



COMMUNITYLIVINGREPORT



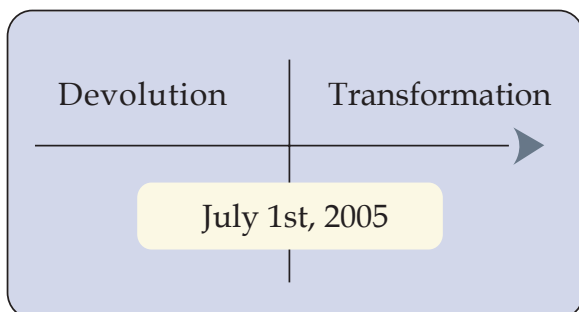
Message from the Board Chair

Lois Hollstedt over a year since I became involved in the work to create CLBC as the new way of delivering services to people with developmental disabilities in BC. The year has been spent connecting with families and staff across the province to understand both their concerns and expectations about the new organization.

The message from families is "create a system that respects choices and greater flexibility for individuals and enables them to be the decision maker about their futures." When I ask what this would look like, the answers include:

Family concerns focus on ensuring there is enough money to operate in a prevention mode, because if we only wait for crises, the costs are higher – both the people cost and the dollar cost.

The Challenge of Change



The message from staff is the same – they also want a system that works for individuals and families. They want the satisfaction of helping people to make their lives as fulfilling as possible, using all of their gifts in their everyday lives. And while staff also have concerns about their employment, they too spoke about the need for a more flexible system that spends more of its resources on prevention instead of crises.

Staff and families have similar hopes and fears about the new CLBC, and are working together to ensure a clear vision for the future. My job, with the other members of the Board and the senior staff of CLBC, is to make that vision a reality. And I believe we are moving steadily towards that goal.

It will take some time - up to 18 months from the legal date of transfer (July 1, 2005) to begin to see changes in how we do our work – and then another number of years to ensure that each of the thousands of individuals and families we work with have the best lives we can support them to have.

It is an exciting time and I feel privileged to be working together with all of you in this important change in our approach to creating citizenship for all members of our community.

For more info, please visit the IACLBC web site at: www.interimauthorityclbc.ca



COMMUNITY LIVING
BRITISH COLUMBIA

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The Newsletter for Community Living BC

Moving Forward: Celebrating the Past... Embracing the Future

Reflections on our recent conference
by Mary Toohey

After a long silence about what the future holds, 275 Community Living social workers from all provincial regions (the North, the Fraser, the Interior, Vancouver Coastal and Vancouver Island) were invited to discuss and learn about Community Living British Columbia's (CLBC) direction for persons with developmental disabilities and our careers as staff. Interim CEO Rick Mowles set the collaborative tone when he acknowledged the lack of communication by the interim authority with the promise to do better, the importance of the work we do, and the recognition that CLBC needs our social work skills to create community capacity for persons with developmental disabilities. There is still concern about the unknown – lack of job descriptions, the vital role of teams and team leaders, and existing disparity between children and adult services. But the tone of the conference was one of new possibilities for community members with disabilities. And we want there to be new possibilities. The existing crisis-driven model of rapid response to imminent health and safety risks but long waitlists for anything less, cannot continue.



Parent's Workshop

The consensus in our office was that the conference was well run, well organized and the venue was terrific. There was a sense of celebration as social workers from across the province came together. As one colleague said, "It signaled a change." Another said, "I think one of the biggest things was the networking. It valued us being together and gave us the opportunity to connect with people who do the same work across the province. It let us get re-energized about what we do." However, there was some regret that only 75% of social workers were allowed to attend. "I don't think that should have been the case. It should have been all social workers," said one attendee. In his 1999 book, *Promoting Community Change: Making It Happen in the Real World*, author Mark S. Homan lists five opportunities to improve services to clients: improve program delivery, encourage cooperation between agencies, develop a new program, empower clients, and last but not least, change program regulations. The conference addressed the first four opportunities. Keynote speakers John O'Brien and John McKnight asked us to focus on peoples' gifts rather than deficits, and to develop service plans that involved existing community services. One colleague said that they illustrated how successful planning "allows a person full rights as a citizen."

Peggie Webb, in her workshop *Person Centred Planning in Everyday Practice: The Art of Facilitation*, illustrated her dynamic and often humorous presentation with slides and stories of successful facilitation. She also commented that the CLBC model of having both facilitator and analyst employed by and accountable to the authority serves persons with developmental disabilities better than the freelance broker model.

Another excellent workshop was *Parents' Perspectives on Change*. One attendee commented that "it brought it back from the theoretical to the personal," as family members discussed the need for change from their individual perspectives.

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Reflections on our recent conference *continued...*

There continue to be many unknowns, but the conference was a successful celebration of our work and an indication that there is a determination by CLBC to do better for citizens with developmental disabilities.

To use the metaphor of a bus, for a long time we didn't know if or when the CLBC bus was leaving, if there was room for all of us, if it knew where it was going, and if it had enough gas to get there. While there are still many details to work out, it looks like it's going to be an exciting ride!

Mary Toohey is a social worker from Surrey, BC.



Moving Forward: Celebrating the Past... Embracing the Future

Closing Conference Remarks by Rick Mowles, ICEO. March 31, 2005

Have we imparted some of our enthusiasm to you over the past two days? I hope so, because we really do feel enthused and excited about Community Living BC.

First, I want to thank the organizing committee of this conference, and if they could join me up here, we have a small token of our appreciation: Carol Goozh, Avril Harkness, Jai Birdi, Jacqui Balfour, Sreeni Keshava, Sandra Lawrence, Brian Salisbury, and Dan Collins. Please join me in thanking all of them. They have been working on this conference for the past three months and I think we can all agree it has been a great success. I agree that this type of gathering is an important way for all of us to connect.

And thank you to all the guest speakers, panel members and moderators: John O'Brien, John McKnight, Andrea Jacques, Don Gallant, Cathy Anthony, Maria Glaze, Astrid Metheral, Jane Holland, Peggy Webb, Malerie Meeker, Barb Liard, Bryce Schaufelberger, and Dr. Chas Moseley. The different sessions and discussions have been exhilarating and invigorating. It was a great mix of people, ideas and debate.

I also have to thank all of the line staff who believe, as we do, that this move to community governance will result in an improved system of services for persons with disabilities and who felt that this conference was a worthwhile event to be involved in. What I've heard loud and clear over the last two days is:

- ◆ staff want to be included
- ◆ they want input into these changes
- ◆ and they want to be valued.

Just as people with developmental disabilities and their families desire, staff want to be respected too. As I said yesterday, you haven't been included and you haven't been listened to. But we are listening now, we do want your input and we need your participation, your experience and skills. I have committed to you that this process will be more inclusive.

But I'd like to say something about the process and about where it is we're trying to get to. With changing demographics, with aging parents and all the other contributing factors, the system as we know it is unsustainable. The demand for services is far outpacing the ability to provide those services in the same ways. It doesn't matter if you have the best trained social workers (and we do), and it doesn't matter if those staff

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Moving Forward: Celebrating the Past... Embracing the Future *continued...*

work every day with compassion and sensitivity and with a deep commitment to bettering the lives of the individuals they serve and their community (and our social workers do).

If the system cannot keep up, it must evolve.



Rick Mowles

BC has been at the forefront of evolving practice in the area of community living for 25 years, and we continue to be. As I've talked to staff and stakeholders over the past two days, they have reminded me that a lot of the uncertainty and concern that we're hearing is exactly what we heard 20 years ago when deinstitutionalization was beginning. They have said to me,

"you know 20 years ago, even once we were well into the process, people were still debating whether we should be making changes."

We said then and I'm saying now: it's not a matter of if we're changing, but how. Yes, there is uncertainty, and there are unanswered questions. And that creates fear and anxiety. That's understandable. Make no mistake about it – this is a big change. The world is watching. But also believe – believe that we are moving forward. Believe that the system is changing and that this will mean better service delivery. And believe in our ability to work together to make things better for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

This change is something that the families told us clearly, strongly and loudly that they want. Just as staff need to be valued and appreciated and understood, so do people with disabilities and their families. Everyone wants to feel more in control of their own future and destiny. I believe if we work together in the coming months and years, we will take control of the future.

John O'Brien said yesterday that it is important to determine what is important to hold on to as we move forward and change. What is important? Relationships – those are the foundation of what we do.

Connections between people – staff, the people they serve, families and community – are the heart and soul of what we do, how we do it, and why we do it. We are working towards a system based on people's contributions, not their disabilities. Together.

The Doors are Open!

Come visit our new Provincial Assessment Centre.

Following the closure of Willow Clinic, which provided services to our community for the past 14 years, Community Living Services / CLBC celebrated and congratulated all those who participated in and contributed to the development of our new interim

④ tertiary care centre, the new Provincial

Assessment Centre (PAC).

All were invited to the Open House, which was held on March 11 at the new site, now located at the corner of Canada Way and Willingdon Avenue in Burnaby. The Centre is on the first floor of the previous Burnaby Psychiatric Services building and was recently renovated to accommodate the needs of the program. It is decorated quite warmly with soft colors and all the comforts of home.

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New Provincial Assessment Centre For CLBC *continued...*

The PAC is a designated mental health facility with a mandate to provide short-term assessments, medication reviews, diagnosis, intensive reviews, community consultation, outreach and eligibility assessments. These services are provided by a broad multidisciplinary clinical team who work closely with individuals, families and caregivers to ensure that planning and recommendations are realistic and transferable to home environments as the maximum length of stay is up to ninety days.

The Open House saw upwards of ninety people touring the new site with much positive feedback. Both Carol Goozh and Rick Mowles extended a warm thank you to all the staff for their commitment and hard work, and for a job well done.

INSIDE VOICE A column by self advocates

We're thrilled to have two new self advocates serving on the CLBC board of directors. In this column, self advocate Amanda Lennard tells us about the opportunity she sees in our future...

CHANGES FOR THE BETTER



Hello! My name is Amanda Lennard. I live in Vernon, BC. I have joined the CLBC board of directors as a self advocate. Also,

another self advocate, George Fulcher of Powell River, has been selected to the board. It gives George and me the opportunity to

fight for our rights and respect for us self advocates.

I went to a conference in Richmond on March 30 and 31. I found out that as of July 1, 2005, we are going to have new changes for the better such as employment opportunities, health, better housing, transit system and lots more for a bright new future. Everyone has an opportunity to make a change and make a difference.

Change for the better means: You have opportunities to make choices and share ideas. You can have a say on how you want to live and how you want to participate in your own community. You have an opportunity to make your own decisions and set your

50th Anniversary & AGM

BC Association for Community Living (BCACL)
Sept. 29 - Oct. 1, 2005 at the Vancouver Airport Conference Resort, Richmond BC.

The conference includes a special celebration to kick off Community Living Month on October 1st, and special anniversary events.

Come out and be inspired by the creativity, humour and wisdom of self advocates and their allies, see old friends and meet new ones, and have a chance to become BC's first Community Living idol!

The BCACL is a federation that advocates for children, youth and adults with developmental disabilities and their families to ensure justice, rights and opportunities in all areas of their lives. For more information, please visit their website: www.bcacl.org

own goals. Able and disabled people have a chance to work together side by side in the work place. It is a dream come true turned to reality. More information can be found on the following websites:

The self advocates:
www.selfadvocatenet.com
IACLBC:
www.interimauthorityclbc.ca
Ministry of Children & Family Development: www.mcf.gov.bc.ca

I can be contacted at:
Amanda.Lennard@nocls.com

Thank-you.
Amanda Lennard
Self Advocate, IACLBC Board



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Welcome: CLBC's New Vice Presidents!

Richard Hunter: Vice President of Corporate Services



Richard was most recently the Chief Financial Officer of the Provincial Health Services Authority, and before that served as the Vice President of Finance of Children's & Women's Health Centre. Richard's early career began in manufacturing, transportation, engineering and retail, and he holds a Chartered Accountants designation in Canada as well as the UK.

His 15 years of experience in healthcare in this province has included roles in finance, as well as responsibilities in information management/technology, facilities, and environmental services. Richard has extensive experience in governance change and led the merger of eight organizations (including Children's & Women's, the BC Cancer Agency, Riverview, the Centre for Disease Control and the BC Transplant Society) to create the PHSA finance function.

Richard is looking forward to the challenges ahead

in moving the provision of services to persons with developmental disabilities to a community-based system, where decisions affecting the individual are made closer to the community.

Allan Pollock: Chief Information Officer




Allan has over 25 years of experience working in the public sector in federal and provincial jurisdictions. Allan comes from the Ministry of Children and Family Development where he spent the past 5 years as the Senior Client Manager for the Information Systems Branch. Prior

to working with the Ministry, Allan was a management consultant and the Director of Human Resources for the Ministry of Education.

Over the past two years, Allan has worked closely with the IA to facilitate the establishment of the new authority's information and communications technology programs to support CLBC programs, clients, families and service providers. Allan believes that the effective sharing of information will be a key component.

1st Annual Art Show calls on BC Artists with Developmental Disabilities

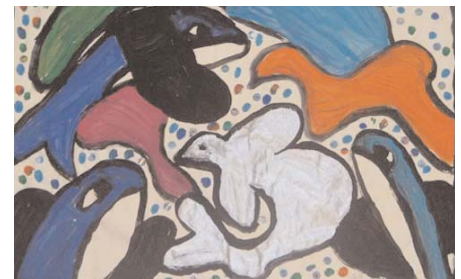
Calling all BC artists with developmental disabilities! The art world in our province just got a whole lot more interesting, accessible and diverse. The Mainstream Association for Proactive Community Living (MAPCL) has teamed up with the Ethical Funds Company to stage an art show in October in Vancouver, with around 100 artists and 200 works of art.

Participating artists must be BC residents with developmental disabilities. Art can be submitted by an individual, or as a group project. Proceeds from  this event will go towards the establishment of a

gallery for artists with developmental disabilities.

Deadline for submissions:
May 30th, 2005.

Art show and Auction: October 6th and 7th, 2005.



For more information, please visit:
www.see-spot-jump.com/Art-Show/Art-Show.html
Or email: Catherine.Isaacson@shaw.ca
To learn more about MAPCL, please visit:
www.mapcl.org



Upcoming Conferences

Improving your Family's Quality of Life!

The Down Syndrome Research Foundation, with support from Simon Fraser University, the University of Victoria, and in collaboration with the Special Interest Group on Quality of Life (the International Association for the Study of Intellectual Disability), is pleased to announce a one-day conference on Family Quality of Life.

The conference will discuss approaches to understanding and supporting family quality of life where there is a child with an intellectual disability. Specifically, they will focus on measurement, support, and intervention.

When: Friday, April 29th, 2005, 9:00am - 5:00pm

Where: Down Syndrome Research Foundation
1409 Sperling Ave, Burnaby, BC.

Who: Academics and other professionals working in the field of disabilities. Government personnel and policy makers, representatives for service organizations and parent supported agencies.

Cost: \$60

More Info: Contact the Down's Syndrome Research Foundation at 604-444-3773 or e-mail info@dsrf.org

Moving from Good to Great: Developing Person Centered Agencies in B.C.

Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) is sponsoring a 2 day conference for service providers, their staff and family caregivers. The conference aims to:

Raise awareness about issues associated with service providers delivering personal planning support;

Engage providers in discussions about current practice approaches;

We've Moved!

CLBC now has a permanent headquarters in a new lower mainland office space.

Our new address is:

Suite 101
3705 Willingdon Avenue
Burnaby, BC
Phone: (604) 660-5011

Our new office is conveniently located on the Maple Clinic site at the intersection of Canada Way and Willingdon – we have lots of parking and the coffee is always fresh. We'd love to see you.

Develop a Declaration on key elements of "principle driven best practice" in person centered thinking and planning; and identify ways to support dialogue and learning amongst community partners.

When: June 16 and 17

Where: Vernon, BC.

Cost: \$175 (some partial travel subsidies are available for self-advocates and family members.)

For more info: Download the registration form here: www.langleyacl.org/conference/registration.htm. Your registration form, along with your cheque or money order payable to BCACL, should be mailed to:

ATTN: Bonnie Petrowsky
Executive Assistant/Administrative Supervisor
British Columbia Association for Community Living
#300 - 30 East 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5T 4P4



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This month we have responses from staff who attended the Moving Forward Conference at the end of March...

Please pass on to everyone that I thought the conference we just attended was excellent. The speakers were very motivational. Hopefully everyone already had the value base expressed in these sessions. However, it helps to "stir us all up" and get us on the right path again. Sessions like these are so valuable to keep everyone on the same path/vision etc.

Thanks again for a great job in helping to present something so valuable to all of us. I'm looking forward to working with CLBC in the future and know a lot of my colleagues are feeling the same. It's exciting. Thanks to everyone for an awesome few days.

Pat McCue, Social Worker, Nanaimo

I thank all who coordinated this workshop and appreciate that I was able to attend with a self advocate. Thank you again for a wonderful opportunity.

Lorie Fisk is a parent from Kamloops

YOUR LETTERS... We want to hear what you think about issues or events happening in your community.

Send us your letters – 250 words or less. Please include a valid email address and phone number. We may edit letters for reasons of space or clarity. The newsletter reserves the right to publish your letter, unless it is labelled 'not for publication.'

Please email your letter to:
info@interimauthorityclbc.ca

Or mail it to:

The Interim Authority for Community Living
c/o the Editorial Board
Suite 101, 3705 Willingdon Avenue

8 Burnaby, BC. V5G 3H3

Meet the Editorial Board

The IACLBC editorial board is comprised of the following members with diverse skills who are committed to working together to bring you informative and relevant articles about services and events in your community.

Dale Chandler
Rod Gunn
John Davies
Kerry Lawson
Richard Crone
Susan Whittaker
Ahmed El Namer

Please feel free to contact the board with suggestions or submit letters to the editor by email to:
info@interimauthorityclbc.ca

CONTACT US

We are updating our website regularly. You can find all the latest information about the Interim Authority for Community Living British Columbia at: www.interimauthorityclbc.ca

Receive Our Newsletter: To be included in an email distribution list to receive our newsletter, or if you have feedback on our current newsletter, please email us at: info@interimauthorityclbc.ca

Please send letters, feedback and story suggestions to:

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