

THE CITIZEN

Connecting People with Their Community



COMMUNITY LIVING
BRITISH COLUMBIA

CLBC Newsletter - July 2007

Volume 3 Issue 4

Honouring the Past



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A woman and a man reflect on a bench at the Woodlands Memorial Gardens. Read about the dedication ceremony on page 15.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Lois Hollstedt



July 1, 2007 was Canada's 140th birthday. It was also Community Living BC's second birthday. Those are just two reasons to celebrate living in Canada, a society that believes in supporting people who face life challenges through taxpayer-funded programs.

CLBC's 2006/07 Annual Service Plan Report was recently published. It shows that more than \$600 million dollars was spent on services last year for over 20,000 people with developmental disabilities. The ability to provide this kind of support is based on both our collective willingness to ensure tax dollars are targeted to people in need and on taxpayers' expectation that funds will be spent responsibly.

Community Living BC's first multi-media campaign was launched in the middle of June. This campaign features a television ad with a true story about Gerry – a gentleman with a developmental disability who took a restaurant to court and won when he and his friends were refused service.

This story illustrates the power of self-advocates who continue to push for equal access to community and society. It asks the viewer – does your community include everyone? – and allows them to think about how far we have come as a society in terms of inclusion.

The campaign was launched to increase awareness in communities across BC to give them a definition of community living. Public awareness is crucial, as it helps those we support access generic services in their

community, and allows CLBC to continue operating within in a balanced budget, despite the increased demand for services.

One of the major challenges for Community Living BC in its first two years of operation has been to develop technological and operational systems that help track how our funding is spent. We want to assure taxpayers that the spending choices we make are necessary and that funding is being used to help people live with dignity, safety and with as full involvement in community life as they can achieve. We also want taxpayers to know they are getting value for the money spent.

Our new technology will allow us to have excellent data and give us the kind of information we need to track who is waiting for service and what future costs will be. It will allow us to have information about the people we support in an electronic format, so valuable staff time is spent with those we support rather than with paperwork.

In the months ahead, as our new systems begin to produce good information, we will increase our ability to spend time with those who need it most – the individuals we support and their families.

So happy birthday, fellow Canadians, and happy birthday to all of us linked to Community Living BC. The future is what we make it. ✨

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INSIDE VOICE

The self-advocate's perspective.

BUILDING A SENSE OF TOGETHERNESS

By Margaret Hunder

My name is Margaret Hunder (maiden name Miller). I was born in Pouce Coupe, BC in 1955. Today I live in Dawson Creek and have been a self-advocate for 36 years.

I attended our local public school system. My parents wanted me to be integrated with the other kids, so I could have the same opportunities as anyone else. My first teacher called my parents foolish for wanting to put me into public school, because she said I would never learn, communicate and make friends. The

teacher's words were so far from the truth, because of the amazing things that I have done in my life. When I went to school children and adults with disabilities were

My parents believed in me, and wouldn't dream of putting me in a home. All they wanted was to help me to have a good life.

not seen, and they were often hidden away and put into institutions. My parents believed in me, and wouldn't dream of putting me in a home. All they wanted was to help me to have a good life.

I have accomplished a lot in my life. I own my own house in my community. It is on a corner lot and is only a block away from my mom and dad's house.

My self-advocacy history began with the Place Activity Centre Enterprise (now called Opportunity Centre) in 1970, where I worked for 21 years. My job was to make quilts for babies, children and adults. We also produced wood benches, picnic tables, lawn chairs, survey stakes, children's table and chair sets and flower boxes. We sold these items to the public, as a way to fundraise.

I have been a member of the People First group since

1982, which is 25 years. Ludo Van Pelt came to our area and helped us form our group. I became very involved and served as a board director, president and then treasurer for the BC People First group for 14 years. During this time I traveled around to different communities to help people start their own local groups that would put people first and help people speak up for themselves. In order to help others start their own groups, we raised funds in our community to send our delegates to conferences and training to learn more skills, so we could be better prepared to help people.

I served on the Dawson Creek Society for Community Living board for eight years. Right now I am very involved with my local Salvation Army church. This is another place self-advocates also get together on Saturday nights to have dinner, sing songs and listen to the captain and his wife share a story from the bible. I help other self-advocates in ways that they need me to. There are roughly 45 self-advocates that attend our church. It is a fun place where we enjoy getting together.

Self-advocacy in Dawson Creek has been a strong movement that is supported by our community members and church. When we began 25 years ago, self-advocates did not know how to speak up for themselves at all. Today we have a strong group of people that stick together and feel like we are wanted and belong. 🙌

Inside Voice is published in each issue of The Citizen. If you are interested in writing for this column, please call Karin Basaraba at 1-877-660-2522 or e-mail editor@communitylivingbc.ca to discuss.

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES

COVER STORY

It has been nearly one year since CLBC began its recruitment process for community council members. And although many of the councils have just finished their orientation, all members across the province share the same enthusiasm to make a difference in the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

The councils were established throughout BC to ensure that communities have more meaningful

“It’s worth knowing that your voice is listened to as well.”

involvement in how their services are delivered and outcomes are achieved for individuals with

developmental disabilities, children with special needs and their families.

All 17 community councils have now had members nominated and approved by the CLBC Board. CLBC received numerous nominations from interested families, self-



(left) Andrew Fidell, Nanaimo Community Planning and Development Manager and the Central Island Community Council Chair, Terry Patterson.

advocates, community members and service providers through community-based advertising and regional recruitment strategies. Nomination committees were formed in each area to assist the local manager in recruiting and selecting people whose names were put forward to the CLBC Board. Starting with the Vernon, Salmon Arm and Revelstoke council in November 2006, each of the 17 councils completed an orientation in their new roles and responsibilities.

Each community council will act as an ambassador and a bridge to creating inclusive communities and participate in shared decision making. Together with CLBC staff and managers, they will enhance the creation of safe environments, improve access to community resources and acknowledge the gifts and contributions of people with disabilities.

The community councils have three main roles: building welcoming communities, improving accountability, and financial decision making.

To fulfill their role of building welcoming communities, the councils will look at how to expand supports to include generic community resources. They will work on improving accessibility and inclusiveness within their communities. And they will focus on building new local partnerships to improve community access and inclusion.

Calvin Kruk is the mayor of

Dawson Creek and co-chair of the North East Community Council. Even though he has never worked directly with people with developmental disabilities, he recognizes the importance of building local partnerships in order to create a community that respects the abilities of all people.

“As a mayor, it’s important to show leadership with

community living and people with developmental

disabilities to try to be as inclusive of a community as possible,” Calvin said. “One of the core reasons we’re here is to create a sense of well-being and purpose for people with developmental disabilities and their families.”

Louise Doucet knows a few things about building partnerships with communities. She helped create a pilot program on Salt Spring Island, Gulf Islands Families Together Society, which assists in community integration and develops programs that meet their children’s needs. As the South Island Community Council Chair, she stresses the importance of meeting the needs of the community members, as well as the people with developmental disabilities.

“The new direction CLBC wants to go, with the care back on the



Calvin Kruk

community, needs to be reflective of the community's expectations," Louise said.

And Ludo Van Pelt, a self-advocate with more than 30 years of experience who sits on the Simon Fraser Community Council, believes it is also important that all ideas are heard from the many different groups that are represented on the councils.

In looking at improving accountability, the councils will have input and provide feedback on CLBC's decisions at the local level. They will identify issues and concerns with supports, services, and policy, and will have input on selection of certain CLBC staff.

The councils will also review financial information about CLBC's budget and participate in determining how to best utilize limited resources. They will also work with CLBC managers to identify gaps, overlaps, issues and service delivery problems within the area. In addition, they will help set priorities for new or existing funding and participate in determining the impacts of financial decisions.

"It helps to look outside of the box," Calvin said. "Too often we've concentrated on our own small elements."

Louise believes that it is important to not always look to money as the answer to providing supports – even in a crisis situation. "It doesn't

mean breaking down systems. It means adapting them," she said.

However, the members feel there will be some challenges in trying to achieve their roles.

"The greatest challenge of community councils is to achieve our goals within the limit of the financial framework – there is no new money," said Louise.

And Ludo feels that the community council members still have a lot to learn about CLBC before they can make important decisions.

Although they all agree that there is much hard work ahead of them, they also believe there are many



Kelowna Community Council members Janet Roloff (left) and James Murphy (Co-chair).

opportunities for the community councils and each of its members.

Calvin personally hopes to gain a better understanding of the issues facing people with developmental disabilities and would like to bring that knowledge to their city council.

Louise's greatest hope for community councils is the ability to set up situations where people with developmental disabilities are

participating in community in ways that demonstrate interdependence rather than dependence.

"If the community councils create an environment where people with developmental disabilities were more supported in the community in a generic way, if there was an opportunity to participate on a true level, then that would be the greatest opportunity of the community councils," she said.


And from a self-advocate's point of view, Ludo says there is a great deal of excitement simply because self-advocates



Ludo Van Pelt

are active participants on the community councils. There was a time, he pointed out, when self-advocates were not allowed to sit on boards.

Ludo feels that self-advocates have an important role to play on community councils on many levels. "I'd like to teach other people on the council about what it's like to be a self-advocate," he said. After a pause he added, "It's worth knowing that your voice is listened to as well."

Community councils are now in the process of developing action plans which will give clearer focus and direction to their work within their own regions. They are all approaching this important work with an enthusiasm and dedication which reflects their sincere commitment to people with developmental disabilities. 

APARTMENTS GIVE RESIDENTS INDEPENDENCE

By Cindy Mohr, Executive Director, Fort St. John Association for Community Living

In October 2005, the Fort St. John Association for Community Living took a giant leap towards person-centred thinking with the completion of their four-plex.

“We built it from the ground up,” proudly exclaims Isabelle Paynter, a resident of the building.

With the assistance from the Community Living Restructuring Fund, the Fort St. John Association for Community Living was able to offer more choices for the individuals and families they serve.

It started as a dream for privacy, choices and the opportunity for growth, and three years later the dream was constructed. Semi-independent living was created in a two-story, four apartment development that supports two roommates in each of the second floor apartments, and one person in each of the downstairs apartments. There are also two respite rooms within the home available to help families in the community.

In designing the four-plex, there were key elements that were vital to those who would live there: freedom to be independent and make their own choices, having their own apartment which reflects their personal tastes, and having their families as part of the support team.

During the planning process, the agency needed to alter their course in keeping with the vision that started the process.

“It’s sometimes easy to lose focus on the vision and heart of what started a project when dealing with limited budgets and practicality issues, such as wheelchair accessibility and meeting needs of all possible future residents,” said Cindy Mohr, Executive Director of Fort St. John Association for Community Living. “During the process, we went through a few plans before ending up with something everyone could be proud of.”

The residents within this home are not able to live without support, but are able to have the necessary assistance without having their privacy or dignity sacrificed. Support staff have a separate office outside of the apartments and only provide support when

required or asked for by the residents.

Guests to this home see a great deal of pride from those who live there. If they were offered a personal tour, Kevin Smith would proudly show you his room and computer which he cherishes. Tyler Atkinson would show off his apartment which is impeccably decorated with help from his mom and dad to truly reflect his personality and interests. And Kelly Wiebe, with few words, would hold his head high and show an immense amount of pride in having his own place as he gives you a tour of his home.

The families involved are very thankful that their children have been given this opportunity. “Thank you for making Kelly and the family’s dreams a reality and a hope for the future,” said Kelly’s brother, Allen Wiebe. “It has enriched Kelly’s life to enable him to live life to the fullest.”

“It is a great relief for our family having Kevin living in a positive environment like the four-plex. The four-plex has been a very positive experience for our whole family,” said Kevin’s sister, Brenda Briggs.

The Fort St. John Association for Community Living feels very fortunate to have had the opportunity to create something for the individuals and families that we support and are very proud of this accomplishment.✿



The residents of the four-plex (clockwise from top left): Tyler Atkinson, Kevin Smith, Crystal Millar, Isabelle Paynter, and Kelly Wiebe.

HOME SHARING STANDARDS CREATED

By Andrea Baker, *Manager, Residential Options Project*

Home sharing is one of the newer terms being circulated in various community living circles around the province. However, the concept is not new at all. In fact, CLBC and its predecessors have been providing home sharing options to adults with a developmental disability since the 1970s. The option was previously referred to as “proprietary care” and is known to many as “family care,” “home living services,” “adult foster care,” or “host family services.”

Home sharing is a situation in which an adult with a developmental disability shares a home with someone who provides on-going support. Support may include a furnished room and other space in the home, assistance in self-care and relationship-building, lifeskills, meal preparation, personal care, and use of community resources, activities and generic services.

Since 1991, the number of individuals selecting this residential option has increased by 387 per cent and continues to show steady growth in popularity. It is the fastest growing residential option within the province and there are now approximately 2,500 adults who live in home sharing arrangements.

Individuals tend to choose this option because it provides an ideal balance of support and independence. It’s entirely person-centred in that it allows individuals to select a home sharing provider and home environment that meets their own unique goals and preferences. For some, home sharing is a stepping stone to even greater independence. For others, it is an arrangement that will last for many years.

In the past, the relationship between the home sharing provider and the individual who was supported was paternalistic. It usually involved a person with a disability living in the home of a caregiver. Today, home sharing includes a variety of arrangements and relationships. Homes may be owned or rented by the individual requiring support, by the home sharing provider, or both. In some situations, the home sharing provider’s family lives in the home. In others, two people share as roommates.


However, it must be acknowledged that home sharing is not a job – it’s a lifestyle.

In most situations, home sharing involves very close relationships. The members of the home spend lots of time together and are actively involved in one another’s daily activities. In other situations, the home sharing arrangement is characterized by more independent relationships in which the members of the home generally go their own way and come together at specific times or for specific purposes.

Home sharing may be offered by local agencies or directly by CLBC. In order to ensure that individuals choosing to home share receive high quality support, a new set of standards and supporting materials are required. This will help home sharing providers understand their roles and responsibilities and will allow our staff to clearly assess whether home sharing providers are meeting established standards.

In 2002, the Provincial Monitoring Group (PMG) facilitated the development of a draft set of standards for home sharing. These standards were reviewed and revised in October 2006 by Creative Community Solutions. After a formal consultation process that invited feedback from individuals, families, home sharing providers, service provision agencies, CLBC staff, and other interest groups, the standards were formally endorsed and adopted by CLBC in April 2007.

In the coming months, CLBC will provide training to our existing home sharing providers. We introduce the standards, highlight important policies, and clarify reporting expectations. It will also provide home sharing providers with the opportunity to connect with one another so they have access to mentoring, on-going support, and information-sharing.

The standards, supporting documents and a list of agencies that are qualified to provide home sharing are available on our website. Questions about home sharing or the standards can be directed to your local CLBC Quality Service Office. 



DOWN SYNDROME ADVOCATE GIVEN BC'S HIGHEST HONOUR

Courtesy of the Down Syndrome Research Foundation



The highest form of recognition the province can extend to its citizens – the Order of BC – was presented to Josephine (Jo) Mills on June 14. She was given the award for devoting her career to improving the quality of medical care, education, and

opportunities in the community for people with Down syndrome and their families.

Jo Mills has been instrumental in founding three major organizations that address the needs of people with Down syndrome: Down Syndrome International, the Canadian Down Syndrome Society, and most recently the Down Syndrome Research Foundation (DSRF). Her vision and determination have also led to the establishment of parent support groups across Canada.

Jo has worked tirelessly to build relationships with university researchers, medical specialists, corporations, and organizations that provide service to the Down syndrome and developmental disability communities. Due to her efforts, the 9th World Down Syndrome Congress was held in Vancouver in August of 2006, the first time the conference has been held in Canada. Jo has influenced many others to join in her efforts to help children with Down syndrome maximize their potential. Jo has forged partnerships with organizations that have improved people's lives by increasing collaboration on research clinical services.

Although now retired as the Executive Director of the DSRF, Jo continues her work for this special population, and is now the President of Down Syndrome International. Jo is very deserving of this special recognition and we at the DSRF are thankful for her leadership and proud of her accomplishments. 🦋

PASTOR DEVOTED HER LIFE TO THOSE WITH DISABILITIES



Joy Gregory, who dedicated her life to working with people with disabilities, passed away on June 9 at the age of 48. Joy was predeceased by her father, Greg, by less than two weeks, and is survived by her mother, Elizabeth.

Joy was born in Vancouver, and grew up in Vancouver and Summerland. She graduated from the University of Western Washington with a Bachelors degree in Special Education and Music.

It was during a summer job as a music therapist at Woodlands where she first encountered Joy Fellowship, a congregation serving people with disabilities. Beginning as a volunteer, she eventually became a full-time pastor with Joy Fellowship, which continued to be her primary place of ministry until her death.

She delighted in supporting people to grow nearer to their potential. Joy also helped many other churches and groups improve the services they offered to people with disabilities.

She received her Master of Divinity from Regent/Carey, and was ordained by the Baptist Union of Western Canada. She continued to study at Carey Theological College and was awarded a Doctor of Ministry degree.

Joy delighted in the beauty of the deserts and canyons of Utah where she camped almost every year since her childhood. Joy also loved people, music, food, gardening, hiking, camping, bird-watching and life.

In 2005, Joy began a battle with breast cancer, that later developed into leukemia. Joy went through incredible obstacles and overcame unbelievable challenges with grace, courage and dignity. She was an inspiration to all who knew her. 🦋

BOOKLETS WILL HELP KEEP SELF-ADVOCATES SAFE

CLBC has created unique and exciting tools to help self-advocates understand their rights and ways to help keep themselves safe. The plain language and pictorial booklets, posters and emergency cards are intended to help build awareness not only with self-advocates, but also with family members, CLBC staff, service providers and the general public about the importance of rights and safeguards in the lives of people with developmental disabilities. CLBC is committed to ensuring that self-advocates receive information in ways that they can understand and find useful.

The CLBC Self-Advocate Advisor

invited self-advocates to work with CLBC staff to determine what the most important rights and safeguards were to them. These ideas formed the content for the booklet and posters.

The booklets should be made available to all adult self-advocates so that they can have a handy tool to show people that they are within their rights and to be a constant reminder of what they need to think about to keep themselves safe. Service providers and CLBC staff can also use these booklets to further enhance their knowledge in this area, and review the booklet when talking to self-advocates and family members about these

topics. CLBC hopes it will start to set a benchmark on using more plain language and pictures when sending messages or communicating to people with disabilities.

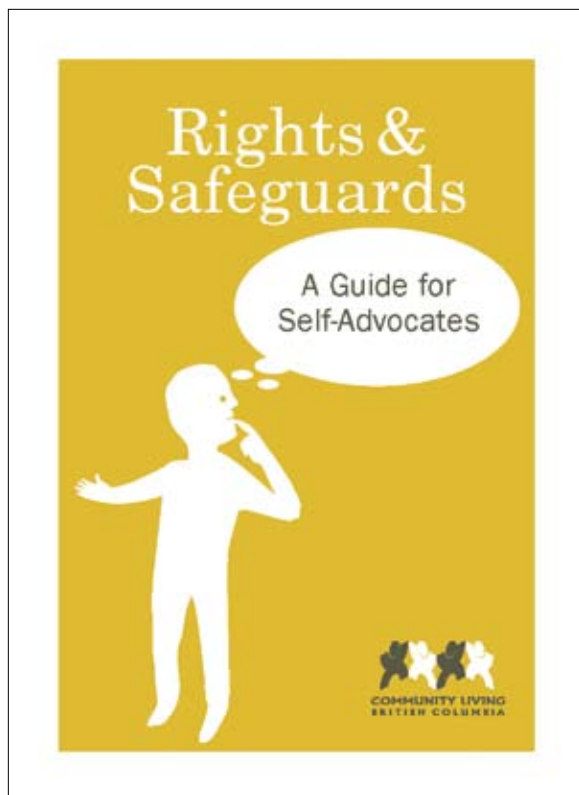
It would be very useful to have people who work with self-advocates or people in their support network walk through the booklet with self-advocates, either in group sessions or individually, to help them understand the contents and to answer any questions and build upon the information within the booklet. Discussion on each of the items really helps to explain

the importance and the ways that it would work best for the self-advocate.

The posters will be distributed to all CLBC and service provider offices. They are a very effective visual image of the rights and safeguards for the people we support. They could also be used for starting conversation about these topics and can lead to the greater distribution of more guidebooks. They can play an important role in introducing to these topic areas.

The emergency cards are a useful tool that provides a simple and easy way for self-advocates to record their important information. Self-advocates should be given them at the time they receive the guidebooks.

If you have any questions about these materials or how they should be used, please contact Jule Hopkins, Manager, Service Accountability and Safeguards at jule.d.hopkins@gov.bc.ca.



The CLBC Rights and Safeguards booklet is written in plain language and has pictures to help explain the message.



The emergency cards are meant to be filled out by self-advocates and kept in their wallets or purses.

GIANT BIKE RIDE RAISES MONEY FOR HEART & STROKE

By Scott Lowe, Port Alberni Association for Community Living

Port Alberni residents were treated to an interesting sight on May 30 – a 30-person bike travelling throughout their city. The bike riders, the Port Alberni Association for Community Living (PAACL) Peddlers, have been involved with the Big Bike for Heart and Stroke for the past six years and have raised a total \$15,848.

Six years ago Tammy Stefan, a PAACL Options program staff member, saw the bike riding through town. While looking into renting the bike for the program members, Tammy discovered that the Big



The PAACL Peddlers ride throughout Port Alberni on May 30.

Bike was a part of a fundraiser for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. The next year the PAACL Peddlers was formed. Due the outstanding fundraising by all

participants, we won the Big Bike for Heart and Stroke team spirit award that year.

The following year, we put out a challenge to all the day programs to meet or beat our fundraising efforts and a second bike was put together – the Sweet Peas. That year Jackie Tivey, who is supported by PAACL, raised \$1,000 on her own. In recognition of Jackie's monumental efforts, we won the team spirit award.

In 2004, a participant of one of our programs, Keith Moores, suggested a silly hat contest to help build team spirit. People put on top hats, flowery bonnets and one person was sporting a Rastafarian hat with dreadlocks. Keith won the best hat award that year for a Pterodactyl that actually flapped its wings!

This year we encouraged Jackie to break her 2003 record. And she did by raising \$2,100 dollars – nearly half of our group total, which was \$4,844. It was no surprise that we won the team spirit award again this year. 🦋

KAMLOOPS CLEANS UP WITH CLBC

By Lana Tomiye, CLBC Facilitator

The mayor and council of Kamloops proclaimed the week of May 28 to June 2, 2007 Disability Awareness Week. The mayor's proclamation kicked off a week's worth of activities, including CLBC's Clean Sweep Challenge. In the spirit of the city of Kamloops' theme of inclusion, CLBC invited business owners, schools, families, and individuals of all levels of ability to encourage and team up with surrounding businesses, neighbours, and friends to pick up litter on May 31.

Morning radio DJ Steve Ayers paid a surprise visit to our office to drop off muffins and other treats to get us revved up for a morning of major clean up in the downtown area. Steve and the staff from B100 were out cleaning up the area of town they thought needed some attention and were encouraging all Kamloops citizens to participate during their morning radio show. The city of Kamloops is proud to be a "Communities in Bloom 2006 international challenge" champion and our efforts will hopefully help keep the momentum going!

The Kamloops CLBC staff would like to invite colleagues and friends to visit our clean and friendly city. 🦋



The team gets ready to clean up Kamloops. (back row, left to right): Dan Douglas, Community Planning and Development Manager; Steve Ayers, B100 disc jockey (front row, left to right): Denise Cookson, facilitator; Velvet Woods, self-advocate; Georgia Ross, facilitator; Lana Tomiye, facilitator

GRANTS SUPPORT FAMILY DECISION MAKING

By **Brian Salisbury**, *Director of Strategic Planning, CLBC*

CLCBC is targeting innovation funding for family-governed projects in 2007/08. These initiatives are developed by small groups of families who arrange and oversee the supports they need as a group. Family-governed projects enable families to determine priority areas in their life. Examples of initiatives that could be administered by a family governed project are:

- providing various types of family support services
- meeting the needs of an ethnic group
- creating a community awareness program
- developing a newsletter or website
- creating a resources guide (e.g. a listing of locally available resources/or support options)
- developing workshop that will benefit families (e.g. hiring and managing staff, obtaining respite, etc.)
- exploring different ways to connect people to community (e.g. developing friendships)
- developing a mentoring program for family members who wish to connect with others with similar experiences
- researching a shared concern (e.g. housing options)
- developing a co-op or new approaches to safeguarding
- developing a small business to coordinate respite workers in a remote area

Families can administer projects themselves. However, one family is required to sign a contract with CLBC on behalf of the group and will be legally responsible for meeting all administrative requirements.

Another option is to choose a service provider to act as a host agency. In this approach, the provider addresses the project's administrative and employer of record responsibilities on behalf of the family group. Host agencies can support projects to operate in ways that are distinct from their more standard ways of operating. For example, projects can hire and supervise their own staff, have separate budgets and management committees, a different philosophy, name, and location.

In a family-governed project, family members take on as much, or little, responsibility as they want to create and oversee unique support arrangements that are tailored to their needs.

Completed applications must be returned by Tuesday, September 4, 2007 to:

Brian Salisbury
Director, Strategic Planning
Community Living British Columbia
7th Floor, 1200 West 73rd Avenue
Vancouver, BC, V6P 6G5

For more information, please visit the Innovation section of the CLBC website. 

WHAT IS A FAMILY-GOVERNED PROJECT?

Family-governed projects are developed by small family groups to arrange and oversee their supports as a group. They are an important element of CLBC's commitment to community governance because they support family decision making. Families can take on as much, or little, responsibility as they want to create and oversee unique support arrangements tailored to their needs. A host agency often provides administrative support. This option offers many advantages of incorporation without the many responsibilities involved.

CLBC SAFEGUARDS PLAN MOVES FORWARD

Community Living BC continues to explore the important elements of safeguards towards building their overall safeguards strategy. A number of initiatives have already been implemented.

CLBC is addressing the two different types of safeguards: informal and formal. Informal safeguards rely on family, friends, and the involvement of community members to provide assistance and watchfulness, and the knowledge to recognise when help or intervention is needed. Formal safeguards are the organizational approaches that rely on policy, standards and paid activity to monitor that services are provided in ways that help keep people safe, and enhance quality of life.

CLBC believes that informal safeguards are as important, if not more important, than traditional formal safeguards. CLBC has implemented several informal safeguards and community engagement strategies this past year.

A safeguards advisory group has been established to influence the development and promotion of the safeguards agenda. A safeguards discussion paper was developed with input from the advisory group.

In March, a provincial self-advocate's forum focusing on leadership and safeguards was held. A safeguards and rights guide booklet was developed and distributed at the forum and is now widely available to self-advocates across BC.

Four agencies were selected to develop personal support networks demonstration projects. They will develop materials and mentor others in building personal support networks.

CLBC is developing a family monitoring strategy and training modules to help families understand the principles of good service, be aware of standards and expectations, and the process for communicating concerns.

Community forums – which included mental health, police, and community agencies – occurred in three

Quality Service Areas. They identified typical crisis situations and developed strategies to respond to these situations. Additionally, an orientation to safeguards is being provided to each community council to help them make informed recommendations.

Training has been delivered to quality service analysts on current monitoring responsibilities, such as responding to critical incidents, health care planning, and investigations.


CLBC has also implemented several formal safeguards and service accountability strategies in the past year.

A health and safety checklist was sent to each of the CLBC-contracted adult family care homes. They provided information on the health and safety procedures in place. Several activities are taking place to enhance safety and quality service provision in these homes, which includes new standards and orientation to contractors in the home sharing program.

CLBC is developing a method on how to receive reports from service providers on the progress of individuals' goals. Training is also being developed for facilitators on writing goals that reflect individuals' wishes and are specific and measurable.

In the coming year, policy and communication about the expanded use of external reviews as a monitoring/service support tool will be developed. The Provincial Medical Consultant also continues to review every death or serious hospitalization that occurs with adults served by CLBC. In addition, several policy areas are being updated to reflect the CLBC service delivery model.

Work is progressing on the Shared Care model of service delivery for child and family supports. Standards, policy and practice considerations are being prepared for minister approval in the next year.

For more detailed information, please visit the CLBC website to view the full Safeguards Project Status Report in the Publications section. 

Get to Know **Niki Harrington**



Niki Harrington, the new manager of Community Planning and Development for the Northwest, has over 20 years experience in the human services field. Niki began her career in health care, working as an acute and chronic care nurse in both a general and military hospital. An interest in First Nations culture and the arts lead her to study First Nations history, art, and material culture. This allowed her to explore Aboriginal social change issues during her public relations work at UBC's Museum of Anthropology. From there, Niki worked as a counsellor and advocate for people experiencing abuse, conflict with the law, mental illness, developmental delays, cultural disparities and marginalization. Niki brings five years of staff, programs and financial management experience to her new position, having spent a part of that in a remote coastal Aboriginal village where she was challenged by limited resources and accessibility issues to provide support to a community striving for independence.

Niki is currently working on her masters degree in counselling, and has a passion for restorative justice, horses, and motorcycles. Although her home is in Prince Rupert, she is looking forward to spending more time in Terrace and surrounding area, where she can escape the rain and connect with the people and communities who can benefit from CLBC's services. ✨

ART SHOW BRINGS OUT MAJOR TALENT IN VERNON

By Greta Cooper, CLBC Team Assistant

Summer Dreams was the theme for the first North Okanagan Art Competition hosted by Vernon's CLBC Community Living Centre. In May, local artists who are eligible to receive CLBC services, were invited to submit art. When colourful acrylics, vibrant water colours, and imaginative collages began to arrive, it became apparent that the art was about personal dreams and summer fun.

Jurors chose five finalists at the July 5 reception. "Day and Night," the beautiful brush strokes with rhythmic movement was an excellent piece by Heather Joliffe. Andy Kolody's "Bridge over the Creek" invited viewers to a picnic. Another excellent piece with strong composition called "Floating Instruments" was created by Rick De Bruin. Heidi Lehman's "Reflections" presented great textured effect and jurors felt her use of bold colors was well balanced. The jurors saw high action and were impressed with "Arnold's Mandala," a free flowing creation by Arnold Bennington. Each of the

artists received \$100, plus the opportunity to work with a local art mentor.

All pieces were displayed at Vernon Art Gallery from July 5 to July 26 and were open to a silent auction. Each artist also received their own personal juror's comments to take home and cherish. ✨



Artists Rhonda McKenzie (left) and Mary Kroft are thrilled with juror's comments about Mary's "Dancy."

WORKSHOP FOCUSED ON RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES

By George Arambasich, TIER Support Services

It doesn't matter how many human rights you have, if you're not aware of them, others can easily abuse them.

That was the message behind the free interactive TIER (Teaching, Independence, Employment and Responsibility) Support Services workshop held in Kelowna on June 15 for about 75 adults.

The "My Life, My Rights" workshop was the second in the annual series and was co-facilitated by Michael Douglas, chair of the Human Service Work program at Okanagan College; the Kelowna self-advocacy group; and TIER Support Services.

The workshop facilitators stressed that as Canadians, our rights are protected under the Charter of Rights, and we all have the right to be treated fairly. We also all



Dale and Leanne Froese led a workshop entitled "My Life, My Rights." (Photo courtesy of Sean Connor, Kelowna Capital News.)

have the right to stand up and be assertive.

Kelowna self-advocates Dale and Leanne Froese and Darryl Harrand, staged a series of skits which showed real life situations where someone tried to take advantage of a person with a disability.

In one scene at a bank machine, a "bad guy" was trying to persuade Dale to hand over his bank card and Personal Identification Number. In another scene, Darryl played a city bus driver who overheard Dale and Leanne being harassed. He told them people with disabilities were expected to use the HandyDART, and not the public transit. The crowd quickly voiced their negative reaction to the "bad guys."

The audience also talked about the responsibilities that we have when making choices in our lives. The crowd discussed topics such as safety, healthy lifestyle, alcohol, sexuality and marriage. The audience seemed enthused to participate and share some very knowledgeable and appropriate comments.

Beside the skits and open forum, the workshop organizers, TIER Support Services, handed out the new CLBC Rights and Safeguards booklet, as well as pamphlets from the provincial government on the BC Human Rights Code.

TIER is a CARF Accredited private human service agency working with people with disabilities in Kelowna since 1987, and is proud to be celebrating its 20th year of service in the community. TIER is looking forward to the next installment of this workshop in Kelowna, and has been working on a DVD presentation of the "My Life, My Rights" workshop, which will be available for viewing in the near future. Please contact TIER Support Services at 250-765-2040 for further information. ✨

It doesn't matter how many human rights you have, if you're not aware of them, others can easily abuse them.

WOODLANDS MEMORIAL GARDEN A PLACE OF REMEMBRANCE

By Peter Bourne

My name is Peter Bourne. I am a musician from Victoria. I was born in Victoria, and became blind when I was born two months premature. I lived at Woodlands School from June 19, 1961 to August 19, 1961 and then again from December 8, 1961 to March 12, 1969.

I attended the Woodlands Memorial Garden dedication ceremony on Friday, June 22, 2007. It was so wonderful to see everyone at the opening. I sang Martin Luther King's song "We Shall Overcome" at the memorial in front of over 350 people. I love to sing this song because it gives hope to people who have never had the opportunity to dream – hope to believe that their dreams can come true.

I chose this song because Martin Luther King had been discriminated against when he was young. He sang this song for freedom, so that all people could be free. A long time ago, Martin Luther King's dad took him in to get a new pair of shoes and the clerk would not sell them to him because he was black. He wondered what was wrong with him.

It has been the same thing for people with disabilities to think that something is wrong with them because of their label. Society often looks down upon people with disabilities instead of looking up at all the great contributions that people with disabilities make in the world.

My dream for people with disabilities is that they are allowed to dream and become tomorrow's future. The Woodlands Memorial Garden is a place to remember why people with disabilities should be allowed to be free to dream and decide their life. It should also remind us that institutions should never be opened again, and offers a place to remember the 3,000 people that lived and died in the institutions. ♿



Burquitlam MLA Harry Bloy (left) speaks with Peter Bourne at the Woodlands Memorial Garden dedication ceremony on June 22. (Photo courtesy of Neil Madu.)

STAY CONNECTED WITH CLBC

It is a major priority of Community Living BC to communicate with the people they serve, their families, service providers and stakeholders. We promise to provide the most up-to-date information in a timely and consistent manner.

But we need your help. In order for us to provide better communication, we need to collect your contact information. If you are interested in receiving the latest news from CLBC, please visit our website at

www.communitylivingbc.ca, fill out the contact form from the Contact Us section and provide us with all of your contact details. If you do not have access to the Internet, please call 604-664-0101, to provide our receptionist with your name, address, phone numbers, affiliation, and e-mail address.

Free access to the Internet is available at all public libraries across BC. You can also sign up for a free e-mail address at www.hotmail.com or www.yahoo.ca ♿

CALLING ALL SHUTTERBUGS

Summer is all about good times with family and friends, enjoying the outdoors and making the most of the sunshine. And what better way to remember those fantastic summer memories than with a picture?

The Citizen is now accepting entries for its second annual photo contest. The contest is free and is open to anyone with a camera. We are looking for photos that best capture the people in your community.

Winning photos will be featured in a photo spread in the November edition of *The Citizen*, and top winners will also win fabulous prizes. Please visit www.communitylivingbc.ca/news_and_events/PhotoContest.htm for full contest rules and regulations.

So when you head out the door this summer, don't forget your camera – the winning photo might be right before your eyes! 📷



CONTACT US



The Citizen is published every two months by CLBC's Communications Department. It is your information source for news that's relevant to the individuals and families CLBC supports. The views and opinions expressed in *The Citizen* are not necessarily those held by CLBC. We are always on the lookout for inspirational stories about people in the community. If you know of an event that others might like to know about, an issue that invites debate, or news worth reporting, let us know. While we appreciate story ideas and submissions, *The Citizen* reserves the right to edit content for accuracy, grammar and space, but strives to maintain the integrity and voice of the author.

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For the most up-to-date information on CLBC, please visit our website at: www.communitylivingbc.ca



Community Living British Columbia
 7th Floor – Airport Square • 1200 West 73rd Ave.
 Vancouver, British Columbia V6P 6G5
 Phone: 604-664-0101 • Fax: 604-664-0765
 Toll Free: 1-877-660-2522