

This edition's theme:

Marking Canada 150 - A new generation of possibilities and where we want to go from here

CLBC Magazine

Summer 2017

Celebrate

Diverse **ABILITIES**

Stories from around British Columbia



COMMUNITY LIVING
BRITISH COLUMBIA

How far I've come

Read about Nathan's five-year journey to reach his educational goals.

page 15

Nathan Bodie celebrates at his graduation ceremony at the University of Victoria.



MESSAGE FROM CEO SEONAG MACRAE



Looking to the future on Canada's 150th birthday

Welcome to the summer edition of *Celebrate Diverse Abilities*, a publication developed by our CLBC Editorial Board and written by self advocates in British Columbia.

This summer Canada marked its 150th birthday. It's a time to reflect on the past and also look to the future. In this edition of the magazine, self advocates from across the province share stories about their lives, reflecting how the hard work of previous generations has opened up the possibility of a better future for inclusion. You can read about people living independently, gaining an education, travelling abroad, creating music and more.

As an organization, CLBC is also looking to the future, and making plans for what we want to achieve in the years ahead. In March, CLBC released its 2017 – 2020 Strategic Plan. The plan sets goals for better quality of life outcomes and improved experiences for the individuals and families CLBC supports, as well as more efficient operations and enhanced partnerships with our service providers. This plan was developed in consultation with individuals, families, service providers and other community partners, and is reviewed annually.

To support the plan and its goals, CLBC has identified a range of priority projects that it has begun to implement. You can read about some of these projects, including Advancing New Support Options, an improved planning process and the refresh of the CLBC website, in the News section on pages 4 and 5.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the Honourable Shane Simpson as the new Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and Minister responsible for CLBC. You can read more about Minister Simpson in the News section as well.

Thank you as always for reading and I hope you have had a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

Seonag Macrae
CEO, Community Living BC

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A special thanks to Editorial Board members and CLBC staff who provided writing and technical support to the authors of our the stories and articles in this edition.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Where we've come from and where we want to go from here

Hello! We are the CLBC Editorial Board made up of Self Advocate and Community Living leaders from across the province. Our role is to work with CLBC to improve communication with the people they serve. Working together on this magazine has been one opportunity to share with CLBC about what we think is important. The Editorial Board also provides feedback and suggestions on projects and new initiatives that CLBC is working on.

In this edition we are proud to recognize Canada's 150th anniversary and to celebrate how the lives of people with diverse abilities have improved over the years in our country. We have chosen to focus this edition on acknowledging our history as people who have been labelled, while at the same time celebrating inclusion and the opportunities people have today.

To prepare for this edition we talked about what we appreciate about our lives today - things like having more choice about where we live, having a job, being respected in community, going to university and getting married. We also talked about the fact that this isn't the reality for everyone and that we still have a long way to go to make sure people with diverse abilities have lives filled with possibility in welcoming communities. Board member Nathan Bodie from Victoria says, "We still need more understanding from others to think that we are one with everyone else and not separate."

We are excited to share stories from around the province about how things have changed since the days of being told we belong in an institution. We are excited to share stories about fully participating in community, building support networks and boosting confidence through music.



We'd like to thank all the members of the self advocacy community and others with diverse abilities who contributed their story to our magazine. Happy Birthday Canada!

We look forward to your feedback and suggestions for the next edition of Celebrate Diverse ABILITIES.

Sincerely,

CLBC Editorial Board Members are: *standing* - Gerald Oesch (Chilliwack), Rob Tippe (Revelstoke), John O'Neill (Nelson), Bryce Schaufelberger (Mission) Nathan Bodie (Victoria). *seated* - Aine Rathwell (Vancouver), Jennifer Dosanj (Surrey), Tamara Russell (Parksville), Jhenna Owen (Kamloops).

The CLBC Editorial Board

CLBC welcomes Minister Shane Simpson

Community Living BC warmly welcomes the Honourable Shane Simpson, MLA for Vancouver-Hastings, as the new Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and Minister responsible for CLBC.

Minister Simpson brings to this position significant experience having first been elected to the B.C. Legislature in 2005. During his time as an MLA, he has served as Opposition Critic for Labour, Housing and the Environment and most recently as Opposition Spokesperson for Economic Development, Jobs, Labour and Skills. Minister Simpson has lived, worked, and engaged in community-building activities in his community of East Vancouver since 1971.

For his contributions to community, he has been recognized with the Governor General's 125th Anniversary Commemorative Medal and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.



How CLBC plans with individuals and families

Planning for individuals and families is a very important component of the work CLBC does with the people we serve. CLBC's three-phase Planning Project is reviewing how CLBC does its planning in response to requests from families for improvement. The project is currently in its second phase which includes testing and live "trialing" the "Welcome to CLBC" process and planning tools. The third component, developing information about CLBC, will be tested and trialed in early 2018.

Initial learning from users on the design of the Welcome to CLBC component was collected through 16 sessions in Victoria, Abbotsford, Kelowna and Terrace in June 2017.

In these sessions, the project team learned from individuals, families, CLBC-funded service providers and CLBC staff who tested potential draft planning tools and processes on paper. The draft design for the new planning process now incorporates this learning, with the improved version being trialed this summer with people in Salmon Arm, Merritt, Surrey, Nanaimo, and Vancouver. Their job will be to evaluate the experience of using this process.

The Planning Project is one of the key projects for CLBC in 2017/2018, and helps to meet one of the four goals of our Strategic Plan: Improved Individual and Family Experiences.



To read CLBC news updates, visit:
www.CommunityLivingBC.ca/News

To read Self Advocacy stories
from across B.C., visit:
www.SelfAdvocateNet.com

CLBC trials new community inclusion service

The Advancing New Support Options (ANSO) project was launched by CLBC to develop a new service for positive outcomes in employment, community connections, relationships, and lifelong learning. The first phase of the project (consultation) is completed and we are in the second phase (design), which involves live trials of the draft model of this service in four communities across B.C.

The following agencies have been selected to participate in the trials with individuals, families and CLBC staff from September to November 2017: **REALM (Cranbrook), AiMHi (Prince**

George), Langley Association for Community Living (Langley), Lifetime Networks Victoria (Victoria)

CLBC is currently working on plans for internal preparations as the trials take place. The launch of the new service is expected in spring 2019. This is an extension of the original timeline to provide CLBC more time for evaluation and to ensure the smooth launch of the new service is planned and implemented.

Final details about implementation will be determined and communicated in the coming year.

Quality of life survey marks a busy summer

CLBC's *include Me!* team has been busy the past few months gathering more information about the quality of life of people we serve. They have been working with agencies who provide services to set up the opportunity for people to take the *include Me!* Survey.

Surveys have been going in the Vancouver Coastal, Fraser, Southern Interior and Kootenay regions of B.C. In the fall, surveys will expand to part of the North. A research company takes the surveys and creates a report for each service provider as well as a report for each region.

This report helps CLBC and service providers learn more about how our services may be able to help make peoples' quality of life better. It is an important part of how we are always making sure we are improving our services.

Thank you to everyone who participated this time. More surveys will be happening in these regions starting again in September.

If you would like more information about *include Me!*, call Jennifer Wheadon at 604-209-5848 or Chelsea Muskens at 250-808-3845.

Creating a more user-friendly CLBC website

CLBC is currently refreshing its website (www.communitylivingbc.ca) to make it more effective for individuals and families we serve by providing information in a more user-friendly and accessible manner.

The process is currently underway and will involve consultation with individuals and families to ensure the content, navigation and design meet their needs. The refreshed website is expected to launch publicly in Spring 2018.

REGIONAL STORIES: FRASER



The story of my life

by Gerald Oesch

Hello, my name is Gerald Oesch from Chilliwack B.C. I am the newest member of the CLBC Editorial Board. I'm very happy to be joining this board. I am also the new Vice President of BC People First where we work to make sure that people with a developmental disabilities are respected and included in communities as full citizens. You can learn more about BC People First here: www.bcpeoplefirst.com. I'm a proud Mount Cheam Lion member too.

Here's a little bit about my life.

I was born on October 8, 1966 in Chilliwack General Hospital. I went to little Mountain Elementary School. I was in a special class for slow learners and then later on I got a lot older and went to Chilliwack Junior High. I was bullied a lot then. Later, I attended Chilliwack Senior High. It was better in high school. The odd student would call me names. In the winter I was hit by snow balls a lot. There was one person at

school that stood up to one of the bullies and told him to stop. He did, and after that I wasn't bullied again.

In 1985, I graduated from grade 12 vocational basic class. Later on I got a job in the laundry business. I ran washing machines for at least 10 years. Later on I gave up that job and I now work at the Chilliwack Society for Community Living as a maintenance assistant for almost six years now. I love my job and the staff that I work with. I also work at the City of Chilliwack as a contractor sweeping parking lots and recycling.

I live in an apartment building called Fair View Apartments. I have a support worker and she helps me a lot with shopping and paying bills. I am married but now separated. We still see each other at times, but we don't live together now.

I know that people are still bullied and sometimes don't feel safe in their own communities, but I do think things have changed for the better over the years for people with diverse abilities. For me, I have jobs that I love and my own apartment, and I enjoy being a self advocate.



"I do think things have changed for the better over the years for people with diverse abilities."

Gerald Oesch



Moving out on my own

by Wes Bosma (originally published on SelfAdvocateNet.com)

I am twenty-six years old and I finally moved out of my parents' place to a new place on my own. I want to share my experiences and thoughts on what I like about living at the Chorus Apartments.

Some of my friends are a lot closer now and some live at Chorus. I love having them over to visit me.

It is nice to have my own privacy to live at the apartment on my own without my parents around. It is nice to have my own personalized space to share with my friends.

Since living on my own and having friends close by, I go out with them more often. For example, we to the movies, to the Eagles games and even to the pub. Overall, because my friends are so close, I feel less lonely.

I have more people around in my life. I bump into friends in the hallway and we get to chat and make plans. Everyone is a short distance and only a phone call away.

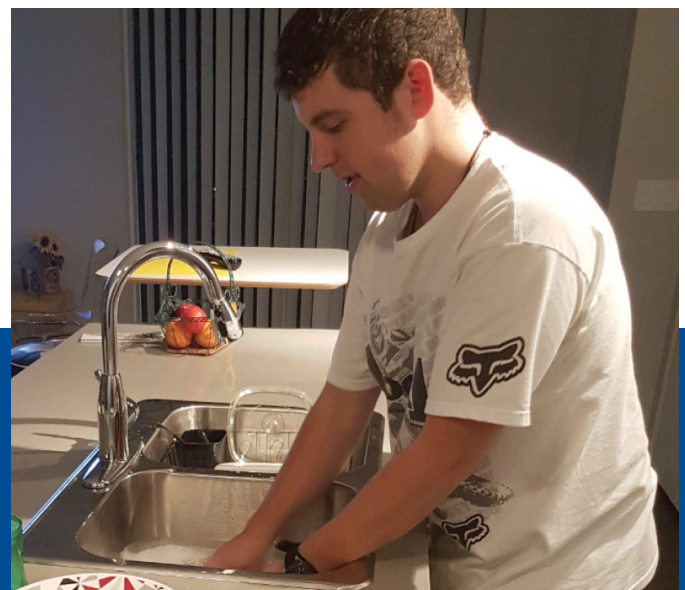
Staff are around to help with life skills such as cooking, shopping and menu planning. It is nice to have someone around to visit and talk to if I have a problem big or small.

Since moving out of my parents and into Chorus Apartments there are many things I had to learn and be able to do all on my own. Getting up on my own is something that I do on my own. It was a big concern in the beginning but I have never slept in or been late to work.

Cooking was something mom always had done for me. It is something I now do for myself. I make breakfast in the morning, dinner at night and pack my lunch for work. It is nice to have the freedom to choose what I like to eat.

Cleaning is something I do on my own. I clean without having to be reminded. I also pay my bills on my own (online and always on time).

There was a point that I did not think I could do it all on my own. I feel happy living at Chorus Apartments. I feel less lonely now and a part of something new. I am proud of myself.



"It is nice to have my own personalized space to share with friends."

Wes Bosma

REGIONAL STORIES: INTERIOR



How life has changed for the better

by Rob Tippe

I think things have gotten better for people with disabilities because there are more community agencies and professionals that believe in people and believe that we can succeed. When I was growing up people always thought that I would never finish high school, or get married and that I should live in an institution. But here I am today—married, home owner and own my own business, ‘Rob’s Handy Service.’ It just goes to show that when you put your mind to something and when others believe in you, you can actually achieve.

Luckily when I was growing up, both my mom and dad knew that it just might take me more time to learn and get ahead, but that didn’t mean I couldn’t succeed. For my parents they didn’t have support from agencies or school like there is today. In grade 2, I was put in a cardboard box if I didn’t work on my lessons. In grade 3, I was tested and they told me that I should be put in an institution.

In grade 6 and 7, teaching was different and my mom was happy that I was going to be able to go to high school and I was put in a modified program. High school teachers started teaching at my level and I was allowed to actively participate. My mom was my school partner after school from 4pm to 9pm and I graduated from high school with the support from my family and service providers who believed in me.

Today, there are community organizations and advocates that can help people get through the hard times and who care. My life has changed today because of my own self advocacy and because of other community advocates who I can count on. I want to thank all the service providers who have actually helped me through my life to become the person I am today.



*Rob Tippe
with his
parents Bob
and Sharon.*



Learn more about Self Advocates
of the Rockies at:
www.realmbc.ca/Information.html



Cranbrook

Celebrating self advocacy leadership

by Lynnetta Beingessner

Along with Canada's 150th, we have a lot to celebrate when it comes to self advocacy leadership in B.C. There are over 50 self advocacy groups across the province speaking up for the rights of people with diverse abilities and attaining full citizenship in the community. One of these groups is called the Self Advocates of the Rockies. Lynnetta Beingessner is Chair of this group, as well as self advocate representative on the CLBC Kootenay Community Council.

Hello! My name is Lynnetta. I work in the office at REALM, an employment, community inclusion and outreach agency. As a member of the Kootenay Community Council, I tell other council members about what is happening with persons with disabilities in my community of Cranbrook. I bring up things that are problems and things that are going really well in my area. I let others know I can take their problems to council. I speak up and ask for things to be said in plain language so everyone can understand.

I am also the Chair of Self Advocates of the Rockies. Together with the council we published a brochure and checklist that empowers individuals to ask questions about their rights before making decisions about services, including home sharing. Some examples of questions to ask when choosing a Home Share provider are:

Can I have friends over?

Will I be able to put things on the wall?

Can I have my own key?

Will I be able to decide when I go to bed?

What house rules do you have?

Can I have a pet?

Self Advocates of the Rockies and the Kootenay Community Council are also working together to host the bi-annual CLBC-sponsored Interior Self Advocacy Leadership Conference. This year's theme is Building Confidence through Knowledge and you can find more information below. I hope to see you there!

Interior Self Advocate Leadership Conference 2018

Where: St. Eugene Golf Resort & Casino, Cranbrook, British Columbia (www.StEugene.ca)

When: October 20 & 21, 2017

Hosted by: Kootenay Community Council & The Self-Advocates of the Rockies

This is a CLBC-sponsored event, planned and organized by self advocates, for self advocates, family, friends, care providers and service providers. Information to come will include keynote speakers, venue, travel directions. Information to come will include keynote speakers, venue, travel directions.

Questions?

Contact Jonathan Righton (j.righton@realmbc.ca) or Ana Yost (a.yost@realmbc.ca) or call 250-426-3393.

REGIONAL STORIES: NORTH

Gitsegukla



Changing the world through music

By Samuel Milton

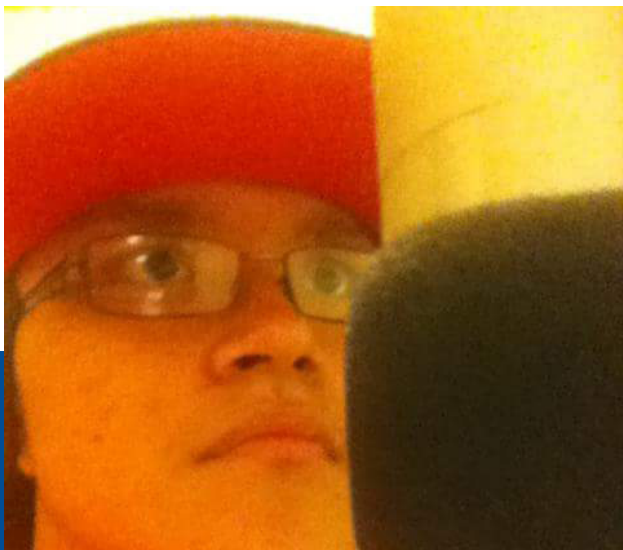
My interest in music started by listening to hip hop artist Tupac Shakur. He had messages about changing the world.

When I first started, I had to learn how to rhyme and write music and how to put messages together.

It was five years later that I performed in front of 1,000 people at the Prince George 2015 “Gathering Our Voices” Aboriginal Youth Conference. The day before the conference I was pretty nervous. My hands were shaking and I wasn’t sure I could go through with it. I said to my family, “I don’t think I can do this.” My brothers and sisters said, “We want to see you up on that stage.”

So I did it. I performed my own song called “Lost in Society” and got the biggest standing ovation. The song is about boosting confidence within ourselves and not listening to what other people say. My message is that no matter how you look, no one should judge you for who you are.

Ever since then I’ve had my own ups and downs, but now I have fans who tell me my music makes them think and have more confidence. No one should ever feel left out or misplaced. I want to continue to share my messages, boost people’s confidence and change the world through music.



“I want to continue to share my messages, boost people’s confidence and change the world through music.”

Samuel Milton



You can learn more about
VELA Microboards at:
www.velacanada.com

Prince
George



Heading down under to share my story

by Bree Robertson (originally published on SelfAdvocateNet.com)

My name is Bree and I live in Prince George, B.C. Last summer I was invited by Vela Microboards to speak at conference in Melbourne, Australia!

It was the World Congress for the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD).

My presentation was about my self-directed life, which is possible as a result of my having a micro board. I shared how I get to decide what I do and when, from the time I get up to where I go during the day, to who I do it with.

I get a say in who supports me and how. I get to travel to lots of places, close to home and far away.

I wanted my audience to learn that no matter your level of disability, you can lead a good life, full of fun and adventure.

You can control your life, with the proper supports. For me this is important because I am a person who can literally do nothing for myself, other than breathe, and yet I have a great life,

doing what I want to do, when I want to do it (within reason of course – I have to be safe, and my money isn't exactly unlimited). I really wanted people to learn and remember that despite my obvious limitations, I enjoy my life.

The best part of the trip for me was meeting new people at the conference, and sharing my story with them.

It is important to me to share my story because I know there are lots of people with disabilities and their families and other caregivers who don't think that they can control their own lives, and that they can't experience the kinds of things that other people without disabilities can.

I know that that isn't true. My life, because of my micro board and my family, has been a great adventure.

“I wanted my audience to learn that no matter your level of disability, you can lead a good life.”

Bree Robertson



REGIONAL STORIES: VANCOUVER COASTAL



A community full of connections

Interview by Aine Rathwell

Alison is a member of Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network (PLAN). Alison is a very active person. She plays lots of sports, she is a Special Olympic Athlete and a community volunteer. CLBC Editorial Board member Aine Rathwell interviewed Alison to hear her story.

Aine: Tell me about your PLAN Network.

Alison: I love to have a PLAN Network. I have lots of friends, and gatherings. I like this a lot.

Has your Network increased your friendships?

Yes! I know lots of people. I have a great Connector named Rebecca, she organizes lots of gathering with my friends. She is really good at being a Connector. She should get a raise!

How do you feel about having a network?

I feel so good about it! I feel lucky to have a PLAN Network and I thank my mom for joining PLAN. Having a network of friends means that I have people to talk to, or to help me out when I need them.

What are some of the highlights of your network?

I have had lots of fun gatherings with my friends. Some of the things we have done include pumpkin carving, card making, paddle boating, movies and bowling.



PLAN is family-led non-profit organization dedicated to building inclusive communities for all citizens. We were founded in 1989 by parents who wanted to ensure their children could live good lives and contribute to their communities - especially once parents have passed away. While our founders were initially focused on their children with disabilities, the five components we use to define a good life are universal: loving friends and family, a home of one's own, financial security, participating in decision making and the ability to contribute their unique gifts.

Together with families, PLAN:

- builds personal support networks that empower contribution and full citizenship
- implements plans to ensure loved ones with disabilities are safe and secure for their lifetime
- brings together a network of families to provide mutual support and learning opportunities

To learn more, visit www.plan.ca, email hello@plan.ca or call [604.439.9566](tel:604.439.9566).

Richard's full story is included in a new story book and resource guide on aging that CLBC, with the help of our partners in community, is currently developing. Information about the new book will be shared on the CLBC website in the coming months.



Look out life!

by Richard MacDonald

Richard MacDonald was born in 1943 in Vancouver, B.C. He lived in both Woodlands and Tranquille. His experiences in these two institutions have been the source of his passionate advocacy on behalf of other survivors of institutions in B.C. Richard was a key member of the coalition who worked to ensure that the Centre Block at Woodlands was razed to the ground. For this conversation, Richard was interviewed by his friend Jandy about getting older, what he knows now at 72, and what he feels he has yet to do.

When asked for his insights about getting older, Richard offered “the thing is, everybody is getting older...I just want to continue what I am doing...talk about things while I’ve got a good mind and can help people realize what aging is about.”

He uses a ladder as his metaphor for the aging process, “My way of thinking about getting older is you start at the bottom step and keep climbing, accomplishing things along the way. You climb up one side – to the mid point of your life, go over the top, and down the other. When you get to the bottom rung on the other side, you’ll know you accomplished what you’d want to do.”

Richard has a keen sense of responsibility to be a force of change; to challenge injustice and discrimination. Climbing the ladder of life is part of a commitment to accomplishing the changes he feels are necessary to help others with developmental disabilities live full, happy, and safe lives as members of their communities.

Richard recommends planning ahead to be responsive to the aging process, including ensuring a Representation Agreement is in place, “People need to talk about getting older...

others need to know what you want, and think about things so that they can help you.” He also reflected on the importance of friends and family for support. “I never did get married or have children...one thing I wish I had done, (because) then I would have a family for support. I would have if I hadn’t ended up in Woodlands – that was taken away from me.”

When asked about what he knows now that he is in his ’70s, Richard said, “I hope I’ve left a legacy for others to benefit from – I want others to know what I did so that they can continue the work.” He is deeply proud of his involvement in bringing down the Centre Block at Woodlands and the creation of the Memorial Gardens there. He also knows how important it remains to keep speaking up for and with others about the harm that institutions have done in order to prevent their use again to house people with disabilities.

Despite his many accomplishments, Richard has more to do. Already a published author, he would still like to write a book of jokes to market and has aspirations of having his “name in lights as a stand up comic.” As he puts it, “I have accomplished a lot in my life, but there’s more I want to do – look out life!”



REGIONAL STORIES: VANCOUVER ISLAND



My co-operative living arrangement

by Tamara Russell

My name is Tamara Russell. I have been living in B.C. for close to 17 years. The things that are most important to me are my independence, having a job, family and friends, and belonging in my community.

I feel like over the years things have gotten better for people with disabilities. My voice is being heard and my choices are being respected by CLBC, doctors, and my family. There are more employment opportunities and I feel the community is more aware and supportive of persons with disabilities.

I also feel lucky to live in what I call 'co-operative living' here in Parksville. CLBC uses the term Home Sharing, but I like using 'co-operative living' because it feels more respectful for the independent person I am. I live in my own suite that is attached to a family home. I come and go as I choose, but have the support of my co-operative family when I need them. I don't have cooking facilities but I have a microwave and a

fridge. My dinners are given to me by the family I share my home with. This kind of arrangement is successful for me as I am learning to be more independent and take on responsibilities and learning to save my money and budget.

For life to continue getting better for people with diverse abilities we need opportunities to be independent. We need affordable places to live in our communities.

I am really blessed because I have a co-operative family that truly care about me and my life. I love the environment, their horses, how close it is to town and they are an amazing family. I have been living with my co-operative family for almost five years now and I don't anticipate it ever changing.



"I am learning to be more independent and take on responsibilities."

Tamara Russell



Learn more about STEPS Forward at:
www.steps-forward.org



Victoria

How far I've come

by Nathan Bodie

When I was 27, I had a fear of not having any idea what I wanted to do for a living. The only thing I knew was that I wanted to do something that people would remember me by and in which I would have a huge impact, thus hoping I could change people's perceptions about people with disabilities. My fear was alleviated when I started studying Political Science and Social Justice at the University of Victoria.

All my life I wanted to go to university. It felt like something I was supposed to do after being done with high school. When I first started I felt excited and energized. Instead of just going in circles with my life, I was going in circles trying to find my classroom at the University of Victoria campus!

My experience at university was everything I expected and much, much more. The memories and bonds I created there will last forever.



I was able to go to university through the support of STEPS Forward, the B.C. initiative for inclusive post-secondary education. The STEPS inclusion facilitators helped me to map my way through class and the campus community. We had daily check-in meetings to help me with assignments or just to see how things were going.

After five years of studies at UVic I can say I have started to reach my goal of making a lasting impact. Before this year, students supported by STEPS Forward have not been allowed to attend convocation. This wasn't right to me, so I started to advocate with a friend and fellow student and our speaking up made a difference. Over 4,000 students signed a petition asking UVic to allow me, and others supported by STEPS, to participate in convocation.

On Wednesday June 14 I graduated from UVic with a Certificate of Completion. I was under a lot of pressure because I have been really anxious for this moment that stood before me that afternoon. It was a numbing feeling of shock that I'm still in today. The hard work and the sacrifice that not only I made, but people around me made, I wouldn't change it for anything. As I saw that completion certificate in my hand, I realized that I'd give up nothing for that moment.

"The memories and bonds I created will last forever."

Nathan Bodie

IN MEMORIAM

Honouring Joe Rikley

March 1, 1980 - July 19, 2017

We are writing this story to honour a friend and self advocate leader who passed away suddenly on July 19, 2017. Joe was a leader and musician who went by the name of DJ Wheels. He will be remembered for his epic songs and mad computer skills. Joe had big dreams for his future and was enrolled in business courses at the University of the Fraser Valley before he passed away. He was a loyal employee at HOME Society where he worked as a computer technician for 11 years.

Joe never let the word disability get in his way. He believed in the voice and contributions of people with diverse abilities and helped start the CLBC Editorial Board in 2013. He was a well-known self advocate in the Fraser Valley and belonged to the Mission Self Advocacy group. He was co-founder of SelfAdvocateNet.com, which he ran with his friend Bryce Schaufelberger for 17 years. It is the only website in B.C. that pays self advocates to publish stories about their lives and the contributions they make as full citizens in their communities.



Joe's smile, resilience, and passions for music and for making a difference in his community will be remembered by his friends, family and colleagues who miss him dearly.

"My friend Joe was great person. He had a manner of respect in how he conducted himself to you. Joe had willpower to succeed in living a life of happiness. Joe showed us determination. He proved people wrong about disabilities and ignored those that put you down. He would just go for it and he would do it," says his friend Bryce Schaufelberger.

Joe was also an integral part of the annual B.C. Self Advocacy Leadership Institute. This year will be the 18th retreat of self advocates, supporters and allies who will gather to network, share stories and learn about advocacy, rights, safety and much more. See below for more details on this year's event.

18th Annual Self Advocacy Leadership Institute

Where: Camp Luther Retreat Centre, 9311 Shook Road, Mission, B.C., Fraser Valley

When: November 10 – November 12, 2017;
4:30 pm on Friday to 12:00 pm (Noon) on Sunday

For Questions and Registration: Please call coordinator Gregg Schiller at 604-688-7001 or by e-mail at GreggSchiller@shaw.ca.

CLBC Contact Information

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