, Community Room Displays and information tables. The Mayor was in attendance, gave a speech and met with the Self Advocates

- **Prince Rupert** – They had cake and information session in mall. A few dignitaries were present. Colleen had discussions with the local food outlet manager on our individuals becoming potential employees

## **2. Groups, people and organizations your Community Council met with during the past year**

### **April 2010**

- Paul Sibley, Director, Regional Operations North Region – Attended the April 10, 2010 Community Council Meeting

### **May 2010**

- Wendy Framst, Quality Services Manager – Attended the May 15, 2010 Community Council Meeting
- Norm Carne, Regional Finance Manager – Attended the May 15, 2010 Community Council Meeting
- Pat Marshall and Community Relations Specialist, Caitlyn Sassaman met with the City of Dawson Creek and the MLA Office in Dawson Creek. They also met with the City of Fort St John, Fort St John MLA and the Fort St John Chamber of Commerce

## September 2010

- Pat Marshall and Community Relations Specialist, Caitlyn Sassaman met with Cathy Olmstead, Director of Community Services, CA Shelly Worthington, and Susan Basset Director of Corp Services for the Town of Smithers. In Terrace, met with the MLA's CA Denis Gagne and with members from the City of Terrace, In Prince Rupert we met with Rudy Kelly, Director of Recreation and Community Services; Maynard Angus, District Chamber of Commerce and Manager, Public Affairs for the Prince Rupert Port Authority and MLA Gary Coons

## October 2010

- Jane Holland, Advocate for Service Quality attended the October 16<sup>th</sup> Community Council meeting to discuss the purpose of the Advocate for Service Quality
- Malachy Tohill, Regional Director, BC Housing and Chris Wetmore, Health Services Coordinator attended the October 16<sup>th</sup> Community Council meeting and gave overviews of the application process and the application web sites regarding housing in the north.

## November 2010

- Paul Sibley, Director, Regional Operations North Region attended the November 20, 2010 Community Council Meeting

### 3. What is working well in your region?

- The amalgamation of the three Community Councils' into one Regional Community Council has worked very well. The North Region is well represented with families, individuals, community members and service providers
- The Committees that are responsible for Recruitment, Community Awareness and Self Advocacy are active and reporting back to the council every month on their activities. The membership of the North Region Community Council is at capacity and other potential members are constantly being approached to measure their level of interest at some future point
- Community Council members providing information to staff regarding venues, guests and other details of their communities so that events are successful and informative
- The Community Council members' monthly round table where every member provides updates on concerns, successes and stories about their home community and area