



**Canadian Association of
Independent Living Centres**
Promoting a new perspective on disability

**Association canadienne des
centres de vie autonome**
Voir au-delà du handicap

The Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres'

2007 Annual Report



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON AND NATIONAL DIRECTOR



Greetings,

The past year has been another successful year for both CAILC and the ILRCs. We are extremely pleased to celebrate our collective success with the development of the new CAILC logo and slogan. This is never an easy process, but we ended up with support from all of the Centres for our new look and feel.

In May 2007, the CAILC Marketing Committee hosted a Corporate Think Tank with members from the corporate community to examine ourselves with an outside perspective and find out what Corporate Canada had to say about CAILC. We want to develop a partnership and outreach strategy for corporations, although we need to find a way to get our message and image across to this sector. At one point during the meeting, a corporate representative asked us why we call ourselves the Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres. It is definitely a mouthful to say let alone confusing to people. No matter what we do, the average person still thinks we are a housing association. This particular participant suggested that we simply call the organization "Independent Living - Canada" which emphasizes IL, the philosophy. Centres could eventually call themselves - IL Kingston, IL Niagara or IL Regina if they choose. It just made so much sense!

The next day the Marketing Committee discussed the Think Tank with the full Board of Directors and it was like a collective light bulb was turned on. CAILC staff presented the idea to the network at the National Executive Director Forum in June where the concept was well accepted. This led to the proposition of a name change at the 2007 Annual General Meeting.

One issue being that our acronym would be ILC which brings us back to a debate of 20 years ago when IL was first introduced in Canada. Do Centres call themselves ILCs (Independent Living Centres) or ILRCs (Independent Living Resource Centres)? In the USA, Centres are known as Centres for Independent Living (CIL) and elsewhere in the world, they are referred to as Independent Living Centres. Branding definitely cultivates introspective which is always a good thing!

We have also managed to make headway with some corporations, mostly financial institutions, and will now look at the potential of a national and local planned giving program along with third party fundraising. One thing that never changes at CAILC is the need to constantly seek funding in order to provide services to members, new approaches to Independent Living, influence public policy, and provide the funding to enable over 160 individuals to attend our national Annual General Meeting. Each year the organization raises approximately \$140,000 - \$180,000 to make this event possible and financially supports delegates from all over Canada to attend. We believe that this participation is fundamental for leadership development and a healthy democracy in the IL Movement in Canada.

CAILC is proud to officially launch the new national accessible information and data collection system - nicknamed the "VAULT" and our new Virtual Independent Living Resource Centre (V-ILRC) this year. Both initiatives help contribute to a more professional infrastructure that will prove our impact in Canada and enable us to share information nationally in a much more effective manner. To date, we did not have a central access point to retrieve information, tools, resources and publications internally throughout our network, and externally with the general public and most importantly to people with disabilities throughout Canada, and in fact, the world.

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We are also particularly proud of the numerous outreach projects including the Access to Recovery initiative that helped forge a partnership with leading national and provincial Substance Use/Misuse providers. CAILC has received good news on newly funded projects over the last year including a national literacy and quality of life research project; an educational outreach program to educate Canadians with disabilities on the government incentives for people facing lower incomes who want to save for their children's education; and lastly an exciting healthy eating initiative that will explore how food can be used as a vehicle to reduce isolation. The national office also sought funds, and was successful in funding the second annual National Executive Director's Forum and will continue to do so each year.

Five Canadian delegates were able to participate in the 6th Disabled Persons International World Assembly in Seoul, South Korea where we once again witnessed the phenomenal growth of Independent Living throughout the world. Due to the incredible need to connect internationally, CAILC was one of the founding organizations to create a new Global Network for Independent Living and we look forward to the possibilities and opportunities the future holds for this group.

Finally, none of this success would have been possible without the dedication, commitment and enthusiasm of the volunteers on the national Board of Directors, the volunteers and staff of the member Independent Living Resource Centres, consumers, the national office staff, and last but not least the government and corporate funders who invest in the IL Movement in Canada.

Sincerely,

Paul-Claude Bérubé
Chairperson

Traci Walters
National Director



Delegates from CAILC, the United States and Pakistan at the DPI World Assembly.



NEW INITIATIVES

NEW BRANDING

We are very excited to launch CAILC's official new branding after a lengthy and very consultative process with the Independent Living Resource Centres and people with disabilities across Canada. This year marks our 20th anniversary and it was felt that it was time for a new dynamic. This was important for many reasons including helping the general public understand that the term "Independent Living" is



associated with disability and CAILC's philosophy of self-determination. The four colours of the new branding represent diversity and the four figures represent our cross-disability focus (physical, intellectual, sensory and mental health).

Although not a direct translation, the slogans convey that CAILC and ILRCs are promoting and demonstrating a new model (IL model) of how we view disability. We do not see ourselves and 'sick' and/or in need of a 'cure'. We can and want to contribute to the economic, social and political fabric of Canadian society, In fact, we are helping to create a better Canada for all! The slogans that we selected are "**Voir au delà du handicap**" and "**Promoting a New Perspective on Disability**". These slogans embrace the positive aspects of disability. CAILC and the ILRCs are beginning to unfold the new branding nationally and locally. Through this exercise we are in agreement that we need to have a cooperative branding strategy in order to have an accumulative impact

across Canada by providing a consistent look, feel and messaging.

DISABLED PEOPLES' INTERNATIONAL WORLD ASSEMBLY

The Disabled Peoples' International 7th World Assembly took place in early September in Seoul, Korea. The Canadian delegation was comprised of

CAILC's National

Director, Traci Walters; CAILC's VILRC Project Manager, Kier Martin; Traci's daughter Candace Botha; CAILC's National Chairperson Paul-Claude Bérubé; CAILC's first Vice Chairperson, Meenu Sikand and CAILC's Board Member-at-

Large, Jean-Paul Normandin. Approximately 2500 leaders from the disability community attended this international conference and celebrated the new United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. As well, the convention also observed the first Global Summit on Independent Living. Some of the developments which arose from this are: that people with disabilities are proving that IL centres can and are being established in developing countries and the establishment of a Global Network of IL Centres.

UNITED NATION'S CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



In March 2007, the Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD), the Canadian Association for

Community Living (CACL) and Amnesty International worked together with CAILC to raise awareness with the Prime Minister that the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities was ready for signing. Canada was nowhere on the list of countries to sign.

CCD wrote a letter to the Prime Minister urging the Government of Canada to sign the Convention on March 30. Over 45 civil society organizations endorsed the letter. By working together and demonstrating solidarity, a last minute decision was made by the Honourable Peter MacKay, then Minister of Foreign Affairs, announcing that Canada would be one of the signatory countries. Traci Walters and Paul-Claude Bérubé were invited to attend by the office of The Honourable Peter MacKay. The signing of this Convention, demonstrates the importance of collaboration within the disability community and with other non-disability organizations to raise the profile of disability issues and to make things happen!



VIA RAIL

On Friday March 23, 2007 the Supreme Court of Canada overturned a Federal Court of Appeal decision that had allowed Via Rail to purchase inaccessible passenger rail cars. Via Rail's purchase in 2000 of 139 inaccessible cars for \$130 million (tax payers money) from the federal Government sparked a

7 year court battle between the Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD) and Via Rail. Through their decision, the Supreme Court reaffirmed the rights of persons with disabilities to access federally funded transportation systems and in doing so, upheld rights set forth in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. During the last year of the battle, CAILC was granted Intervener Status by the Supreme Court of Canada.

CAILC and the network of Independent Living Resource Centres (ILRCs) closely followed this case and applauded this decision. With this ruling, Canada moves closer to better overall access and social justice for persons with disabilities. CAILC would also like to thank CCD for their determination to fight and win this important decision that is already being used as legal reference for accessible transportation throughout Canada.



PROJECTS 2006/07

INDEPENDENT LIVING IMPACT PROJECT

As we are now in the final phase of the IL impact project, we have seen many of the pieces come together as we begin to show the tangible results from the effort of the past two and half years. In the past few months we have seen the full implementation of the national database, increased sharing of the tools and resources, and substantial progress on the book.

We have completed the development phase of our national database and information collection system now known as "the Vault" and were proud to have fully launch the system on August 8, 2007. With important contributions from the network a standardized reporting system demonstrates the work that is being done across the country. The work done has involved planning and implementation of training sessions as well as on-going support to member Centres.

The tools and resources collected through Promising Practices, will be shared through the revamped CAILC website and CAILC's Virtual Independent Living Resource Centre (VILRC). In preparation for this many of the tools have been converted to an accessible format, and we continue to gather tools from outside the network that will be of use to our members.

The initial writing of the IL Impact book is now complete as the editorial committee has continued to provide feedback as the writing of additional drafts continues. Publishing of the book has been a focus as we submit proposals and continue to reach out to the publishing community. We also begin the marketing of the book as we take the opportunity to create awareness through sharing information through a variety of means, including the recent Disabled Persons International world assembly, where it was well received.

Although the three main components of the IL Impact project are very different

and distinct, we are able to see how they come together to take a holistic approach. The implementation of this project will enable us to finally demonstrate the impact of the Independent Living movement of individuals and communities in Canada. Thank you to all for your input and ongoing support to make this initiative a success!

AWARENESS, MARKETING AND FUND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

This has been a very productive year with so many new and exciting developments. One of the highlights was a review of CAILC's brand and after eight months of consultation with all levels of the organization, CAILC now has a new logo and slogan. This is a major change that focuses on promoting the Independent Living movement and will further better brand CAILC as a leading disability organization in Canada. The enthusiastic response from our Centres

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for the new brand has resulted in more than half of the Centres adopting the new logo during the first six months of implementation.

The Centres have been supported by CAILC with workshops taking place during our Executive Director's forum in June. Each Centre received a comprehensive Resource Binder developed at CAILC with templates and best practices guidelines to advance their fundraising and marketing efforts. In addition, a special communiqué containing pertinent articles on awareness and fundraising and shared stories of Centre successes was produced and distributed four times in the past year. The majority of Centres now have a dedicated fund development person that has resulted in an increase in revenue through small businesses, service clubs and events.

In May, CAILC's Marketing Committee hosted the first one-day Corporate Think Tank with participants from business who provided guidance to CAILC's strategic direction on marketing and fundraising. One of the many recommendations of this team of experts was a name change to Independent Living Canada. This was quickly endorsed by the National Board of Directors and the process put in place to make it a reality. These are definitely exciting times.

CAILC reached another milestone by acquiring an additional \$50,000 from TD Bank Financial Group, for a total of \$100,000 towards the Virtual Independent Living Centre Employment Web Portal. Joining TD Bank this year in CAILC's highest recognition level, **The National Leader's Club (\$50,000+)** is the RBC Foundation with a donation of \$50,000 towards the Investing in Future's project, an RESP initiative. Also, Scotiabank and the M.A. Teall Foundation were inducted into CAILC's **Community Partner's Club (\$10,000 - \$24,999)**. CAILC launched a Web Advertising Program and welcomed Compsult Ltd. as the first sponsor of \$10,000. This idea was inspired by our Corporate Think Tank who were very impressed with the close to 55,000 hits the CAILC website

received monthly. CIBC remains a loyal supporter with an additional \$10,000 towards a three-year pledge of \$30,000 and was welcomed into the **Community Builder's Club (\$25,000 - \$49,999)** last year. All our new and existing corporate partners joined us last year in Richmond, B.C. at the Annual General Meeting Luncheon, an ideal opportunity for our National Board of Directors and Executive Directors to meet and thank our corporate and government partners.

Recognition of our Corporate Partners is now part of our newly-designed national website under Valued Supporters and profiles each one. CAILC also focuses on our corporate partners in the New Heights Corporate Communique twice a year and in our Annual Report.

There were a number of in-kind sponsors throughout the year including Rogers Phones (\$15,000), the Ottawa Citizen (\$5,000) and Grand and Toy (\$1,500).

The past year paved the way for the creation of new corporate partners with requests for proposals and solidified current partner relationships. CAILC and the Centres are definitely reaching new heights!

ACCESS TO RECOVERY PROJECT

In its final year, the Access to Recovery (ATR) Project continued to evolve with more tools and resources developed. Throughout the project CAILC has developed a series of eleven fact sheets directed at persons with disabilities as well as service providers; a series of six articles published in Abilities Magazine; a needs assessment; a facilitators' guide for ILRCs and service providers; two PowerPoint presentations, a promotional poster published in Abilities Magazine and distributed across Canada, and promotional postcards for a national dissemination strategy and for local ILRCs to promote the project and their workshops.

The tools and resources are available on the CAILC website along with a web page dedicated to links and information for persons with disabilities and an-

other web page dedicated to links and information for service providers. Other related tools and resources can also be found in the Access to Recovery section of the website. To close this project our National Director will do a poster presentation at the Issues of Substance Conference 2007.



VIRTUAL ILRC PROJECT

The idea of developing a Virtual Centre has grown from the feedback of consumers who access current services of the ILRCs, including employment/career services and a computer access site. The VILRC provides a place of learning and sharing of information about adaptive technology with educational facilities, employment/career service agencies, governments, schools and other community partners.

On-line learning tools have been collected from IL network to enable consumers to access knowledge and skills that will enhance their employability and self-employment skills. As a part of the exploration of online career tools and resources the VILRC project has secured a one year subscription to Career Cruising for the three pilot sites. The VILRC project and test sites are facilitating the technological growth of the IL network nationally.

VILRC Pilot Sites are as follows:

- Victoria, B.C., Disability Resource Centre
- Independent Living Centre Kingston, ON.

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- Regina, South Saskatchewan ILRC

In addition we have a strong partnership with the Neil Squire Society to host ATEC Sites in the CAILC Network.

These include the following:

- Cowichan Independent Living, Duncan, B.C.
- Victoria Disability Resource Centre, B.C.
- North Saskatchewan ILRC, Saskatoon, SK
- Independent Living Resource Centre Corp., Sudbury, ON
- CRVA - PA INC., Shippagan, N.B.

CAILC VILRC Web Portal

- Web Portal has been designed and is now active internally.
- The new web site now meets the current accessibility standards set by the World Wide Web Consortium for universal access. The official launch is planned for November 22nd during the CAILC AGM.



EVENTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FORUM - JUNE 2007

NATIONAL BOARD MEETING MAY 31 - JUNE 2007

UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABLED PERSON'S ANNUAL KICK-OFF EVENT - NOVEMBER 2007



NEW PROJECTS 2007

LITERACY AND QUALITY OF LIFE RESEARCH

This past August marked the beginning of the Literacy and Quality of Life Project "Making a Connection, Disability, Literacy and Quality of Life". After sending out the requests for proposals (RFP) five pilot sites were selected based on an existing relationship with literacy programming in each of the five communities. We assembled the national research team comprised of John Lord, Peggy Hutchison, Diane Driedger, Traci Walters and Chris Lytle. This literacy initiative was designed by and for people with disabilities to examine the gaps and experiences of consumers of literacy programs. The literacy project has been assembling components for a think tank session to take place the last weekend of November in conjunction with the annual general meeting. The training will focus on participatory action research, literacy issues for people with disabilities,

accommodation and accessibility issues for literacy providers, and other relevant issues. Each participating ILRC will attend along with their Literacy Partner. At this weekend session, those in attendance will assemble a resource group to meet virtually every month in order to maintain the Participatory Action Research focus of this project. Through these regular meetings, the project will remain a community based initiative which will include literacy consumers. We believe the results of how the ILRCs improve the quality of life for consumers will have implications beyond literacy issues.

INVESTING IN FUTURES: AN INDEPENDENT LIVING APPROACH TO EDUCATION SAVINGS INCENTIVES

Funded in March 2007, through the Canada Education Savings Program, Human Resources and Social Development Canada, this three-year

national project supports member Centres in providing post-secondary education and savings resources, tools and supports to parents with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities. Twenty-seven Independent Living Resource Centres have chosen to take part in this initiative. With the aid of the project Advisory Committee, Traci Walters led training to launch the project at the Executive Directors' Forum held in Ottawa in June 2007. A partnership was also developed with RBC that will enable national training and facilitate the process of developing local partnerships between ILRCs and local branches of RBC. A series of Information Sheets and a Power Point presentation have been developed for use at the local level; these resources were created through a partnership between the Kapuskasing Centre and CAILC. Federal representatives from HRSDC have been invited to present at CAILC's 2007 AGM.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT PROJECT

CAILC has received funding for a new initiative - Food for Thought: A Pan-Canadian Initiative Addressing the Healthy Eating Goals of Persons with Disabilities. Funding provided by the Physical Activity and Healthy Eating Contribution Program - Centre for Health Promotion, Public Health Agency of Canada. Our initiative aims to build on the successful tools and resources that were created in our previous physical activity initiative "Healthy Lifestyles for Independent Living" by adding new accessible tools on healthy eating including program models. We want to explore how food can also be used a vehicle to connect people, encourage physical activity and reduce isolation.

We would also like to go beyond the creation of tools by actually tracking a selected group of individuals with disabilities over the course of the initiative who will work with their local ILRCs while they test out various program models that encourage peer support and physical activities in 8 regions throughout Canada. By using Participatory Action Research, we will be able to gauge what works and what doesn't in addressing the unhealthy eating practices of people with disabilities. Pilot programs may include accessible community kitchens, slow food groups, accessible community kitchen gardens, healthy eating cooking classes and much more. We would like to also encourage physical activity into healthy eating i.e. community gardens.

Although only 8 ILRCs will participate in the actual program pilots, the remaining 20 ILRCs will also participate in the training and provide healthy eating educational workshops for people with disabilities across Canada.

CAILC AWARDS 2006

CONSUMER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Colleen Faulkner won the 2006 CAILC Consumer Award of Excellence. She is a member of the Halifax ILRC, as well as a former staff member at the Halifax ILRC and at the ILRC in St. John's. She is presently working towards her Master of Science degree at Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax and hopes to become a registered dietitian. Ms. Faulkner created a detailed volunteer policy with supporting procedures and also a volunteer co-ordinator manual for the Halifax ILRC. She also edited two issues of their newsletter. While she was in St. John's, Ms. Faulkner helped to co-ordinate the ILRC's annual flea market, BBQ and contributed articles on nutrition for their newsletter. She is willing to educate others about cystic fibrosis and share her personal experiences.

JOHN LORD AWARD FOR PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH

Tracy Odell won the John Lord Award for Participatory Action Research at CAILC's AGM 2006. The title of her research project was "Not Your Average Childhood: Lived Experience of Children with Physical Disabilities Raised in Bloorview Hospital, Home and School 1960-1989". This research project was a major research paper submitted to the Graduate Program in Critical Disability Studies at York University in 2005. In order to conduct this research, Ms. Odell interviewed 16 adults with physical disabilities who lived at Toronto's Bloorview Hospital, Home and School between 1960 and 1989 and documented their personal experiences. Ms. Odell has a very personal interest in this project because she lived at Bloorview from age seven to eighteen. Her research is a powerful, consumer-grounded reflection on life at Bloorview for children with disabilities as well as an important reflection on institutionalization.

ALLAN SIMPSON AWARD FOR PROGRAMMING

The 2006 Allan Simpson Award for Programming was awarded to the ILRC Thunder Bay for the Creating Employability Options program (CEO). CEO complimented the Navigating the Waters program by bridging the gap between consumers and employers by providing wage subsidies, tuition and self-employment supports. ILRC Thunder Bay secured funding for this program at the local level through Service Canada. This program has expanded in terms of success rate and helping consumers to secure employment. CEO includes people with disabilities in meaningful ways and has allowed the ILRC Thunder Bay to create many different partnerships in the community. This program can be transferred to other ILRCs who are able to secure local funding for similar IL based employment programs.

NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S VOLUNTEER AWARD

The winners of the 2006 Volunteer Award are the IL Impact Project Advisory Group members: Laura Hockman (Vernon), Tracy Knutson (Regina), Mike Murphy (Kingston), Katie Paialunga (Ottawa), Wendy Savoy (Thunder Bay), Sandra Carpenter (Toronto), Kier Marin (St. John's), and Robert Mitchell (Winnipeg). The members of this group helped with the IL Impact Project conference calls and assisted the IL Impact project manager with various aspects of the project.

NEW TOOLS

Information/Fact Sheets
for Access to Recovery
Initiative - Harm Reduction,
Prescription Drugs & Drug
Interactions, Alcohol, Tobacco
Use, Street Drugs, The
Disability Community,
Substance Abuse & Disability,
Physical Accessibility,
Alternate Formats, Website
Accessibility, Augmentative
Communication

Access to Recovery
Partnership **Poster**

Access to Recovery
Facilitators' Guide for dis-
ability and non-disability
organizations

**Investing in Futures
Information Sheets** -
Registered Education Savings
Plans. Types of Registered
Education Savings Plans,
Canada Learning Bond, Using
Your Registered Education
Savings, Canada Education
Savings Grant, Alberta
Centennial Education Savings
Plan, Know the Ins and Outs
of Investing in RESPs

Discussion Papers -
'Disability and Literacy,
Making a Connection'
Participatory Action Research,
Research for Change

CAILC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

NATIONAL LEADER'S CLUB (\$50,000 +)



COMMUNITY BUILDER'S CLUB (\$25,000 - \$49,999)



COMMUNITY PARTNER'S CLUB (\$10,000 - \$24,999)



GOVERNMENT FUNDERS



We would like to thank the following federal government departments for their financial support.

Human Resources and Social Development Canada

- Organizational Core Funding
- Independent Living Impact Project
- Independent Living Awareness, Marketing and Fund Development Initiative

Public Health Agency of Canada

- Access to Recovery and Independent Living project

Health Canada

- Food for Thought

National Office of Literacy and Learning

- Virtual ILRC Project
- Investing in Futures Project
- Making a Connection: Literacy, Disability and Quality of Life

Human Resources and Social Development Canada

- Summer Student Placement Program

