



The Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres



2005 Annual Report

A message from the chair person & National director

In 2004 the Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres (CAILC) produced **The Independent Living Business Case: A Strategic Investment into the Human & Economic Potential of Canadians with Disabilities**. This document, created in conjunction with member Independent Living Resource Centres (ILRCs), charted a 5 year vision for CAILC and related activities necessary for a strong and viable association.

Early in 2005, we took our first concrete steps towards this vision when we secured funding from Social Development Canada (SDC) for the **Independent Living (IL) Impact Project**. This three year project will enable CAILC and member ILRCs to build a credible means of tracking and measuring accomplishments and growth, as well as building our capacity to share operational, core program and administrative best practices and successful models. Although the IL Impact project is an important step towards building the organization we envision, we recognized that the ability to share and measure our success was only one step in attaining our objectives. With this in mind, we began to work towards securing support for other agreed upon activities from our Business Case.

This process also led to the creation of a proposal for a parallel investment to compliment the work of the IL Impact project, entitled **Independent Living: Awareness, Marketing and Fundraising Initiative**. This 3 year initiative will fulfill strategic activities outlined in the business case including the creation of supports and services for under-represented and under-served areas in Canada, and will raise national awareness on IL through a marketing and resource/fund development component.

This strategic, parallel, and well-timed investment will develop a sustainability strategy addressing what exists, what works, and how we can ensure supports are sustained. We anticipate the two initiatives will not only deliver a stronger, more effective and diverse organization, but also enable us to respond to the stated needs of greater numbers of Canadians with disabilities, their families, and communities.

Throughout the year there were numerous milestones including working with the Regroupement des Personnes Handicapées, Région du Haut-Richelieu Inc. (RPHRHR) in Québec. We take great pride in welcoming our newest member into the network at this year's Annual General Meeting. The organization is a well established group that has been providing services and support for 30 years in the St. Jean-sur Richelieu region.

They have a long and well established track record of providing housing, accessible transportation, wheelchair and scooter repairs, and other empowering services and supports to people with disabilities and we are absolutely thrilled with the acceptance of Canada's 28th Independent Living Resource Centre. The IL network is continuing to flourish and expand and we are very proud of the hard work of the volunteers, staff and members of the Regroupement for taking on this initiative and becoming a member of our national family.



National Safety Symposium: Crime Prevention and Independent Living held in Ottawa, ON from April 28-30, 2005.

A message from the Chairperson and National Director... (continued from page 1)

In 1990, Gerben DeJong, Phd, who at that time was the Director of the National Rehabilitation Hospital Research Centre in Washington, DC made a presentation at a meeting of the Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres on the future of Independent Living as a Social Movement. He stated then that ***“A social movement cannot sustain itself by being in the streets indefinitely. Eventually, the ideals and values of the movement are assimilated by others and achieve sufficient social legitimacy in various societal institutions. At that stage, the identity and legitimacy of the movement is no longer the focal issue. Instead, attention is turned to how the movement can sustain itself financially and institutionally.***

Looking at the exciting positive pro-active initiatives that are enabling us to propel ourselves into the future by building a sustainable foundation we have certainly come a long way from “being in the streets”.

This success is an indication of what can be achieved when we commit to moving forward together and use the skills, expertise, and knowledge of the IL community in Canada to make our vision a reality. We sincerely thank all our supporters, friends, staff, volunteers and our member Independent Living Resource Centres who contribute to this vision on a daily basis. In particular this year, we want to give special thanks to Social Development Canada for investing in our future!

Paul-Claude Bérubé
National Chairperson

Traci Walters
National Director



Participants from the “RPHRHR” attending an introduction meeting with representatives of CAILC in June 2005



Paul Claude Bérubé and Traci Walters at the Winnipeg Centre in 2004.

NEW INITIATIVES

Investing in Futures: An Independent Living Approach to Education Savings Incentives

This project is a three year national initiative that will support member Independent Living Resource Centres in providing Education and Savings resources, tools and supports to parents with disabilities as well as the parents of children with disabilities. Designed to enable participants to take advantage of existing government education and savings incentives, this initiative will enable CAILC to better support the post-secondary educational needs of the disability community.

Laying the Foundation for Virtual Independent Living Resource Centres (VILRC)

This is a three year national initiative that will enable CAILC to build the virtual capacity of the Independent Living movement through the design and implementation of virtual employment and pre-employment supports for persons with disabilities. This exciting proposal, submitted to the Office for Learning Technologies, would provide unique and freely accessible self-directed employment resources, tools, and templates for the national cross-disability community.

The Next Step: An Exploration of Literacy as an Indicator of Quality of Life for Persons with Disabilities

This proposed three year research initiative will enable CAILC to track and report on the literacy goals of a core group of persons with disabilities. Designed using the principles of participatory action research, persons with disabilities from across Canada who want to take part in this project, will be supported to self-identify literacy goals. Then, with the support of CAILC and ILRCs we will work towards achieving these goals. The end result of this project will be a detailed research report outlining the relationship between attainment of literacy skills and quality of life

Independent Living Impact Project

Funded through Social Development Canada (SDC), this three year initiative began in the Winter of 2004-2005. With the overriding goals of building a credible, sustainable, pan-Canadian framework for gathering, analyzing, and measuring the impact of Independent Living on individuals, communities, and policy and program development, this project achieved several important milestones in its first year.

Included in its accomplishments were: a national think-tank to kick-off this project and gather the feedback and insight of IL stakeholders; the development of a framework for developing a book about IL in Canada; a think-tank with stakeholders to identify indicators for success and to revisit the core program themes; and the hiring of technical expertise to collaboratively build a national information and data collection system to help measure the impact of IL in Canada. This project is exciting as it will enable CAILC, ILRCs, and individual consumers to share what was described by one think-tank participant as "*IL: the best kept secret.*"

Responding to Substance Abuse: An Independent Living Approach

This project is a two year, national initiative funded through Health Canada's Drug Strategy Community Initiatives Fund (DSCIF) launched in the fall of 2005. Designed and led by the Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres (CAILC). This project will enable us to work with our network of Independent Living Resource Centres (ILRCs) and our partner the Canadian Abilities Foundation (CAF) to produce substance abuse prevention tools and resources that meet the needs of the Independent Living network, persons with disabilities, and mainstream substance abuse providers.

In addition to completing a comprehensive national needs assessment and building strategic partnerships with a diverse group of stakeholders, this project also includes resource development and training opportunities in the area of substance abuse and persons with disabilities. The overriding goal of *Responding to Substance Abuse: An Independent Living Approach* is to design and implement a substance abuse promotion and prevention strategy that is led by persons with disabilities and informed, at all stages of the process, by their stated needs and expert knowledge.

Healthy Lifestyles for Independent Living

In the summer of 2005 CAILC, in partnership with the Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability (ALACD), launched this one year initiative designed to strengthen the IL networks ability to deliver active living and healthy lifestyle supports and services to persons with disabilities.



Participants of the IL Impact Seminar in Ottawa at the end of September

This project is supported by Physical Activity Contributions Program of the Public Health Agency of Canada. Included in the project activities is training to CAILC personnel and volunteers from across the country; furnishing each ILRC with a variety of resources and tools for their library; and development of a program delivery model to address community capacity. It will also provide a mechanism by which people with disabilities across Canada can learn about and become involved with appropriate active living programs within their communities.

PROJECTS completed in 2005

Crime Prevention for Independent Living: A Pan Canadian Initiative for People with Disabilities and Their Communities

The Crime Prevention project, which began in 2003, concluded in 2005. A key component of this national crime prevention initiative was our National Safety Symposium: Crime Prevention and Independent Living which took place in Ottawa in April 2005. The Symposium was a great success, bringing together 200 delegates from the disability and crime prevention community to discuss issues of common concern. Included in project activities for 2005, was the Conference Proceedings Report written by Cameron Crawford of the Roeher Institute. This report can be viewed at www.cailc.ca. Based on the success of this initiative, we will continue to post resources on the crime prevention component of our web site. The partnership with the Ottawa Police Service was invaluable to project success. CAILC thanks the National Crime Prevention Partnership Program and Emergency Preparedness Canada for their continued support of CAILC crime prevention initiatives.

Literacy for Independent Living (LIL): Learning Resources for Adults with Disabilities

The Literacy for Independent Living Symposium, the first of its kind in a decade, took place in Winnipeg in October 2004. Delegates from the literacy and disability communities attended as speakers facilitated dialogue, identified key barriers, showcased best practices and literacy research, and made recommendations for future work in the areas of disability and literacy. To view the full conference report, please visit the literacy section of CAILC's web site at www.cailc.ca/li/. Other notable activities include the development of a searchable database on the accessibility of literacy programs across Canada, and a guide to the site also posted on the web.



National Advisory Committee for the Crime Prevention initiative.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

National Safety Symposium: Crime Prevention and Independent Living Conference Proceedings. Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres (CAILC), September 2005.

Did you Know? Series of 4 Fact Sheets on Persons with Disabilities in Canada. Topics include: Income Support, Housing and Homelessness, Employment, and Accessibility. Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres (CAILC), December 2004.

Literacy for Independent Living Symposium Report. Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres (CAILC), May 2005.

REPORT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS

In August 2005, David Shannon, on behalf of the CAILC International Committee, attended meetings in New York on the proposed United Nations convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. David attended sessions pertaining to proposed Article 15, which addresses the concept of Independent Living.

In addition to attending these meetings and taking part in the discussions around Article 15, Dave also prepared and distributed a CAILC discussion paper on Article 15 drafted to help facilitate dialogue around the concept of Independent Living, and the need to enshrine this concept in the convention to ensure the participation of all persons with a disability in their communities.

NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US

On December 3rd, 2004, CAILC led a national event to celebrate the United Nations International Day of Disabled Persons. The day's designated theme, *Nothing About Us Without Us*, aptly captured the spirit of collaboration in policy and program design highlighted throughout the day's events. *Nothing About Us without Us* recognized the need for persons with disabilities to take a lead role in the decision making process.

Included in the day's events was a live web cast to enable persons with disabilities and ILRCs from across Canada to watch the event. Among the highlights was a keynote speech by the Honourable Ken Dryden Minister of Social Development Canada, and the national launch of the *Access 2 Entertainment Card*, a Famous Players and Cineplex Galaxy initiative developed with CAILC and 8 other national disability groups. This project saw the development of a program which allows free admission to support persons accompanying persons with disabilities to the movies. CAILC thanks all its partners for helping to make the day's events possible.

LAST YEAR'S AWARDS

The Allan Simpson Award for Programming – This unique award commemorates Allan Simpson, one of the founding members of the Independent Living movement in Canada. Allan was not only passionate about the promotion of IL, but also lived the IL philosophy himself to the fullest each day. Each year The Allan Simpson Award for programming is presented to an Independent Living Resource Centre (ILRC) that takes an innovative approach to a particular project/program based on the fundamentals of the IL philosophy.

The Winnipeg ILRC was last year's recipient based on the Personal Attendant Community Education Program (PACE). PACE, designed and delivered by persons with disabilities, trains able-bodied persons to become Independent Living Attendants (ILAs)

CAILC Consumer Award of Excellence Established in 2000, this award is presented on an annual basis to a person with a disability who: is a member of an ILRC; lives the IL philosophy to the fullest; has overcome barriers through decision making and action to fulfill career or personal goals; through their actions breaks negative stereotypes traditionally assigned to persons with disabilities; and contributes to the national IL movement.

Anna Quon was last year's Consumer Award of Excellence recipient based on her outstanding volunteer efforts in her community at the Halifax ILRC, and through her writing about disability and related issues.

Thank you to our Sponsors and Corporate Friends

Social Development Partnership Program—SDC
National Literacy Secretariat
Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada -
Crime Prevention Partnership Program
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada Ottawa Local Office
Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration
Public Health Agency of Canada—Population Health Fund
Ottawa Police Service (OPS)
M.A. Teall Foundation

December 3rd, 2004 Sponsors



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CAILC would like to thank the volunteers & staff of both the local ILRCs and the national association. It is the dedication and commitment of countless volunteers that make CAILC a strong successful pan-Canadian organization.

CAILC is the National umbrella organization run by and for persons with a wide variety of disabilities. We have a network of 27 Independent Living Resource Centres across Canada, 3 Centres currently under development, with more Centres developing each year. Independent Living is a vision, a philosophy and a Movement. It is founded on the rights of people with disabilities to:

- Live with dignity in their chosen community;
- Participate in all aspects of their own lives; and
- Control and make decisions about their own lives.

This philosophy underlies all the work that we do, including national projects on employment, social policy, crime prevention and other disability related issues.

**Audited Financial Statements
available upon request**

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