

This edition's theme:

**FROM LEADERSHIP TO COMMUNITY:
SELF-ADVOCACY ACROSS B.C.**

SPRING 2026



COMMUNITY LIVING
BRITISH COLUMBIA

**CELEBRATE
DIVERSE
ABILITIES**

Stories from around British Columbia

**Partnering with
Self-Advocacy
Leadership to
build CLBC's next
Strategic Plan**

Pages 8 & 9



Riley Koyanagi shared ideas and insights at a recent self-advocate-led strategic planning engagement session in Richmond.

MESSAGE FROM Ross Chilton, CLBC CEO



Leadership that builds community

Across British Columbia, self-advocacy leaders are speaking up, supporting one another, and helping shape their communities.

We see this leadership throughout this year's Celebrate Diverse Abilities magazine, which focuses on the theme "From Leadership to Community: Self-Advocacy Across B.C." This includes the work of self-advocate groups who hosted engagement sessions to gather feedback for CLBC's 2026–2029 Strategic Plan.

I am especially proud of this work. It reflects CLBC's commitment to investing in and supporting the leadership of the people we serve. A self-advocate-led approach helped us hear from more people with lived experience than ever before and reach communities we might not otherwise connect with.

In these spaces, self-advocates did more than share their experiences—they led conversations and shaped how engagement happened. This is how stronger, more inclusive communities are built, and how CLBC becomes a more informed and responsive organization: when people are meaningfully included, their voices are heard, and they help shape what comes next.

We know there is still more work to do to ensure the people CLBC serves have meaningful opportunities to lead and participate in their communities. That work continues.

I will be retiring as CLBC's CEO within the coming year. As I step away, I encourage you to think about how you listen to, learn from, and work alongside people with lived experience of developmental disability.

Whether you are part of government, a service provider, or a community organization, consider how self-advocates are included in your work—and how their leadership can be supported in meaningful ways.

From my experience, it is always worth it. When we invest in people with lived experience, communities become stronger, more connected, and more inclusive for everyone.

I hope you enjoy reading these stories from across B.C. and learning from the many ways self-advocates are showing leadership in their communities.

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Ross Chilton

CEO, Community Living BC

MESSAGE FROM The Editorial Team

clockwise from top left: Editorial Team Members Krista Milne, Bryce Schaufelberger, Alexander Magnussen, Michael McLellan and Dara Watson connect from across the province to plan and create the Celebrate Diverse Abilities magazine.

Special thanks to Editorial Team members and CLBC staff who provided writing and technical support to the authors.

Listening, learning and building community together

Thank you for reading the stories in this magazine about self-advocates across B.C. and the many ways they show leadership in their communities.

When thinking about a theme for this edition, the Editorial Team, made up of self-advocates from around the province, talked about what leadership means to us today. We also talked about how leadership connects to community, and why both are important.

We chose the theme “From Leadership to Community: Self-Advocacy Across B.C.” because leadership and community are closely connected.

Self-advocate leadership is about spreading awareness and showing that people with disabilities can and do lead. It helps others see what is possible and reminds people that anyone can be a leader, no matter where they live or what community they are part of.

Leadership looks different for everyone. It can be speaking up, helping others, volunteering, working, or being part of groups and decision-making. Leadership shows our skills and the value we bring, and it helps build stronger communities.

To us, community means being included, welcomed, and respected. It means people coming together, supporting one another, and making sure everyone belongs, no exceptions.

It also means doing important work that is not always seen, but that makes a difference.

Self-advocacy is a big part of both leadership and community. It is about having a voice, being heard, and standing up for our rights. It also means helping others, especially people who may not always have the chance to speak up.

When self-advocates work together, we build stronger communities. Collaboration helps us share ideas, support each other, and create positive change across B.C.

But there is still more work to do. Not everyone sees themselves as a leader, and not everyone understands what self-advocacy is or why it matters. That is why it is important to keep sharing our stories and raising awareness.

The stories in this magazine show how self-advocates are leading in many ways and are helping to create more inclusive communities.

We hope they inspire you to see leadership in a new way and to help create communities where everyone belongs.

Sincerely,

The Celebrate Diverse Abilities Magazine Editorial Team

Grab the bull by the horns!



Alex Evanshen, past Chair of the North Shore Sunshine Coast Community Council.

Alex Evanshen from North Vancouver helped create a new Vice Chair position on CLBC's Provincial Advisory Committee. He was also the first person to be voted into that position.

He has been the Chair of the North Shore Sunshine Coast Community Council and has helped lead many community events. CLBC Community Councils are local volunteer groups where people supported by CLBC, family and community members share their experiences and work to build more inclusive communities.

I'm proud of my accomplishments so far, especially with CLBC and with being the first Vice Chair of the CLBC Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC).

The PAC is made up of individuals and family members from each of CLBC's 12 Community Councils, appointed by the CLBC Board. Together, they make suggestions to the Board and staff about how to improve the quality of life for people supported by CLBC. The PAC meets four times a year, and once a year with CLBC's Executive, Board and Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC).

If things arise in our Community Council, I can bring those to the PAC. Like, for instance, when we talk about ageing, or inclusive housing or a new project in Squamish about mixed housing, then we can discuss this at PAC. I've helped emcee community events on cultural awareness, ageing and inclusive housing.

We didn't used to have a Vice Chair. I told CLBC I wanted to help lead the PAC, and so they created the role, and we had to get approval from the Board.

It's always important to have a Vice Chair in case something happens to the Chair. One day I hope to see someone in the Chair role who has a diverse ability.

My background is that I speak Spanish, first of all, because my mom is Mexican. Before I served at CLBC, I was the diversity liaison at Capilano College when I was taking courses there.

It's important to just build an understanding of each other in a respectful manner, and to be open to all sorts of cultures and differences, including people with diverse abilities.

For example, there are still too many stories of people with a wheelchair, or support dog facing barriers in businesses and restaurants. There needs to be more education, because it feels awful when you experience this.

I'd like to encourage others to try leading. I know it is going to be hard. But you have to grab the bull by the horns. It will be an adventure, but it will be a worthwhile adventure. There should be a lot more people with diverse abilities doing this.

Finding a voice in home sharing

Julya Hutton is from Surrey, B.C. and loves her home. It is a place where she can relax, feel safe and be herself. She considers her home sharing providers family.

Julya has served on the board of the Home Sharing Support Society BC since it was formed because she wants others to have the same experience.

Home sharing is a CLBC funded service where an adult with developmental disability lives in a person's home and receives support and services based on their personal goals and needs. Home sharing services are offered in many ways. Some people live with a family, others live with a roommate or a couple and some may live in a separate suite that is part of the home.



Julya Hutton, Home Sharing Support Society BC Board Member.

For me, my home share is a place of comfort and for me to be free and have my own open voice. It's a place where my self-advocacy began and I have taken charge of my own life.

I love to travel. I love adventure because it gives me an open insight on the world, and it gives me an understanding of what people are like. I am most proud of becoming independent.

My home sharing providers are super inclusive. We are like a family. What makes me feel comfortable is that I can speak freely with them. For our mental health, when something's on my mind, and it's bothering me, or something's bothering them, we say it.

I got involved with the Board of the Home Sharing Support Society when it began. This was my first time on a Board. Sometimes I just listen to people, because I want to find out their feelings, and it showed me how much work we need to do. And then, after some time, when things started getting done, it was amazing!

One time I spoke up about who we should focus on. Should we focus on the home sharing providers? Or should we focus on supported individuals? I remember saying that all parties need to be equally recognized. They live in the same house, and they both contribute. If both parties are not going to communicate, their mental health is going to go down.

There should definitely be more people with disabilities who serve on boards. It gives them a voice, because they are a vulnerable group. The more people say, the more you learn from them.

For the future, I hope that I hear from individuals in home sharing that they are happy, that they love where they live. And for home sharing providers, that they are happy with the people they live with. I think there will be recognition of what people do, and this will open up to even more positive stories.

BCSALN President highlights big wins, including meeting with B.C. Premier

Michael McLellan is the Co-Founder and President of the BC Self Advocate Leadership Network (BCSALN). He recently completed his term as the first leader labelled with a developmental disability to serve on the B.C. Government's Provincial Accessibility Committee.

The BC Self Advocate Leadership Network (BCSALN) was co-founded in 2019 by Alex Magnusson and myself. It is a way for self-advocacy groups to be part of a bigger network of leaders across the province. We became a non-profit society in 2022. It feels really good to me that we are now coming up to our five-year anniversary of becoming a non-profit society.

We have many different projects with partners. We have partnered with BC People First, a self-advocacy group led by people with developmental disabilities, to host their annual conference. We've also partnered with Inclusion BC, a provincial organization that works to advance inclusion and full participation for people with disabilities, on their annual conference in Nanaimo a few years ago. We also supported the Northern Gathering of leaders in Prince George focusing on shared priorities and how we can support self-advocacy in the North.



Michael McLellan, President and Co-Founder of BCSALN (right), and Alex Magnusson, BCSALN member (left).

We wrote three plain language reports called "Words Matter" to share what words feel respectful and what words continue to talk down to and dehumanize people labelled with developmental disabilities. Those are a big win and were a good start to many things we've done. Recently, we had the chance to talk with people in Scotland, who are just like People First Canada, to share what is going on in other countries around self-advocacy.

Last April we met with B.C. Premier David Eby and other MLAs with the support of the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction Sheila Malcolmson. We were the first delegation of self-advocacy leaders to meet with the Premier. For the future I want to see more mentorship so people can build their leadership skills. I want to see some of our members mentoring people. For example, if you are on a Board, you may want to be mentored on how to be, say, the Board Vice President.

BC SALN now has different working groups. One of our groups came out with an advocacy tip sheet. Another group is going to have a mentoring handbook. Another piece of that is that we brought in a person to do a presentation on marketing.

I'm pretty proud that BC SALN has had several practicum students from UBC Okanagan through the Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship. I supervise the BC SALN part. They have done research on policy. They see the policies we have and have helped us create policy. That is a big win for us.

I just came off BC's Provincial Accessibility Committee, a group advising the government on matters related to accessibility in B.C. I felt I could make good contributions. My ultimate hope is to see somebody with developmental disabilities sitting on the Boards of BC Hydro, BC Ferry Corporation, ICBC and other bodies. That would be my dream for the government.



Nate receives CLBC-funded L.I.F.E. service (Learning, Inclusion, Friendship and Employment) supports from GOAT Support Services based in Nanaimo.

L.I.F.E. Coordinator Carlos Mayem says this inclusion service listens to an individual's personal goals for employment, learning and friendships, and builds supports that evolve around these needs.

Nate's call to arms

Nate lives in Nanaimo. He is creating a network to connect employers with people who want to do part-time work. Nate is not his real name. He has requested we use "Nate" to respect his privacy. He also sometimes goes by the alias "Hotel 8" online.

My idea is about picking up litter to keep Nanaimo clean. I had the idea back in 2023 when I saw a CHEK TV news story about children who got sick playing near a pile of garbage. When I saw that on the news, it was a call to arms. After I saw this, I began picking up litter and posting videos of it on YouTube.

My idea is to assemble a team of business owners who would summon people like me to pick up litter in certain areas of the city. This would be a digital Community Service Network. I would be happy to get out there every week. It's sort of like exercise. As long as I can mobilize my kit, I'm ready for battle.

To help me with my work I have a kit. The first tool is a five-foot long garbage grabber and it has a very strong claw. The second tool I have is a big brown bin, the largest you can get. My bin has a holder for a fire extinguisher, and I know how to use it. I also added some signage to the bin: a yellow diamond "slow" sign, so I can work safely on the street.

I like part-time work, but it is not easy to get. My idea would offer part-time work any time it is needed so people like me can get our bills paid.

The network would have three principles to build trust: First, be civil. Second, be lawful. And the third rule is be fair.

My next steps are to meet with businesses and municipalities. I am working on documenting every piece of equipment I have so that if they want to put people to work, they know exactly what to get. This will help them to mobilize a taskforce of part-timers.

The game of life is very difficult to play. If my ideas can benefit society, I'm willing to go out of my comfort zone to try and change the world in some way, shape or form.

You can watch a video of Nate collecting litter on YouTube by searching for: "Hotel 8: Mike Echo - 7/31/2025"

If you are an employer in Nanaimo who'd like to be part of Nate's network of part-time employers, contact Carlos at carlosmayen@goatsupportservices.ca.



Aspire Richmond Self-Advocates Group is one of five self-advocacy groups who led engagement sessions to help inform CLBC's next Strategic Plan.

Partnering with Self-Advocacy Leadership to build CLBC's next Strategic Plan

Across British Columbia, self-advocate led conversations are shaping the future of CLBC. To help inform its 2026–2029 Strategic Plan, CLBC invested in five self-advocacy groups to lead engagement sessions in their communities: Aspire Richmond Self-Advocates Group, Self-Advocates of Nanaimo, Self-Advocates of the Rockies Group Society, Self-Advocates of Semiahmoo and Speak Up Self-Advocacy Awareness Society (Kamloops). These groups created space and opportunities for individuals receiving support from CLBC to share their experiences, ideas, and feedback.

These sessions were more than conversations. They were opportunities for people with lived experience to guide the discussion and ensure that a wide range of voices were heard. It was an opportunity to facilitate self-advocacy in action. As one member of the Self-Advocates of Nanaimo put it, “I speak up for others and for myself.” The Self-Advocates of Nanaimo are a group dedicated to people with disabilities having a voice and taking positive action. They provide opportunities for advocacy, mentorship, education, and community building.

For many self-advocates, stepping into leadership roles came with a learning curve. Some shared feeling nervous at first, especially when presenting in front of large groups.

“I was nervous, but I was proud of myself for presenting. It got easier after every session,” said Briana from Speak Up Self-Advocacy Awareness Society (SUSA). Based in Kamloops, B.C., SUSA is made up of people with diverse abilities. The group helps individuals learn about their rights and how to stand up for themselves, with a strong belief that everyone has something valuable to share.

Preparation and peer support played an important role. Self-advocates practiced together, took turns leading discussions, and worked to ensure each session was accessible for participants. Over time, their confidence grew and they became comfortable guiding conversations.

Creating a safe and welcoming environment was a shared priority. Clear house rules at the beginning of each session helped reassure people that their voices mattered and that they were free to share honestly.

“People felt safe because there were no wrong answers,” said Vicki, another SUSA facilitator.

One of the strongest leadership skills self-advocates brought to the process was their ability to meet people where they were. Facilitators quickly recognized when questions needed to be adjusted to make them more accessible and easier to understand.

“Plain language helps people feel confident sharing their ideas,” said Emily, Co-Chair of the Self-Advocates of Semiahmoo, a team of self-advocates based in Surrey, B.C. who strive for community inclusion and accessibility, voting participation, and education. They are passionate about collaborating with other local organizations to benefit the community.

Instead of using abstract or technical terms, facilitators leaned on real-life examples, focusing on everyday choices like where people want to live, who they spend time with, or what they want to do in their community. These small shifts helped conversations flow more naturally and encouraged people who might stay quiet to take part.

Because engagement was led by people rooted in their communities, participation was strong and far-reaching. Through the leadership of these five groups, more than 350 individuals served by CLBC shared their voices, representing all five CLBC regions across the province: Vancouver Island, Vancouver Coastal, Fraser Valley, Southern Interior, and North Thompson Cariboo.

For many participants, these sessions offered more than an opportunity to give feedback. They offered connection and the comfort of knowing others shared similar experiences.

“It was nice to hear other people’s stories and know I wasn’t alone,” said Rebecca, a self-advocate who co-facilitated engagement sessions with the Aspire Richmond Self-Advocates Group. Aspire Richmond supports people with developmental disabilities through a range of programs, including self-advocacy groups that create space for people to connect, share experiences, and speak up.

Across communities, similar themes emerged. Many spoke about the importance of accessible communication and clear information, especially during major life transitions.

“People didn’t know what to do after high school. That came up again and again,” Rebecca shared. Participants described how confusing it can be to understand what supports are available and how to access them once school ends.



above: Participants share ideas at the Aspire Richmond Self-Advocates Group strategic planning engagement session.

below: Self-Advocates of Nanaimo hosting an engagement session to hear from people in their community.



Others emphasized the importance of being listened to as decision makers in their own lives. Conversations often returned to having the same choices as everyone else, like where to live, what kind of work or volunteer opportunities to pursue, and how to make friends and stay connected socially.

For self-advocates, this idea sits at the heart of meaningful inclusion. “You can’t serve the community if you don’t ask what people want,” Emily said. “Nothing about us without us means real decision making power.”

CLBC believes that when we invest in the leadership of people we support, we get information that is more honest, meaningful, and useful. Listening directly to people who use CLBC services helps ensure our goals and decisions truly reflect what matters most.

Meet CLBC's Service Delivery Advisors

At CLBC, listening to and learning from lived experience plays an important role in shaping how support is delivered. It helps ensure services reflect the real needs of individuals and families.

Across British Columbia, five Service Delivery Advisors bring that lived experience into their work at CLBC every day. Each brings their own perspective and experiences, helping CLBC better understand the people it serves.

Through their work, they support staff learning, raise awareness about inclusion and accessibility in their communities, and help improve how CLBC services are delivered. Here, they share their stories and the impact they are making across the province.

Myles Himmelreich brings more than 20 years of experience working in the field of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) to his role as a Service Delivery Advisor at CLBC. Before joining CLBC, he led mentoring and self-advocacy groups. He continues to present world-wide to educators, professionals and families. His work is rooted in sharing his own story with FASD and helping others better understand diverse learning needs.

For Myles, his role is about using his experience to help shape how CLBC supports people. He has led FASD Awareness Month activities and develops and delivers training for staff. He also takes part in learning initiatives like CLBC's Welcome Workshops.

He encourages staff to think carefully about how they communicate and how information is received. "This role allows me to show my strengths. It's made me feel that I'm smart and capable, and that I'm making a change."



Myles Himmelreich, Service Delivery Advisor

One resource Myles often shares is CanFASD, a national organization that provides research, tools, and information about FASD. He highlights their language guide as especially helpful. For Myles, sharing resources like this helps reduce stigma and build understanding.



Shelley DeCoste, Service Delivery Advisor

Shelley DeCoste has been working with CLBC since 2013 and was part of a group of self-advocates who encouraged the organization to “walk the talk” by hiring people with lived experience.

In her role, Shelley focuses on making information easier to understand and supporting people to speak up for themselves. She helps ensure CLBC documents are written in plain language so people can understand what is being shared. She also supports individuals during meetings, so their voices are heard and decisions reflect what they want.

Shelley is especially passionate about working with youth who are transitioning into adulthood. She helps them build confidence and learn how to advocate for themselves.

“People with diverse abilities are used to having others speak for them,” she says. “I want them to feel comfortable using their own voices.”

She encourages individuals and families to explore [SelfAdvocateNet.com](https://www.selfadvocatenet.com) to find self-advocacy groups across B.C. and get involved in their communities.

Michelle Goos brings a strong focus on advocacy to her role as a Service Delivery Advisor at CLBC. Before stepping into this role, she worked on contract with CLBC to support the design of the CLBC L.I.F.E. Service and Welcome Workshops, helping shape how information is shared with individuals and families. She is now full-time and based in the Victoria office.

For Michelle, one of the things she is most proud of is being able to offer insight into how individuals and families may be thinking and feeling. Colleagues often come to her with questions about how best to support someone, and she helps them think through different approaches.

Michelle is also a published author whose research focuses on parenting with a disability. She continues to present to organizations and facilitate focus groups, creating space for parents to share their experiences. “Don’t be afraid to say that you’re a parent with a disability,” she says.

She encourages individuals and families to explore her research through the Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship, where they can find information and insights from parents with lived experience.



Michelle Goos, Service Delivery Advisor

Christian Burton brings lived experience and a strong commitment to inclusion to his role as a Service Delivery Advisor at CLBC. For him, the role is a full-circle moment, moving from receiving services to helping shape how they are delivered.

In his role, Christian supports staff learning and connects with individuals and families in the community. He takes part in CLBC's Welcome Workshops and supports staff learning through Water Cooler Talks, an internal learning series. He also attends community events, including youth transition fairs, where he speaks with individuals and families about accessing CLBC services and what to expect.

"Seeing how much people thrive with the right supports brings me joy every day," he says.

Christian highlights Special Olympics as a meaningful way for people to build confidence, form friendships, and feel connected.



Christian Burton, Service Delivery Advisor



David Johnston, Service Delivery Advisor

David Johnston has been a Service Delivery Advisor with CLBC for more than 10 years. He first started in a part-time role and helped advocate for it to become full-time, recognizing the importance of the work. Based in northern B.C., he supports a large and diverse region.

In his role, David develops and delivers training for new staff and co-hosts CLBC's Water Cooler Talks, an internal learning series where staff come together to share ideas and learn from one another. He also connects with service providers and community partners across his region to better understand local needs.

Improving accessibility is an important part of David's work. As a member of the CLBC Accessibility Committee, he helps identify barriers and contribute to changes that make CLBC services more accessible.

"I got hired because I have lived experience, and I can help educate CLBC on different issues," he says. "I can help CLBC support people to have better lives."

He encourages people to learn more about neurodiversity and to connect with organizations like BC People First and CLBC's Community Councils that support self-advocacy and community connection.

Accessibility is a right, not a luxury

Noor Shaker received the BC People First (BCPF) Self-Advocate of the Year Leadership Award. BCPF is a self-advocacy organization led by people with disabilities, and this award recognizes people who speak up and create change in their communities. Noor has cerebral palsy, uses a wheelchair and recently aged out of foster care. She currently serves on a City of Coquitlam roundtable on accessibility and also served on a youth council with the provincial government. She is studying to become a teacher.

I love volunteering, and I love advocating for people, and I'm never one to keep my mouth shut.

I've actually been volunteering with the provincial government since I was 14. I was appointed to be a member of the Stronger BC Young Leaders Council, a provincial advisory group for young people to share ideas and advice with government about issues that affect their future.

The issues that are important to me are people with disabilities and lack of funding. I also advocate for teachers and getting more funding for students with disabilities. I'm very passionate about mental health supports.

I immigrated here from Lebanon in 2009. And then, around grade 9, I really started to realize I didn't like the way things were. I felt really annoyed by accessibility in my city of Port Coquitlam. I wrote an email to the mayor requesting a meeting. I got to meet Mayor Brad West, who is absolutely wonderful. I told him about sidewalks being too narrow and buildings not having automatic doors.

There was a crosswalk and you could cross but there was no lip to get back up. If you had a wheelchair you had to go around into traffic. I sent a picture to the Mayor. Next time I went back it was fixed!

I am sure able-bodied people would be up in arms if they couldn't access a place. So why is it not that big an issue for people with disabilities who can't access places? Some people seem to view accommodation for people with disabilities as a luxury.

I was nominated for the leadership award because of my TikTok videos. I started sharing my story. It was so difficult to get the supports I need. A lot of people were surprised. There is a misconception that people with disabilities get an exuberant amount of funding from the government, when that is not true.

I want to tell people it's their right to speak up. It was scary for me at the beginning, but I slowly built confidence. And it's rewarding to see some problems being fixed.



Noor Shaker, self-advocate and winner of the BC People First Self-Advocate of the Year Leadership Award.

CLBC welcomes new leadership on its Provincial Advisory Committee

CLBC is pleased to welcome new leadership on its Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC). The PAC is made up of people who receive or are eligible to receive CLBC-funded services, along with family members representing 12 regional CLBC Community Councils. The Committee provides advice to Board and CLBC leadership, helping strengthen inclusion, improve services, and reflect the priorities of communities across British Columbia.

CLBC extends its sincere thanks to outgoing Chair Dr. Zafar Adeel (Simon Fraser Community Council) and outgoing Vice-Chair Alex Evanshen (North Shore Sunshine Coast Community Council) for their leadership over the past two years.

At the January 2026 meeting, PAC members elected new leadership including Jennifer Hartley as Provincial Advisory Committee Chair and Alexandria Stuart as Provincial Advisory Committee Vice-Chair

Learn more about the new PAC members and find the latest updates from CLBC by visiting the [What's New](#) section of the website and clicking [News and Stories](#).



left to right: Jennifer Hartley (South Island Community Council) and Alexandria Stuart (Central North Island Community Council) have been elected to leadership roles on the Provincial Advisory Committee.

CLBC News

Sharing our progress on building accessibility

Earlier this year, CLBC released its second-year Accessibility Progress Report, developed in Easy Read format to support clearer and more accessible communication.

The report outlines progress made on CLBC's Five Areas of Action under its Accessibility Plan:

- Relationships make all the difference
- Clear and timely communication is key
- Information needs to be shared in many ways
- Welcoming physical spaces
- Accessible employment is necessary

This year's report also highlights the launch of new plain language infographics designed to help individuals and families better understand what to expect when requesting support from CLBC. The infographics are available in both linear and visual formats to support different ways of accessing information.

These tools are part of CLBC's continued commitment to making information clearer, more consistent, and easier to understand for the people we serve and their families.

Find the report and more information on accessibility at CLBC at www.CommunityLivingBC.ca/Accessibility.

Building CLBC's 2026–2029 Strategic Plan together

As CLBC works toward developing its 2026–2029 Strategic Plan, we want to sincerely thank the community-led leadership that helped make recent engagement efforts so meaningful.

Self-advocacy groups, CLBC Community Councils, service providers, and community partners across B.C. hosted conversations and created welcoming spaces for people with lived experience, family members, and support staff to share what matters most to them. As a result, more than 1,100 people across the province had their voices heard.

Participation reflected all five CLBC regions: Vancouver Island, Vancouver Coastal, Fraser Valley, Southern Interior, and North Thompson Cariboo. People eligible for CLBC services and family members were strongly represented and made up the majority of respondents.

CLBC will post a public summary report outlining key themes from across engagement activities.



Aspire Richmond self advocacy group hosting an engagement session in Richmond, B.C.

This learning will inform a draft Strategic Plan, which will be presented to the CLBC Board for approval. The final 2026–2029 Strategic Plan is expected in late fall 2026.

We are grateful for the collaboration that made this engagement possible and for the many people who contributed their time and experience to help shape the future of CLBC.

Find more information about the Strategic Plan at: www.CommunityLivingBC.ca/About-Us/CLBC-Strategic-Plan

Find answers to frequently asked questions

Do you have questions about CLBC, how services work, or what supports may be available? CLBC's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) webpage helps individuals and families find clear answers in one place.

The FAQ page is designed to make information easier to access and understand. It includes common questions about eligibility, how to apply for CLBC services and what happens after someone is referred to CLBC.

It also provides information about the types of supports that may be available, planning processes, funding options, and how CLBC works with individuals, families, and community partners.

This resource supports CLBC's ongoing commitment to improving access to information and making it easier for people to navigate services and understand what to expect when connecting with CLBC.

The updated FAQ page is a helpful starting point for anyone looking for general information about CLBC and how it supports individuals and families across British Columbia.

To view the full Frequently Asked Questions page, visit: www.CommunityLivingBC.ca/About-Us/Frequently-Asked-Questions

Your voice matters!

Join your local CLBC Community Council

CLBC Community Councils bring people together to help build more inclusive communities and strengthen the way CLBC hears from the people it serves. Councils share lived experience, local knowledge, and ideas directly with CLBC. This includes input that is shared with CLBC's Board through the Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC).

There are 12 Community Councils across British Columbia, made up of self-advocates, family members, service providers, and community partners. Together, they work to support inclusion, accessibility, and connection in their communities.

Community Councils are currently welcoming new members. We are looking for:

- Self-advocates and family members with lived experience
- Community members
- Service providers
- People from Indigenous communities and members who reflect the cultural diversity of their regions



CLBC's Central North Island Community Council at their Spring 2026 Open House.

Being part of a Community Council is a meaningful way to share your voice, connect with others, and help shape the work of CLBC. Members help identify local priorities, share experiences, and support conversations that improve services and strengthen community inclusion.

If you are interested in getting involved, we would love to hear from you. Email CLBC.Connect@gov.bc.ca to get involved, or visit the CLBC website to learn more at: www.CommunityLivingBC.ca/Volunteer/Overview

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