



Voir au-delà du handicap
Promoting a new perspective on disability

THE PERSPECTIVE

The National Independent Living News Bulletin

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The Victoria Personal Supports Centre The IL Philosophy in Action!

By Susan Forster

In August 2008 the Independent Living Centre in Victoria 'softly' launched the Personal Supports Centre, an 18-month demonstration project and the first of its kind in the province of British Columbia (BC). The Centre will provide a 'single window process' to help connect adults (18+) with disabilities to the resources and supports they need from government, not-for-profit and private sector organizations. Personal supports are defined as goods and services that assist

those living with disabilities to participate in daily living, and for this project the Personal Supports Centre (PSC) will focus on equipment and assistive devices requests.

The values of the PSC are choice, inclusiveness, accessible and respectful, and its principles are to be citizen-centered, flexible and responsive, comprehensive, effective and sustainable, accountable and integrated.

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From left - Terri Dame, Ministry of Housing and Social Development, Wendy Cox and Pat Danforth, Personal Supports Centre/Victoria

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Assistance is guided by the individual needing personal supports, based on his/her goals. As an individual's needs change, the PSC will provide ongoing support if needed. This service is to support and enhance, not replace the individual's efforts to manage their life.

This innovative demonstration project developed out of a partnership of the BC provincial government, led by the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance, and the community of disability organizations and individuals with disabilities working together. The Victoria Disability Resource Centre, ably led by Executive Director, Mike Hanson, became involved with this process in 2007, and the PSC became the first demonstration site to be launched. Other sites, both physical and virtual, are planned to open across the province.

The impetus for creating this demonstration project was that unlike other provinces in Canada, BC currently has no universal equipment and assistive devices program for people with disabilities. This means that people with disabilities who require these supports must find their way through a myriad of different programs with different eligibility criteria offered through various

ministries or service organizations. If an individual does not fall into a particular population or category of disability served by these programs, then they fall through the cracks. Statistics Canada reports that people with disabilities in British Columbia have the highest level of unmet needs in Canada for equipment and assistive devices. (Statistics Canada, A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001. 2001 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey, Catalogue No. 89-577-XIE, December 2001).

A coalition of more than 35 community organizations has been working together since 2004 to try to change this situation with the support of the provincial government. Out of this process has come what is called a 'participation model' approach to developing services. Providing a window for accessing personal supports forms an integral part of the BC government's disability strategy.¹ One key goal of this project is to better coordinate access to existing programs and services for individuals who need them. However, there will be the opportunity throughout the demonstration period to document individuals whose needs remain unmet for future program planning purposes.

The values, the principles and the

participatory model that have been created for this project so strongly reflect IL philosophy principles of consumer-control, cross-disability, being community-based and promoting participation and integration -- that this project can truly be said to be putting the IL philosophy into action.

At IL Canada, we extend congratulations to all those at the community and the government level who worked together to bring this innovative project to life. Pat Danforth, involved for some time in the development of this project, has been hired as the Manager of the Personal Supports Centre, and Pat

is currently busy planning the official launch of the PSC to take place in the fall of 2008. The PSC is located within the Disability Resource Centre at 817A Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1H6, and can be contacted via telephone at (250) 595-0044, by TTY at (250) 595-0044, by email:

psc@drcvictoria.com or you can visit their web site at www.personalsupports.bc.ca.

¹A Participation Model for a Personal Supports Program for People with Disabilities in British Columbia, Prepared by Karen Martin and Christine Gordon for the Provincial Equipment and Assistive Devices Committee, May 2006

IL Canada Projects

Planned Giving “Giving Today and Planning for Tomorrow”

Planned Giving is one of the most powerful philanthropic tools available to you today. A planned gift can be made now or arranged now for payment in the future.

A gift to your Independent Living Centre or Independent Living Canada can be arranged in many ways:

- A bequest in your will
- Gifts in kind (shares and securities, RRSPs/RRIFs, real estate)
- Life insurance policies

Regardless of its size, your gift is important. It will ensure that we can continue to provide excellence in the delivery of programs and services, but also it will have a direct and lasting impact on people with disabilities.

For more information on planned giving, please contact your local Independent Living Centre or Independent Living Canada. Visit IL Canada's website at www.ilcanada.ca for a listing of IL Centres.

Making a Connection – Literacy, Disability and Quality of Life: Participatory Action Research



By Emily Cameron

‘Making a Connection’ is a national project that joins consumers, Centres, literacy providers and academic researchers to collaborate on the self-identified skills development goals of consumers and engages all participants in a Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach. PAR challenges traditional research methodologies by empowering participants to become researchers, as opposed to remaining the subjects of research.

Everyone involved in ‘Making a Connection’ has a voice and provides feedback on how information is gathered, which means that though we have an overall plan for the project, adaptations and modifications of resources are integral to project development. By using a PAR approach, we aim to learn from consumer experiences, successes and challenges in order to better understand how skills development impacts the lives of consumers. Historically, the medical model has sought to define the quality of life of people with disabilities, whereas

the PAR approach to ‘Making a Connection’ works against this prescriptive and limiting perspective, offering consumers a forum to communicate what matters in their day-to-day lives.

In recent months, we finalized our interview questions, gathered information about the first year of partnership development between Centres and literacy providers, and continued with consumer recruitment. In the coming months, our academic researchers will travel to our five pilot sites and support research capacity building. Most importantly, we will begin to compile consumer expertise based on individual skills development paths.



Food for Thought – An Independent Living Approach to Healthy Eating and Persons with Disabilities

By Christine Malone

This initiative aims to educate Canadians with disabilities on Canada's new food guide, create accessible tools on healthy eating and nutrition and explore how food can also be used as a vehicle to connect people, encourage physical activity and reduce isolation.

We are well underway with eight IL Centres (ILCs) working to test various program models that encourage peer support, healthy eating and activities that reduce isolation. Pilot programs may include accessible community kitchens, community gardens, healthy eating cooking classes and much more.

The 8 pilots are:

- ILC - Halifax, NS
- CVA - PA INC: Shippagan, NB
- CVA - Montréal, QC
- Le PHÉNIX - Alfred, ON
- ILC - Niagara, ON

- ILC - Calgary AB
- Co-Pilots ILC - Duncan & ILC - Nanaimo, BC

Participatory Action Research (PAR) is an important foundation of this initiative as it grounds our understanding of issues related to persons with disabilities and food. The initial focus groups with consumers were very successful in this regard and we are pleased to share this information throughout the network.



Through this process, we will develop a variety of tools and resources, and we want to share the first of these with individuals across the country. Feel free to check out the first tip sheets on the topic- "Eating on a Budget" and

"Understanding Food Labels" as well as a facilitators guide to sharing the food guide all available at: www.ilcanada.ca/article/food-for-thought-429.asp.

Keep a look out for further updates, tools and resources coming soon.

VILRC Presents Mind Mapping

By Kier Martin

Mind mapping software

Mind mapping is a tool that allows you to organize and explain your ideas to create a final document. Mind mapping is a great way to get your ideas going or even find new ideas you haven't thought of before.

Mind maps have been used for centuries for learning, brainstorming, memory, visual thinking, and problem solving by educators, engineers, psychologists, and people in general. Some of the earliest examples of mind maps were developed by Porphyry of Tyros, a noted thinker of the 3rd century, as he graphically visualized the concept categories of Aristotle. Ramon Llull also used these structures of the mind map form. - from

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mind_map#Origins

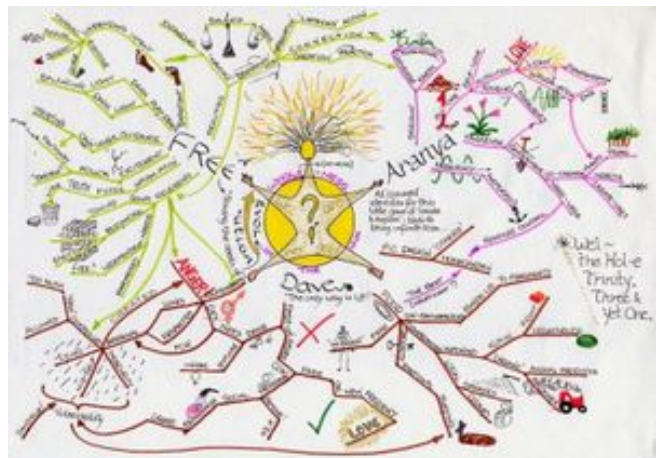
You can do certain things such as:

- Help take down your thoughts
- Create a list of ideas then apply then help put them in order
- Create a graphical map of an idea to help you get to the idea you want to reach

- Overcome writer's block
- Arrange your ideas then connect them as you want

Mind Map on a Paper

Want to generate a beautiful Mind Map? Speed is the most important factor in trying to get information from our brain to paper (or the computer), the other important aspect is creativity. You may be familiar with this concept from a variety of sources. Check out Inclusion Press for manually created mind map can look like this:



Mind Map with Computer

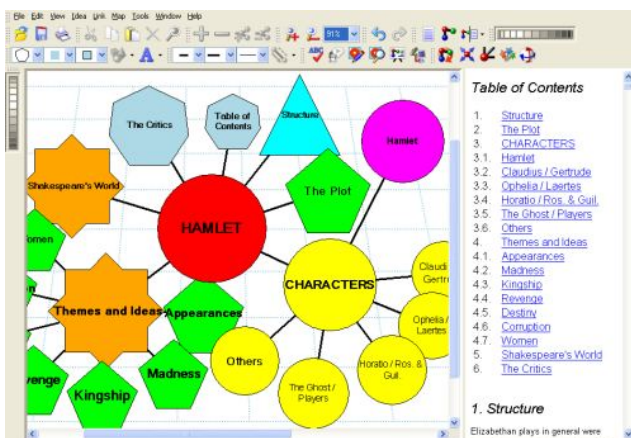
Mind Mapping software is good for bringing out our creativity and is based on the old fashion technique of using a large sheet of paper with colorful pen/marker. Using computer-based mind mapping

allows us to share our thoughts with others (i.e. teachers, colleagues, funders).

Some common uses for mind mapping software:

- Keeping track of projects
- Links to necessary files, programs and sources –handy for college, university and high school students,
- Create a knowledge base for all your smaller notes around a task
- Essay writing and brainstorming topics
- Keep track of contacts, recipes, medical records, etc. You learn about the structure from the additional data items you enter

The computer generated mind map below was captured from Spark-Space:



Using your computer as a Mind Mapping tool is a great way to organize your thoughts and gives you a new perspective on creative writing/thinking.

Free or freeware mind mapping programs:

Thinkgraph -
(<http://www.thinkgraph.com>)

VYM - View Your Mind -
(<http://www.insilmaril.de/vym/>)

Kdissert -
(<http://freehackers.org/~tnagy/kdissert/>)

FreeMind -
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mind_map)

Wikimindmap -
(www.wikimindmap.org)

Pay Programs:

Spark-Space – (www.spark-space.com)

MindMeister –
(www.mindmeister.com)

Inspiration – (www.inspiration.com)

Map Your Mind: How to make a mind map in 8 steps -
(www.mapyourmind.com)

Inclusion Press International -
(www.inclusion.com)

Investing in Futures (RESP) Project Update

By Susan Forster

Now in its second year as a national project, Investing in Futures is currently offered by all 28 IL Centres. Here is a synopsis of some of the local activities taking place across the country. Many Centres are developing partnerships with Royal Bank branches, and other local banks and financial institutions in their communities. In Vernon, BC alone, the Centre has established partnerships with five financial institutions.

Centres have developed innovative ways to promote Investing in Futures. In Shippagan, NB, Centre staff handed out placemats to local restaurants. In Kapuskasing, ON, gift packages with RESP information were developed to distribute to new mothers leaving hospital. In Duncan, BC, information packages and promotional items have been sent to local school boards for distribution to students and their families. In Ottawa, ON, the Centre

has an information session planned for July 2008 on its calendar of events, and in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, a presentation on the project was given during the Centre's AGM, and the Centre in Richmond, BC, has held workshops on financial literacy. Many Centres, such as the Centre in Calgary, are promoting Investing in Futures with newsletter articles, and the Centre in Regina is in the process of developing a section of its new web site for the RESP project. Finally, when the Centre in Trois-Pistoles, QC held a press conference to announce its new name, it also took this opportunity to launch Investing in Futures to the region.

At the national level, we are proud to announce that the Power Point tool including detailed presenters' notes and colorful clip art was launched to the network in May 2008.

To find out more about Investing in Futures, visit www.ilcanada.ca or contact Susan Forster at membership@ilc-vac.ca.

Three-Year Fund Development and Awareness Project Ends on a High Note!

By Linda McGreevy, Director,
Resource Development

How quickly time goes by when we are having fun! You have heard

this said before, but personally, it has been a wonderful journey of discovery and fulfillment. Laying

the foundation for a national fundraising program for Independent Living Canada was enlightening and an exercise in patience, fortitude, and on several occasions, resolve. We are very pleased with the efforts that resulted in the creation of mutually beneficial partnerships. Our corporate partners and foundations benefit by advancing their corporate mission through association with Independent Living Canada and our network of IL Centres. We all benefit by having new and committed ambassadors working on our behalf to fund programs and services that directly impact our consumers.

But it goes much deeper than simply money. By introducing ourselves to new people in corporations and foundations, including their large base of employees and other stakeholders, it provides us with a unique opportunity to share our vision for a barrier-free Canada. Our partners are proud of their association with us and we, in turn, are grateful to them for believing in us. Together, we all win.

This project also involved months of thought and debate which ended up changing how we brand ourselves. A significant and positive change occurred in our name change to Independent Living Canada. The name change is aptly supported by

a new logo and slogan that speak volumes about who we are and the leadership role we play in changing societal attitudes about people living with a disability.

The other major component of this project, that I am immensely proud of, is the impact that the funding, mentoring and training has had on so many of the Independent Living Centres. Many of the IL Centres had established fundraising programs, but were looking for fresh ideas.

IL Centres have not only embraced the new logo and name change (many of whom have adopted it for their Centre), but view the new brand as a way of unifying the Independent Living movement nationally. The enthusiasm for change was evident and the collaboration and sharing of new ideas emphasize our team spirit.

One of the perks of managing this project has been getting to know and work with a group of diverse and talented people, including an amazingly committed National Board of Directors, Centre Executive Directors and staff, who made my job easy. Last but not least, a sincere and heartfelt note of thanks to Traci Walters, National Director, and all the staff of Independent Living Canada, who

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taught me so much about patience,
perseverance and determination.

Success is not a solitary journey in
life – we need others. I will never
be able to hear or see the word
“independent” again without

thinking about all these wonderful
people who helped me grow in a
different direction – for which I am
most grateful. Thank you so much
for letting me spend time with you
for the last three years and enter
my retirement years on a high note!

Spotlight on the Network

The Collingwood IL Centre launches a new Sports and Leisure Network

By Susan Forster

With a 3-year grant recently
received from the Trillium
Foundation, the Centre in
Collingwood, Ontario, Breaking
Down Barriers (BDB), has launched
the Integrated Sports and Leisure
Network in partnership with the
Collingwood Curling Club, available
to Collingwood and Georgian
Triangle residents, with a focus on
youth and adults with disabilities.
Boccia Ball and wheelchair curling
will be offered as well as other
sports. The launch got coverage in
the local newspaper, the
Enterprise-Bulletin. Executive
Director, Andrea Abbott-Kokosin,
reported that one key factor that led
the Trillium Foundation to fund this
initiative was a site visit that
afforded Trillium staff the
opportunity to meet consumer and
centre board member athletes with
disabilities.

Andrea is a new Executive Director,
who has been with the Centre since
January 2008. She describes BDB
as a “small, well-run organization”
where staff, board and volunteers
made her welcome as a newcomer
to IL. Although Andrea has worked
in the disability field for many years,
the biggest challenge for her as a
new ED was learning IL
terminology, i.e. referring to people
with disabilities respectfully as
“consumers” (and not clients). In
addition to the new Integrated
Sports and Leisure Network,
Andrea is also proud of the
programs and services that the
Centre offers, in particular “Thumbs
Up”, a project that provides free
disability audits for businesses,
currently funded for a year by local
municipalities. Welcome to the
network, Andrea! To find out more
about the Centre, visit their site at
www.breakingdownbarriers.org.

The LEARN Program

An IL recreational initiative from the Calgary Centre

By Susan Forster

The LEARN (Lifelong Education and Recreation Needs) Program offers recreational and educational activities for adults with disabilities in the Calgary region. LEARN provides a wide variety of opportunities and skills development in community settings. Programs are offered three times per year: fall, winter and spring. Last year, over 900 individuals registered for 14 programs and enjoyed participation

in programs such as: fitness and yoga classes; sing-along sessions; and various social outings with the “Friday Night Out” Program. This year the program also offered Summer Activities in the form of day trips to Calgary’s tourist attractions, like the Calgary Stampede. For more information regarding the LEARN Program, visit our website at: www.ilrcc.ab.ca or email Ted Bonar, LEARN Program Coordinator at: learn@ilrcc.ab.ca.

Francophone Network Update

The francophone network recently met face-to-face in Shippagan, NB to discuss the network’s mandate and proposed activities. We realized that the mandate proposed in Quebec City on May 31, 2007 is sometimes complicated by the fact that we represent three provinces (New Brunswick, Ontario and Quebec).

It has become evident that there is an integral balance between local, provincial, and federal representation for the francophone community. All these components of our network give us strength but also can provide some restrictions to our activities.

We have learned that even when producing a communication tool such as a communiqué, it is very important to recognize the inter-provincial differences in order to meet our network’s diverse needs.

As a growing network still in development, we have attempted to identify a somewhat less complex mandate that would better meet everyone’s needs.

The following is the proposition that the mandate of the Francophone Network consist of three points:

1. To promote communication and unity among Independent Living

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Centres that have French as their working language;

2. To act as a guardian of the French language and culture within Independent living Canada;
3. To intervene, at Independent Living Canada's request or after having received its approval, on federal government files that involve people with disabilities and require French as the working language.

The Francophone Network wishes to thank the CRVA-PA for its warm welcome during our visit. Congratulations to Émilie Haché

and her entire team for their successful organization of our network's face-to-face meeting.

The Francophone Network includes the following Centres:

- CRVA-AT, Val-d'Or, Quebec
- CRVA, Kapuskasing, Ontario
- MM-ILRC, Montreal, Quebec
- CRVA-MR, St.-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec
- CRVA-PA, Shippagan, New Brunswick
- Le Phénix, Alfred, Ontario,
- Vie autonome Canada, Bas-Saint-Laurent, Quebec

Anniversary Celebrations



Independent Living Canada would like to congratulate 4 members of the national network on achieving milestone anniversaries in 2008: Breaking Down Barriers ILRC, ILRC Halifax Regional Municipality and Vernon DRC celebrating 15th anniversaries; and RISE, the IL Centre in Parry Sound on celebrating its 10th anniversary.



To find out more about the Centre in Collingwood, visit www.breakingdownbarriers.org

To find out more about the Centre in Halifax, visit www.ilrc-halifax.ns.ca

To find out more about the Centre in Vernon, visit www.vdrc.ca

To find out more about the Centre in Parry Sound, visit www.risercil.org

Spotlight on the Network is a regular feature of The Perspective. If you have something to share, contact Susan at membership@ilc-vac.ca.

The Power of One

Strength in Self-Expression In Conversation with Amélie Archer, Artist

By Mary Dufton

What if you have a passion to express yourself, but you cannot speak? What if you want to explore your creative side, but you do not have the full use of your hands? There's nothing stopping you. As the saying goes, "Where there's a will, there's a way."

Amélie Archer is a seventeen year-old artist who draws and sculpts with her hands and feet. She was born with cerebral palsy and cannot speak, so she uses assistive technology. She shared with me the story of how she overcame obstacles to do what she's passionate about: being an artist.

The resident of Shippagan, New Brunswick is the 2008 Honorary Member of the Centre de Ressource Vie Autonome Region Peninsule Acadienne Inc. Not yet an adult, she has already shown amazing talent, drive and self-discipline as an artist. She has cerebral palsy, but that doesn't stop her and why should it?

According to Amélie, "Those of us with disabilities who want to make a difference in our communities and



Amélie
Archer

achieve our goals can do it, as long as we don't pity ourselves. My biggest motivation is to show people with disabilities that they can do things."

She found a way to do what she loves – drawing and sculpting – with her hands and feet.

"I started drawing as soon as I could pick up a pencil. I mostly draw. I only experimented with painting and sculpture."

Amélie also expresses her creativity in other ways. In June of this year, Amélie participated in her school's pageant and won first prize for her artistic number, which was called, "Alegria, Rejoicing in my Life." At first, she had to convince the event's organizers to allow her to enter. She then choreographed it and performed a solo dance on the floor. It also had an artistic component. She had her teacher's assistant and constant companion, Doris Landry, with her to provide support, devotion and encouragement.

"Doris has really inspired me." She says. As a result of this victory,

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Amélie had taken the first step in showing that she could make a significant contribution to her community. It didn't stop there. She was then invited to perform her dance and artistic number at the provincial Fisheries and Aquaculture Festival talent show in Shippigan.

She has opened the door for many of us with disabilities who are perceived differently and who will gain from increased public awareness of disability issues.

Amélie has come a long way in getting where she wants to be, particularly the challenge of expressing herself without speaking. In March, she was given a Dynavox communication device, which she operates by typing what she wants to say with her feet. It allows her to communicate with everyone more easily. The funds needed to purchase it were

provided by the President's Choice Children's Charity.

What's next for Amélie?

"I would like to go to university or college and study universal design for people with disabilities and find ways to make communities more accessible. It frustrates me how others perceive those with mobility impairments and the lack of accessibility in our communities. Awareness campaigns are needed and Canada's laws need to be enforced and standards must be met (in design) to make public places easier for people with disabilities to get around."

Amélie is a role model for us and wise beyond her years. She's a person to watch, with potential to excel in the years ahead.

Note: Mary Dufton works for the federal public service on issues related to violence against people with disabilities and seniors.

The Lighter Side of Independent Living

Benevolent Harassment

By Christine Malone

Growing up we are often told by our caregivers to be polite and always say thank-you when someone does something nice for you. Be gracious even in difficult situations and appreciate the kind motives of

others. As a person living with a disability, I've noticed that people can be hyper considerate. These good manners can be exhausting or sometimes even backfire on us--
- Begging the question: when are we too polite?

I have lost count of the number of times I have pushed the automatic door opener only to have a well meaning person rush to my assistance and trip over themselves (and often me) in the process. I am never quite sure of what proper etiquette is in that situation- do I give an enthusiastic “Thank-you for your un-required assistance” or politely offer them a hand as they awkwardly avoid falling into a nearby planter? More often than not I simply give a smile which embodies a mix of appreciation for the attempt and sympathy for the result. This is an expression that is similar to the pity smiles I have seen on the faces of many people over the years. You know the one that says “Look at the person with a disability out of the house doing (insert regular daily activity here) What a great thing!!” I feel that by participating in the ritual of un-assistance in this way I am giving back and truly completing the circle.

I was recently riding on city transit where I got to witness another unfortunate encounter. A young man with a disability got onto the bus only to find all the seats

occupied. A well-meaning patron (herself elderly), offered her seat. He politely declined, as he and his friend seemed content to stand as long as he was able to hang on to the poles for balance. After a few moments, a second inquiry was made without acceptance. Our Good Samaritan made another attempt by turning her attention to the companion and asking “Does your friend want to sit down?” I refer to this as the United Nations approach to assistance: using an interpreter to communicate and offer support. Again she was declined, and for a brief moment a look of annoyance crossed her face, only to be quickly replaced by the dreaded pity smile. The situation was only being made more uncomfortable by the position of the poles which made it necessary for the young guy to face his benevolent harasser for the remainder of the ride, as we all headed downtown in awkward silence.

Ms Manners never wrote about these kinds of situations in her books.

Social Policy and Research Corner

The Canadian Transportation Agency

By Emily Cameron

The Canadian Transportation Agency released its first Strategic

Plan this July, which outlines goals for the next three years and

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describes the implementation of a new organizational structure. “Achieving a national transportation system that is accessible to all Canadians” is one of the five priorities the Agency focuses upon within this plan, committing “to improve the effectiveness of dispute resolution processes involving persons with disabilities and transportation service providers” (10). This Strategic Plan follows the 2007 ruling by the Supreme Court of Canada that requires the Agency to “apply human rights principles, as found in the Canadian Human Rights Act, in its investigation of accessibility cases” (10). The Strategic Plan also outlines the Agency’s commitment to ongoing dialogue with organizations representing persons with disabilities.

Accessible Transportation Directorate

Regulations, Research & Analysis Division:

Manager: Diane Mainville

E-mail:

diane.mainville@cta-otc.gc.ca

Accessible Complaints & Investigations Division:

Manager: Diane Brown

E-mail: diane.brown@cta-otc.gc.ca

Monitoring & Liaison Division:

Manager: Chris Stark

E-mail: chris.stark@cta-otc.gc.ca

Canadian Transportation Agency

“Canadian Transportation Agency Strategic Plan 2008 – 2011: Making Transportation Efficient and Accessible for All.” Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, 2008.

www.cta.gc.ca.

Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – Youth Website

This interactive youth website was developed to honour the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The tool is designed for Canadians between the ages of 18 – 35 and was developed by the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies (CASHRA), in collaboration with TakingITGlobal and the John

Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights. This website focuses on increasing the participation and engagement of youth in discussions regarding human rights by outlining tenets of international and national laws that protect human rights.

<http://www.takingitglobal.org/themes/udhr60>

Changes to Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) Disability Eligibility

By Emily Cameron

During the Executive Director's Forum this year, an administrator from Service Canada noted that the biggest challenge to CPP Disability benefit changes is getting the word out to consumers with disabilities. Though medical eligibility requirements are staying the same, CPP Disability applicants with 25 years or more of CPP contributions

will require valid contributions in three of the last six years, instead of the current requirement of four of the last six years. This change applies to all applications received on or after March 3, 2008.

For details on this change or for general inquiries regarding Canada Pension Plan Disability benefits, please call 1-800-277-9914 or visit www.servicecanada.gc.ca.

HIV/AIDS, Disability Policy and Human Rights

By Emily Cameron

The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, the Canadian Working Group on HIV and Rehabilitation, and the Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development hosted their "2008 Annual General Meetings, Workshop and Consultation" on June 16th and 17th at the Delta Ottawa Hotel. They offered an impressive array of resources that outlined policy and human rights links between HIV and disability advocacy available at: www.aidslaw.ca/EN/AGM2008/index.htm www.aidslaw.ca/FR/AGA2008/index.htm.

This link will lead you to the following documents and presentations:

Background documents

- HIV, Disability and Human Rights — A Discussion Paper
- Protection against discrimination

based on HIV/AIDS status in Canada: the legal framework — Journal article from HIV/AIDS Policy & Law Review 10(1)

- HIV, AIDS and Disability: Programming Initiatives in Africa and Asia — ICAD info sheet Presentations
- HIV, Disability and Discrimination: Canadian Law — Ryan Peck, HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic (Ontario)
- Integrating a Rights-based Approach at an ASO — Jessica Leech, AIDS Calgary Awareness Association
- HIV-related discrimination: International law — Richard Elliott, Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
- Ensuring a Society for All: Disability Rights Movement, PWHIV/AIDS and the UN Convention: What does it change? — Dr Patrick Fougeyrollas

Upcoming Events

United Nation's International Day of Persons with Disabilities

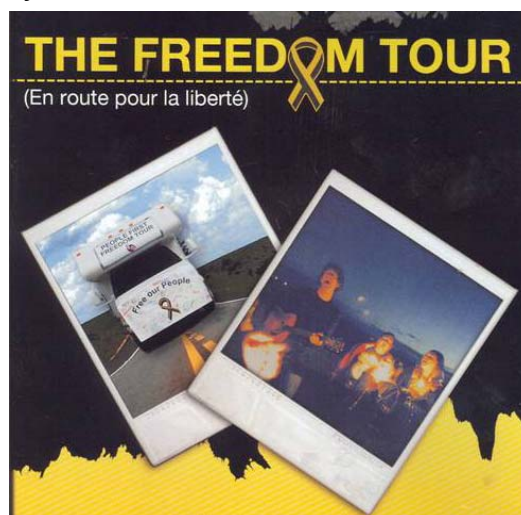
National Event in Ottawa and Suggested Local Activities

This year, Independent Living Canada will have its annual national kick-off event in Ottawa at the War Museum from 4:00 – 8:00 pm on December 3rd, 2008. We are partnering with People First of Canada to screen their new documentary "The Freedom Tour". The film is 16 people, 4 vehicles, 3 provinces and 2 cameras with 1 goal – freeing people with intellectual disabilities from institutions. The Freedom Tour is an amazing film about a journey by people who once lived in institutions who are trying to help end the practice of institutionalization and exposing some of the horrors of the past and present.

Independent Living Canada is proud to partner with People First of Canada to help promote their powerful film. We have purchased a DVD for every IL Centre in our network so they can partner with local People First Chapters to show the film on the UN Day or any other day.

The national event will also be the forum for launching the new Independent Living book – A New

Perspective on Disability – History, Perspective and Vision of the Independent Living Movement in Canada. We aim to have some of the people who were interviewed for the book attend the national event along with the author – John Lord. It is our hope to have a shipment of French and English books sent out to each IL Centre for their own book launch on the UN Day.



The international theme for the UN Day is "United Nation's Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities – Dignity and Justice for All!" In Canada, all political parties have agreed to ratify the UN Convention so the national office is focusing on the later part of the theme – "Dignity and Justice for All". This theme is fitting considering our partnership with

People First of Canada and the deinstitutionalization of people with intellectual disabilities.

For more info on People First of Canada, go to

www.peoplefirstofcanada.ca. To learn more about the United Nation's International Day of Persons with Disabilities, visit www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=109.

Past Event – GG Leadership Conference



Traci Walters, National Director, was selected to participate in the 2008 Governor General's Leadership Conference from June 6 – 21, 2008. Traci's Nova Scotia Study Group with: The Rt. Hon. Michaëlle Jean and Conference Chair, Richard George, President & Chief Executive Officer, Suncor Energy

Links, Tools and Resources

Employment, Training, and Volunteer Opportunities

Canadian Society for Social Development (CSSD) is promoting two online national training programs designed especially for persons with disabilities and others facing barriers to employment. The CSSD programs Business Abilities and Internet Business Development for Entrepreneurs (IBDE) deliver challenge, camaraderie and learning enjoyment while bringing hope and the opportunity for a better future.

Business Abilities is the online business management program which is currently only available to

PWD. Business Abilities provides tools PWD need to research self-employment and prepare and implement a viable business plan. The program takes approximately one year to complete and is available in both French and English. Enrollment is ongoing, and clients can apply anytime at www.businessabilities.ca/?q=signup Tuition for this program is generously provided by Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC).

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IBDE is a program where students learn web design. The course is a six-month 30 hours per week program and is accredited by Selkirk College. The next intake for IBDE is fall 2008, clients can

access the registration page at www.ibde.ca/signup Students are responsible for their own tuition, which is usually available locally. CSSD staff is available to assist students in finding this funding.

VP-Net: Vulnerable Persons and End of Life New Emerging Team

“VP-Net is a five year research project that brings together a team of investigators to explore the availability and accessibility of end-of-life care for people who experience socially-constructed vulnerability. This project, funded by the Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR), investigates four

key themes: clinical, policy, ethics and social/cultural issues in end of life care. VP-Net brings together research collaborators from various disciplines, a VP-Net post-doctoral fellow and graduate students.”

<http://www.umanitoba.ca/outreach/vpnet/about.htm>

OPINIONS EXPRESSED ARE THOSE OF THE CONTRIBUTORS
AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF
INDEPENDENT LIVING CANADA

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Alternate formats available upon request

The Perspective: The National Independent Living News Bulletin
