



# CAILC News Bulletin

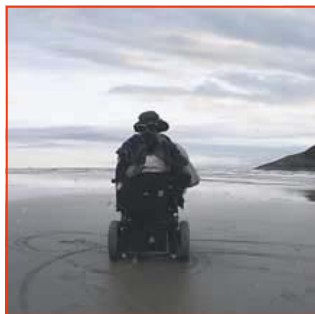
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTRES

Information sharing, national initiatives, federal policies, and political decisions affecting the Independence of Canadians with Disabilities and their Independent Living Resource Centres

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Visit our New Website!  
[www.cailc.ca](http://www.cailc.ca)



"Bearing Witness"  
 Luke Melchior

Winter 2003 Issue

## THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABLED PERSONS – MAKING IT OUR OWN



Prior to our own event in Ottawa for the United Nations Day I noticed more and more articles and events being planned around the country in recognition of the day. We never would have seen this three years ago. For many years, the disability community felt that there was nothing to celebrate in Canada because we have witnessed nothing but erosion, funding cuts, and in some cases elimination of services federally, provincially and regionally. Not very many people felt that the day was worth recognizing.

However CAILC's Marketing Committee strongly believed that there was so much potential for this International Day including raising awareness on Independent Living in Canada, on political issues, and about the barriers that we face.

This year, I was really pleased to read about the myriad of activities that were taking place throughout Canada. It wasn't just about highlighting the accomplishments of our community members, the day was successfully used as a political tool to highlight some of the alarming facts in Canada and abroad.

"Isn't it ironic that on a day set aside to celebrate the human rights of persons with disabilities, we learn VIA Rail has chosen to challenge an order of the Canadian Transportation Agency to make

accessible the passenger rail cars it purchased three years ago. "Nothing could demonstrate more clearly the need for human rights protection for people with disabilities" a quote from Pat Danforth, Chairperson of Council of Canadians with Disabilities' Transportation Committee in the December 3rd CCD press release. Across the country, community members were beginning to use this day to tell it like it is!



DECEMBER 3rd, 2003 (left to right) Kelly Nadeau, The Honourable Jane Stewart, Meenu Sikand with her son and Chantelle Bowers

In Ottawa, the Council for Canadians with Disabilities, the Canadian Labour Congress, Canadian Paraplegic Association and CAILC joined forces to hold a press conference on the VIA RAIL decision, rising unemployment rates of our community, wage disparity and the lack of investments for disability

supports and a labour marketing strategy. CAILC promoted policies based on the Independent Living principles of choice, flexibility and control.

The day was used successfully not only within our IL Network of Centres, but also with other disability groups, universities, governments and politicians. I am noticing an emerging trend that politicians and ministries are now using this day to report back to the community on what they are doing.

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In Ontario the new Minister of Citizenship in Ottawa marked the day by making an announcement that the new Ontario Government will re-look at the entire voluntary Ontarians with Disabilities Act.



Traci Walters giving her opening speech, the Honourable Jane Stewart, Meenu Sikand and Tom Perlmutter (Director General, English Programs, NFB)

"The McGuinty government is delivering positive change to Ontario by holding consultations on strengthening the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) beginning early in the new year", Citizenship and Immigration Minister Marie Bountrogianni announced today, the International Day of Disabled Persons.

"Our government will work with Ontarians with disabilities on meaningful and effective legislation that will allow them to fully participate in building a stronger province," Bountrogianni said. "Early stakeholder input will play an important role in identifying areas of the ODA that need to be strengthened or changed."

This is good news to Ontarians with disabilities that were stuck with a voluntary Disability Act that had no "teeth". This announcement by the new Liberal Government and the new Minister of Citizenship was truly a worthwhile UN Day announcement.

All of this to say that within a few years, politicians, governments, communities, disability organizations, and consumers will automatically use this day to announce new initiatives, programs, policies and to bring to the attention of the public, human rights violations and systemic/individual barriers calling upon action. Hopefully, we can make the day as well known as "World AIDS Day" or "Human Rights Day".

Let's keep building on the momentum of the day by creating awareness and calling for action every December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

*By Traci Walters*

## HRDC SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM APPROVES CITIZENSHIP ENGAGEMENT PROJECT IN RURAL QUEBEC



The *Centre-Ressources Pour la vie Autonome Région du Bas St-Laurent* will be reconnecting with their community thanks to project funding from Human Resources Development Canada.

The Region of Bas St-Laurent spans many kilometres. There are many challenges to develop programs that meet the needs of a rural population particularly without adequate adapted transportation to help mobilize citizens.

The Centre conducted a thorough community consultation in 1989 which enabled them to explore many projects to help them meet the consumer identified needs that the research revealed, however, they realize that it is important to revisit community needs to reflect consumers' current reality.

The study will benefit many audiences. Indeed, the ILRC serving Trois-Pistoles and the Region of Bas St-Laurent will better know about community barriers and possible solutions, other community partners will understand the needs of citizens with disabilities and of course people with disabilities who will have an increased opportunity to contribute their ideas and expertise will benefit from this initiative. In addition, CAILC's network of ILRCs and other community based organizations will also benefit from the development of a resource tool.

CAILC wishes the Centre well in their research and we look forward to positive outcomes for your community and beyond.

## “A VOICE OF OUR OWN”

The theme for this year's December 3<sup>rd</sup>, designated in the United Nations as the Day of the Disabled was “A Voice of our Own.” CAILC in partnership with the National Film Board launched the world premier of “Bearing Witness: Luke Melchior”, a documentary on the life of Luke Melchior who is a CAILC Board member. The venue was held at the famous National Archives Auditorium in Ottawa. Approximately 150 guests were in attendance and many others from around the world participated in what was a live webcast.

Attending the screening were Luke and the director Dan Curtis. There were subtitles for the French viewers and English real time captioning in addition to American Sign Language for those who request it. Hosted by Traci Walters, there were speeches by the Honourable Jane Stewart, Minister of HRDC

and sponsor of the event and Tom Perlmutter, Director General of English Programming at the NFB. Representing the CAILC Board was First Vice Chair Meenu Sikand. Representing the Marketing and Fund Raising Committee were Board members Mike Murphy and Kelly Nadeau. Luke and Dan were afforded a standing ovation by the Ottawa audience at the end of the film. Questions and congratulations came in from all parts of the world via email through the webcast viewers. After the Question and Answer period at the end of the film, there was a certain reluctance on the part of the audience to leave the auditorium, recognizing that something really special had just been

shown.

Luke lives his life based on Independent Living principles. The philosophy is simple and profoundly empowering, and yet it is often very difficult to explain to those who are unfamiliar with it.



CAILC Board Member and “Bearing Witness” participant, Luke Melchior.

Not afraid to show his vulnerable side, Luke has much to teach everyone, both disabled and able bodied about making a difference. For a person with a disability often the most intimidating barrier is living in isolation. The simultaneous web cast connected people from all parts of

the world. Messages of support came in from many distant points, reinforcing the reality that today we live in a global village and that we really have to be our brother's keeper. “Bearing Witness: Luke Melchior” works on many levels. It is a film that should be seen by anyone interested in thinking seriously about what the point to living is, whether young or old, whether they are a disabled person or an able bodied person.

*By Liz Griffis*



### DPI SUMMIT—WINNIPEG

September 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> 2004

DPI's world summit will be an opportunity for national assemblies, disability organizations, NGOs, international development agencies as well as goods and services providers in the disability field to discuss and share information.

A major objective for DPI is the promotion of equality and diversity within DPI. The theme for the Summit will be diversity of people and their cultures and will focus on women, youth and indigenous and Arab people.

At the Summit workshops, DPI will share collective and individual struggles for social and economic inclusion in civil society.

For more information or to register visit [www.dpi.org](http://www.dpi.org)

## COUNCIL OF CANADIANS WITH DISABILITIES



### Via Appeals the Ruling

December 3rd, 2003

VIA fights to keep disabled people off trains. Canadians with disabilities are wondering if it can get any worse. First we had to fight for our right to travel by train. After waiting three years for a positive ruling from the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) we are now told that VIA will appeal the ruling. Minister Collenette has promised repeatedly that these cars will be accessible but those have proven to be empty words. Now Canadians with disabilities face another lengthy and costly legal battle to ensure we can use the trains. At the end, when we win, VIA, who is now retrofitting these same cars to meet Canadian safety standards, will have to rip those cars apart again to make them accessible. Canadian taxpayers will pay again and again for VIA's mismanagement in purchasing unsafe and inaccessible passenger rail cars. "It cannot get more stupid than this, where is the commitment to accessible transportation?" said Pat Danforth Chairperson of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD) Transportation Committee.

Today is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities declared by the United Nations. Instead of celebrating achievements we must speak out about the creation of new barriers to our participation. "Canada is an ageing society, the need for greater accessibility is a fact, but instead we are moving backwards," said Eric Norman member of CCD's Transportation Committee. "Persons who use wheelchairs will not be able to travel on these trains, that is an outrage," said Norman.

CCD calls on all Canadians to send a message to Minister Collenette. We want our public transportation systems to be accessible, it is a necessity and it is a right. To do otherwise is to say to Canadians with disabilities, you are second-class citizens, your independence is of no importance to us, you should stay home and be thankful for whatever charity you might receive.

Canadians with disabilities eagerly await a "regime change" at the Department of Transport. The current inaction of the Minister and his Department is a disgrace.

\*\*Notation: December 12th, 2003 New Transport Minister Tony Valerie appointed.

## DECEMBER 3RD CELEBRATIONS ACROSS CANADA

December 3rd has come and gone. This was another year of exciting and interesting hard work, planning and organizing and soon it will be time to start planning for next year. Many of the Cenres planned their day to celebrate the International Day for Disabled Persons/Independent Living Day at their Centres and many used this opportunity to introduce the video "Bearing Witness" to their local communities. Here are just some of the activities that the different ILRCs had planned for the day. Many of them held Open Houses and celebrations within their ILRCs

**Collingwood, ON**—December 1st at the local Highschool, 25 grade 12 students got a sneak preview of the film. December 3rd, an additional 300 students viewed it. It was also screened several times at the ILRC.

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## Miramishi, New Brunswick gains CAILC Membership

The occasion of CAILC's Annual Meeting in Halifax enabled members of the Steering Committee of the Northumberland Action Inc. of Miramichi to meet with delegates from ILRCs across the Network. The Chairperson of their steering committee Don Rowe, his wife Betty and Joan Mador participated in workshops and shared ideas with many friends of CAILC.

They having been working for many months to organize and to plan for an Independent Living Centre in their community. They have done the preliminary work which enabled them to have Centre under Development status. Lots of work awaits their community to advance the development of the Centre however they are determined to build on the momentum they have gained to launch programs and supports for an IRLC

Don Rowe stated "If momentum can be maintained our objective is to have our ILRC operational by mid 2004. We are excited about building varied and diverse support from many different players in the community to make this a reality and to be an active member of the CAILC network of Centres".

## CRIME PREVENTION

The Crime Prevention project is on the move. We have been talking to the proposed advisory committee, and hoping to finalize the list by the end of the month. We have police officers involved in community safety, provincial justice department employees, IL Centre members, persons with a disability, service organizations and researchers, all with an interest in crime prevention and safety for persons with a disability in their communities.



**Esther Roberts joined the CAILC team in November 2003 as the Crime Prevention Project Manager.**

This is a national project and we have been speaking to interested parties in Halifax, Newfoundland, Nunavut, Calgary, Whitehorse, Regina, Winnipeg, and Victoria – all across the country! During the next year, we will

travel to the west coast, and the east coast to make personal contact and to see some of the projects and initiatives in action. We will develop a tool to send to all regions to get ideas and information from individuals using the programs, to see what is available, what is working and what is missing in the local communities.

We are planning a National Crime Prevention and Independent Living Conference in April 2005 – so mark your calendars.

This groundbreaking conference aims to highlight the initiatives and bring interested parties together to network, share ideas and plan for the future.

There is a lot of research to be done, and if anyone has any information on programs or initiatives in their communities, please forward this to us. We will keep you up to date with bulletins on the CAILC web site, and if anyone has any programs they would like to share, let us know and we will highlight them on the web page.

Read more about the project in the latest Winter 2003 Abilities Magazine.

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## DECEMBER 3RD CELEBRATIONS ACROSS CANADA

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### St. John's, NFLD

There was positive media coverage including radio, print and television. An afternoon interview with CBC provided an opportunity to discuss the decision of VIA rail to appeal the direction to make their cars accessible. What a topic for International Day! The ILRC hosted a reception later in the afternoon to recognize and thank their funders, partners, committee colleagues and friends. The Hon. Elizabeth Marshall, Minister of Health & Community Services was the guest speaker. They were also pleased to receive a \$3,000 donation from the Royal Bank Foundation, delivered by Heather Martin, Senior Account Manager. The reception gave them the opportunity to recognize and bid farewell to the three Canada World Youth participants who had been providing them with IT support for the last three months – They thanked Irina Autkina from Killingrad, Russia, Ruth D'Souza from Burlington, ON, and Vi-nghi Dang from Montreal, PQ.

The CTV News Affiliate, NTV returned the next day to fill out their story on International Day and show the ILRC in action.

### Cowichan Valley, BC

The Centre set a room up for each of their programs and had consumers there to answer questions. Stories were written and displayed on the Wall of Success for all to see and the video played continuously in another room. They celebrated the success of many consumers that have received assistance over the years. Over 120 people came through the door, many of whom had never been before.



### Kitchener/Waterloo, ON

The Centre held a viewing with pizza on December 2nd at a local apartment building where a number of consumers and members live. December 3rd they had use of an old theatre house and brought in projection equipment. A brief presentation was given by Kids on the Block puppet, Renaldo Rodriquez (Jackie Ralph-staff) and Board President, Randy Barrett. They promoted the event to Personal Support Worker instructors and both universities in town. This brought in new audiences and they have been invited to show the video to a community psychology class this February.



### Vernon, BC

The Centre hosted an Open House in which a number of representatives came from the Member of Parliament's office. They were provided with information by consumers about transportation issues. They were surprised with what they heard and stated that they want to get involved and to provide support to address this problem. Their guest speaker was a young woman with a disability who is the candidate for the Miss Silver Star Pageant.

### Halifax, NS

They held an official reception at La Joie de vivre. They had Untold Stories and played a special video by Terry Kelly, a musical artist from Nova Scotia. The video featured a song written and produced by Terry. In the evening, they held a celebration at their Centre with a special performance with "Help Un-Wanted an original performanc by the Inside Out Integrated Theatre. It was a wonderful day and both activities were well attended.

### Kapuskasing, ON

They were joined by their local Mayor and Member of Parliament. They had a film viewing in the afternoon and then were entertained by a local fiddle player and guitar player. They introduced the Multi-Agency Raffle, the volunteers and at 4:00 PM introduced the 32 winners of \$18, 000 in prizes.





## THE WINNIPEG ILRC CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY PROMOTING INDEPENDENT LIVING NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

The Independent Living Resource Centre of Winnipeg is proud to announce that we will be celebrating our 20th anniversary of promoting Independent Living with consumers, volunteers, family, friends, Federal and Provincial government supporters as well as the Community in conjunction with the CAILC 2004 Annual General Meeting.

Many exciting and informative activities are being planned including a Dinner Theatre/Celebration where a group of writers with disabilities have written, directed, and produced a play that will be presented by people with disabilities depicting Independent Living situations. We will also have a Wall of Memories for guests to see people who have made individual contributions to the Independent Living Movement and Centre. And as an added feature there will be a short video of the Centre's past.

The Centre Conference will be an opportunity to celebrate where we have been, where we are going, remember who brought us this vision and how we will keep the movement alive.

Independent Living - That's What it's All About!

## A NEW RESOURCE TOOL IN 2004: "AN INDEPENDENT LIVING MODEL FOR THE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES"

CAILC is pleased to announce that project funding has been approved from Human Resources Development Canada through its Social Development Partnership Program. Funded through their latest Call for Proposals under the Citizenship Engagement stream, this project will enable CAILC to develop and to disseminate a resource guide that will help developing groups to tap into the skills, experiences and expertise of the community. In addition, the guide will provide a model for other sectors who want to re-new or strengthen the level of engagement in the planning and development of their organization.

This project holds great potential to benefit diverse community based groups in various stages of development however the original need was identified by groups of consumers who were exploring the possibility of developing an ILRC in their community. Each Centre's evolution is unique however a common challenge encountered as citizens mobilize is to determine how to consult the community in a thorough, respectful and inclusive manner. In most cases resources to develop skills and to engage in a community consultation process are extremely limited. This resource guide will help to increase the capacity of individuals to provide leadership with their peers and to build an effective and inclusive community consultation process.

The approval for this project is well-timed. On a regular basis consumers contact the CAILC office to inquire about the steps to become an ILRC and engagement of consumers and the community at the early stages of development is critical. We will be delighted to share this model with them. Further, the development of regular practices to reconnect with the community throughout an organization's development is also important. Indeed, this tool can help to build on-going citizenship engagement practices.

CAILC looks forward to working on this important tool that holds great potential to increase the participation and active engagement of people with disabilities in organizations across the country.

## NEW RESOURCES / WEBLINKS

### Released December 3rd, 2003

Human Resources Development Canada recently released a report entitled "Disability in Canada: A 2001 Profile" which highlights selected findings from Statistics Canada's 2001 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS report is on HRDC's website in HTML, text and PDF formats.

HTML: <http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/hrib/sdd-dds/odi/documents/PALS/PALS000.shtml>

Text: <http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/hrib/sdd-dds/odi/documents/PALS/PALS.txt>

PDF(4.3MB): <http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/hrib/sdd-dds/odi/documents/pdfs/PALS.pdf>

### New Publication December 3rd, 2003

Defining Disability: A complex Issue This document provides a review of, and framework for understanding, disability definitions in key Government of Canada initiatives.

<http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/hrib/sdd-dds/odi/documents/definitions/Definitions000.shtml>

### Just Ask Me - Discussing Workplace Accommodation

The full day workshop binder is a facilitators Guide package. It will give facilitators all the information required to facilitate this workshop well. It includes the Facilitators Guide, Participants Guide, Video and CD with a Power Point presentation and pre-reading exercise. You can download copies here to get a sense of what material is covered.

<http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/hrib/sdd-dds/odi/documents/dutyToAccomodate/toc.shtml>

## CENTRE NEWS AND INNOVATION

### SUDBURY, ON

The ILRC Sudbury/Manitoulin is hosting a seminar called Building Blocks to Empowerment at Laurentian University on May 19, 2004. Partnering with us for this event are Cambrian College and Laurentian University. We are binging in Gord Paynter. He is a motivational speaker who has a visual disability. The meal and presentation will be held at The Cavern in Science North.

### FORWARD MOTION: WASAGA BEACH

Last spring and summer, Breaking Down Barriers decided to conduct some focus groups to keep both staff and board up to date as to the areas where consumers thought that we could be of assistance. Focus groups were held both in Collingwood, and in Wasaga Beach (*located about 10 miles east of the Centre*).

Those who attended the session in Wasaga Beach, which just happens to be one of the fastest growing communities in Canada, decided to form a group that would actively seek involvement in the community. They called their group Forward Motion Wasaga Beach. The first issue they took on, which is still ongoing, was the total lack of bus transportation of any kind within their town. They have also been in touch with the chairperson of their local Accessibility Advisory Committee, requesting that at least one representative from their group be asked to join the committee. In November they listened to a speaker on planning and growing a small business. In the new year, group members will continue to develop a voice of their own on behalf of people with disabilities living in and visiting Wasaga Beach, Ontario.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

## AGM Prize Donations

We would like to thank the following businesses for their prize donations to CAILC for our AGM Raffle: AVW TEL AV, Office for Disability Issues, Cox, Merritt & Co., Compulite, Delta Hotel Ottawa, The Keg, Canadian Museum of Civilization, K-Rock Kingston Radio Station, Senators Foundation, Team Canada and the Museum of Science and Technology.

## December 3rd, 2003 Sponsors

We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the following sponsors for their support and commitment to our December 3rd, 2003 event. It was with your help and support that helped make this year's event possible and successful and helped increase awareness to the Independent Living Movement in Canada and for People with Disabilities. The National Film Board, HRDC, The Public Service Commission of Canada, Allegra, The Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada, Delta Media and Canada Post.

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## MEET THE NEW BOARD!

### EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

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\*\*Indicates Provincial Delegate

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**  
**In Calgary, AB**  
**Board Meeting ~ April 15-18th, 2004**

**In Winnipeg, MB**  
**Summit ~ September 8th-10th, 2004**  
**AGM ~ October 21-24th, 2004**

## CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTRES

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