

# Vision

Community Living Walkerton and District envisions a community where all people are welcomed, accepted and included.

*The Mission of Community Living Walkerton and District is to nurture inclusion; supporting children, youth and adults with intellectual disabilities and their families, promoting their full participation as valued and contributing citizens."*

## In The Public Eye

### Meeting with Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

by Marwa Osman Update Friday, Community Living Ontario, November 7, 2019

Community Living Ontario’s Director of Policy, Gord Kyle and CEO, Chris Beesley, met with Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Steve Clark, on Monday, November 4, 2019.

The focus was on housing for people who have an intellectual disability. The minister had a good grasp of our sector overall and shared some common frustrations in relation to housing. They were pleased to hear that the ministry understood this is a cross-sectoral and cross-jurisdictional issue.

Chris and Gord reinforced the importance of having a range of housing options. They added that avoiding disability ghettos was crucial to living a life with dignity. Despite the convenience that may appear to come with segregated living, the emphasis should be on people and their needs. Chris explained, “it must be about protecting the person’s safety, character and value”.

Everyone agreed that the housing issue goes beyond the developmental disability sector and impacts communities on a much broader scale. It cannot be tackled in isolation. Municipal, provincial and federal collaboration is required to tackle the housing crisis.

Going forward Community Living Ontario will continue to connect with partners on a variety of levels to ensure a more a more coordinated and collaborative approach to advocacy related to the housing crisis.

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## Meeting with Minister Todd Smith

by Marwa Osman, Update Friday, Community Living Ontario, November 1, 2019

The OASIS Labour Relations Committee & the Provincial Network co-hosted information sessions in Toronto on October 30 and 31, 2019. The sessions focused on pay equity as well as staffing recruitment and retention in the developmental disabilities sector.

The Honourable Todd Smith, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services attended on the 31<sup>st</sup> and provided remarks in an open session. Following his address, Minister Smith met with Darren Connolly President of OASIS, Chris Beesley, CEO of Community Living Ontario, Michelle Marshall, Chair of the Provincial Network and Janet Noel-Annable, Chair of the Moving ON Strategy.

The purpose of the meeting was to share the pressing concerns and key priorities of the intellectual and developmental disabilities sector, including the continuation of stabilization funding, the timelines and scope of the third-party review and, the status of the passport program.

The Minister demonstrated a deep understanding of the impact our sector has on people's lives and their families. He used the meeting to assuage fears of the yet to be detailed sectoral cuts included in the last provincial budget. While we remain concerned about cuts to the sector, we left the meeting feeling hopeful that the Minister will be a strong voice around the cabinet table about the value of the services we provide and the individuals we support.

Speaking with one voice has strengthened our sector as we work with the government. We promise to continue advocating for the sector together and will keep you informed on developments going forward

Put on bright, polka-dot, striped or your favourite knee high socks and celebrate -

### March 21st is



### Down Syndrome Awareness Day

**From:**  
**Community Living Walkerton and District**



**...and welcome 20 20!**

This is a perfect time to renew our commitment to inspiring possibilities, and remaining engaged with our vision and our mission.

**OUR VISION** - Community Living Walkerton and District envisions a community where all people are welcomed, accepted and included.

**OUR MISSION** - The Mission of CLWD is to nurture inclusion: supporting children, youth and adults with intellectual disabilities and their families, promoting their full participation as valued and contributing citizens.



The P4P Planning Network contains a wide variety of resources.

- [Live webcasts](#) followed by Q&A session with presenters
- Inspiring [documentaries](#)
- Learning Modules packed with important information
- Expert advice with advocates and professionals
- Interactive planning tools

And much more!

All [P4P Planning Network](#) resources are FREE and are available through over 100 partner organizations across the province of Ontario. This is a dynamic resource hub for parents and caregivers.

Check out the site.

Look for the banner with this logo on our website!

[www.clwalkerton.org](http://www.clwalkerton.org)



**May 29 - 31, 2020** Toronto International Centre  
<https://abilitiesexpotoronto.com/>

**Watch for the winning submissions to**  
be announced in February 2020

Community Living Ontario's



Open to elementary school aged children in Ontario between the ages of 4 to 14 creating videos, stories or poems that show how **"Together We're Better"** because students of all abilities are included!

The contest will run until January 28th, 2020 and challenges individuals and classes to explain why classrooms that include students who have an intellectual disability are better. Classes are encouraged to submit videos of five minutes or less offering their explanations, while students are also able to send in individually-written responses of under 250 words.

Those selected will be showcased on Community Living Ontario's website.  
[www.communitylivingontario.ca](http://www.communitylivingontario.ca)

## Mark Your Calendars



Thurs./Fri. March 5th and 6th, 2020

**"Community: Mine. Yours. Ours."** – From Presence to Citizenship's Fourth Annual Learning Exchange Registration is now open!

Holiday Inn Toronto International Airport  
hmolenaar@cluov.ca or 613-735-0659 ext 220.

Monday April 6th to Thursday April 9th, 2020

**Individualizing Supports & Services**, Ontario Association on Developmental Disabilities  
Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn, 591 Wellington Rd South, London, ON  
Register at: <http://oadd.org/2020-conference-registration/>

Tuesday April 14, 2020

**Community Living Ontario Annual Policy Forum** in collaboration with and held at the *Ryerson School of Disability Studies*.  
Focus: ensuring access to healthcare for people who have an intellectual disability. Registration opens in February.  
<https://communitylivingontario.ca/en/event/community-living-ontario-annual-policy-forum>



## February is Inclusive Education Month

This is a time for members of the Community Living movement to promote and raise awareness about inclusive education. In addition to breaking down myths about inclusive education, this feature month provides educators, students and parents an opportunity to share ideas on strategies to enhance inclusion and successful school experiences for every child. Please take advantage of the **Inclusive Education Resource Library** on the website of [www.communitylivingontario.ca](http://www.communitylivingontario.ca)



## Post-Secondary Transition Guide for Students With Disabilities

From Update Friday, Community Living Ontario, Nov. 15, 2019

Life at college and university is quite different than life at high school, and it is not always easy to know what to expect. It can be difficult to sort through all of the information that is available from different colleges and universities and narrow it all down to the important details.

This guide aims to bring together all of the information that is needed in one place to help ease this transition and put students on the path to success at post-secondary school. Another wonderful resource is the Thriving After High School guide created by Partners for Planning which can be referenced prior to or alongside the Transition Guide.

Read the guide...

<https://www.transitionresourceguide.ca/resources>

## **Community Living Ontario is asking...**

From Update Friday Nov. 15, 2019

*How do you practice advocacy, self-advocacy or allyship?*

We want to know the ways you advocate for or practice allyship for individuals who have an intellectual disability. If you are a self-advocate, we want to hear what that looks like for you.

We will gather everyone's answers to give you insight and ideas on how you can improve or add to your own practices.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7GWD6HG>



## News Release

### Ontario to Implement Needs-Based Autism Program In-Line with Advisory Panel's Advice

December 17, 2019 12:30 P.M.

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services <https://news.ontario.ca/mcys/en>



TORONTO — Today, the Ontario government announced it is adopting the Ontario Autism Panel's key recommendations for a needs-based autism program. The program recognizes that every family's experience and needs are different, and that children and youth on the autism spectrum have different levels of need at different points in their lives. These changes will put Ontario on track to deliver a comprehensive, sustainable and family-centred program.

"We heard loud and clear from the autism community that we needed to partner and redesign a program **together** - one that supports the needs of individual children and youth and puts them at the centre of care," said Todd Smith, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. "The changes we are making address the concerns we've heard from families, experts and the autism advisory panel."

Aligning with recommendations of the advisory panel, Minister Smith presented key elements of the new program, including a broad range of services that will offer families more supports for their child's specific needs.

Families will have access to the following service pathways in the new program:

- **Core services** that include Applied Behaviour Analysis, speech language pathology, occupational therapy and mental health services;
- **Foundational family services** for all families in the program, to build their capacity to support their child's learning and development;
- **Early intervention and school readiness services** to help young children access critical services when they will benefit most, and to prepare them to enter school;
- **Urgent and complex needs services** to support children and youth who are in service, or are waiting for service, and have significant and immediate needs.

At any point in time, families and caregivers will be able to access services such as peer mentoring, training, workshops and coaching sessions to further support their child's ongoing learning and development. This broad range of needs-based services will provide families with new options as recommended by the advisory panel.

Minister Smith also accepted the panel's recommendation for an implementation team and announced the creation of an Implementation Working Group to provide the government with input on a number of key design elements. Those elements include service caps and the transition of children into service.

"Almost every parent I've met has asked for two things: services that address their child's specific needs, and a plan from their government to get there," said Smith. "The work has started, and we are continuing to listen to experts and families. Thanks to the panel, we know where we have to go. And we have the right plan, and the right people, to help get us there."

The first phase of implementation will begin in April 2020, to be followed by additional phases throughout 2020 and 2021. The Implementation Working Group will have their first meeting in the coming weeks.

#### Quick Facts

- In July, the Ontario Autism Program budget was increased from approximately \$300 million to \$600 million annually to help ensure it is both needs-based and sustainable moving forward
- All families on the waitlist who have not yet received a Childhood Budget will receive an invitation for interim one-time funding of either \$5,000 or \$20,000, depending on the age of their child, so they can begin purchasing services for their child.
- Beginning in early 2020, the ministry will begin offering 15 in-person training sessions organized by Child and Parent Resource Institute (CPRI) to community-based physician and medical practitioners, community agencies, educators and caregivers to increase understanding of children on the autism spectrum disorder and co-occurring mental health challenges.

#### Background Information

- <https://news.ontario.ca/mcys/en/2019/12/implementation-working-group-and-services-align-with-ontario-autism-program-advisory-panel-recommend.html>

**Inclusion elevates all.**

Elaine Hall, Equality and Diversity team at the University of Gloucestershire

# Words of Wisdom

[https://www.facebook.com/TheyCallItDisabilitiesICalledItDownRightPerfect/?](https://www.facebook.com/TheyCallItDisabilitiesICalledItDownRightPerfect/)



## Did you know?



A basic annual income guarantee continues to be promoted in parts of Canada as a way to assist the most economically vulnerable. A Lakehead University professor is researching the effects of the now-cancelled Ontario basic income pilot project had on participants in Thunder Bay (one of the locations chosen for participation in the pilot). The program was making a positive difference in the lives of participants, initial research shows. Ravi Gokani, associate professor at Lakehead's School of Social Work, is still collecting data.

New Brunswick Green Party Leader David Coon tabled a bill in December 2019 that would amend that province's Family Income Security Act. He would like to see a basic income guarantee replace the province's social assistance program.

## Bits and Pieces



*So everyone feels welcome!*

### Guide: Planning Accessible Events

If you are organizing an event, this guide will provide you with information to help you make it more inclusive for a minimal cost. It also includes a checklist so you can be sure that you have planned an accessible event.

[https://www.sparkontario.ca/sites/default/files/resource\\_files/accessible\\_events\\_booklet\\_eng.pdf](https://www.sparkontario.ca/sites/default/files/resource_files/accessible_events_booklet_eng.pdf)

## Canadian Association for Community Living

CACL is working towards rights to #LegalCapacity, which includes rights to equality, self-determination, full citizenship, valued recognition, and respect.

### LEGAL CAPACITY

#### OUR 2020 GOAL:

Political commitment to an inclusive legislative framework in three provinces/ territories, and a platform for a global campaign.

#### OUR 2020 VISION:

Rights to equality, self-determination, full citizenship, valued recognition and respect from others are legally recognized and assured for all people with an intellectual disability.



The Canadian Association for Community Living recently posted on their Facebook page:

***“Great care must be taken – as it was when our medical assistance in dying laws were first drafted – to preserve a place of safe welcome for every citizen.”*** Good Men Project recently shared Catherine Frazee’s article discussing the importance of safeguards in medical assistance in dying for vulnerable populations, including people with a disability. <https://bit.ly/37E4cN9>

This Op-Ed by Catherine Frazee is titled, "Canadian leaders should defend human dignity in life — not just death" and was written for CBC for CBC News Opinion in October 2019. Catherine Frazee is a Professor Emerita at Ryerson University, School of Disability Studies and Advisor to the Vulnerable Persons Standard and the 2019 recipient of our Lifetime Achievement Award.

## Of Note....

### Press Release –

## ARCH launches OP Lab: Learning, Sharing, Actioning! Dec 3, 2019

The OP Lab offers a series of courses about the Optional Protocol (OP) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Courses will include presentations from guest speakers, discussions and learning exercises.

Participants in the OP Lab will join a Canada-wide network to advocate for the implementation of CRPD rights, and come up with innovative solutions on how to use the Optional Protocol in a strategic way.

The Optional Protocol (acceded to by Canada in 2018) is considered an additional part of the CRPD that allows people to make a complaint to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in some circumstances when they believe their rights under the CRPD have been violated.

“With the OP Lab, we hope to build greater capacity in disability communities across Canada to advocate for governments to follow the CRPD”, says Kerri Joffe, ARCH staff lawyer.

OP Lab courses will be facilitated by ARCH lawyers and ARCH’s disability community partners: Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians (AEBBC); British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS); Canadian Association of Community Living (CACL); Canadian Association of the Deaf (CAD); Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work (CCRW); Communication Disabilities Access Canada (CDAC); Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD); DAWN Canada; Independent Living Canada (ILC); People First of Canada; National Coalition of People who use Guide and Service Dogs in Canada; National Network for Mental Health (NNMH); Tlingit Sovereign Nation; and York University – Osgoode Hall Law School.

To enable a true connection amongst disability communities across Canada, the OP Lab courses and materials are available in formats that allow as much accessibility as possible. “This is crucial for creating the OP Lab network, where we hope to create inclusive space to foster real conversations amongst communities that are infinitely diverse” says Robert Lattanzio, ARCH Executive Director.

Courses will be offered in English with French translation, English and French live captioning, and ASL and LSQ interpreting. Materials will be available in English and in French, in ASL and LSQ and alternative formats will be available upon request.

The OP Lab will be hosted in D2L’s Brightspace, a cloud-based learning platform. ARCH and D2L’s Accessibility team are working in collaboration to offer the courses as fully accessible as possible.

This project is being funded by the Government of Canada (Social Development Partnerships Program – Disability Component).

For more information, go to [www.archdisabilitylaw.ca](http://www.archdisabilitylaw.ca)

## Special Olympics South Saugeen

Special Olympics South Saugeen wishes all families a happy and healthy new year.

Our winter sports continue with basketball and speed skating on Monday nights.

Tuesday has athletes bowling during the day and at night our athletes are refining their swimming skills in the Hanover pool.

Sunday mornings are busy with curling.



If anyone is interested in joining us, please do not hesitate to email us at [ssaugeen.coordinator@specialolympicsontario.ca](mailto:ssaugeen.coordinator@specialolympicsontario.ca).

This February 8th at the Royal Canadian Legion in Chesley, Special Olympics South Saugeen is having a fundraising dinner. Proceeds for this event will go towards supporting our athletes who are participating in the National Winter Games in Thunder Bay this February. Tickets are \$15.00 each. The doors open at 5:00 pm and dinner is at 6:00 pm. Our athletes are selling tickets for this event, however, they can also be purchased at the door. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email us at the above-mentioned email address. There are tickets available at this time. Please consider joining us for dinner and wishing our athletes all the best!

Those headed to speed skating competitions at the National Winter Games February 25- 29 are:

Jordan Taylor,  
Jessica Carr,  
Tyler Jilek, and  
Ben Caldecott.



### Congratulations, good luck!

We'll be watching for news....  
<http://specialolympics2020.com/>

## Featured Website



[www.communitylivingontario.ca](http://www.communitylivingontario.ca)

One of the stories you will find there is *Michael's Story* - Finding his voice changed everything.

Michael Jacques was the keynote speaker at the most recent Speaking Out conference. He is amazing, and so is his book, [Can't Read, Can't Write, Here's My Book](#).

And....here is more good news for Michael.....

[Vice President of our Board \(Community Living Ontario\) receives international recognition](#)

Vice President of our Board, Michael Jacques has been recognized on the "Queens Commonwealth Trust" platform for his advocacy work, his influence as a public speaker and for the success of his book. The trust was established approximately two years ago by Queen Elizabeth and President of the Trust is Prince Harry. The site showcases young adults that are making a change in their community among the 53 commonwealth countries. We are so proud to see the way Michael continuously inspires change in his community and beyond. Congratulations to him on this milestone.

Be sure to visit the site and read his story  
<https://www.queenscommonwealthtrust.org/inspiration/michael-jacques-cant-read-cant-write-heres-my-book/>

## Featured Article

['It has to be stopped': Meet the Thunder Bay teen who's taking on bullying](#) By Jon Thompson - Published on Jan 14, 2020

TVO.org speaks with 14-year-old Taylor Gorrie about her personal experiences with schoolyard violence — and the program she developed to support students and bring bullies and victims together

The article/interview explains how classmates pushed her over a rock, breaking her kneecap and growth plate. Today, she uses a motorized scooter. Gorrie decided to use her experience to build something positive. Following a period of home-schooling during recovery, Gorrie switched schools, where she and her mother designed and launched a program called Safe Zone. It involves such supports as restorative-justice practices and professional and peer-to-peer counselling for bullies and the bullied.

Check it out at by googling *Thunderbay TVO.org*

## Featured Podcast



[The Call Me AI Podcast](#)

The Call Me AI Podcast is hosted by AI Condeluci and produced by Side Project Inc. and features conversations with people from around the world who are working towards social justice.

Call Me AI Podcast is brought to you by CONNECT Communities.

Find episodes from Seasons 1 and 2

<https://buildingsocialcapital.org/callmeal>

## Featured Webinar



[ODSP 2020 P4P webinar](#)

<http://www.planningnetwork.ca/en-ca/Events/28141/ODSP-2020>

[Tuesday January 22, 7pm](#)

Expert and disability advocate Graeme Treeby provides an overview including clarifications on recent changes. Following this presentation Graeme will be available for a live Q & A.

In this BRAND NEW webcast, disability expert & advocate Graeme Treeby clarifies changes to the Ontario Disability Support Program for 2020 while providing an overview of how to qualify for ODSP and the application process. This webcast will provide an overview of:

- The state of ODSP under the current government
- How to qualify and apply for ODSP
- Definition of disability under ODSP

## Thanks for supporting our fundraiser!

[CLWD Continuing Education Committee](#)

Thanks all who supported in raising funds to assist students who are enrolled in post-secondary studies, by selling/ordering frozen food products from MacMillan's in November. A profit of \$500 was raised!



Come on down to **Family Day** activities at the Walkerton arena and enjoy a **hot drink** served by the Walkerton Action Committee from 11 am - 1pm on Monday Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

# A Very Merry Christmas Party

Thanks go to the hosts of the CLWD Christmas Party on December 6, 2019 – the Walkerton Action Committee!



The decorating crew!



Behind the scenes...



(pictured left) Ashly Lamont hosted our entertainer, Maryanne Host and her husband Carl.

(pictured below) Families and friends find the Christmas dinner and dance a joyful and welcoming event.



# Speaking Out Conference 2019

Pictured are friends from Walkerton at this conference for self-advocates, families and support professionals. It was held in Port Elgin in October, with 246 participants from all across the province...and some from the Yukon too. This 2 day, 2 night conference celebrated 12 years of networking, learning and self-advocacy. Who better to learn from than your peers, colleagues and people with lived experience!

*As this event remains so popular, the planning committee is considering foregoing the local retreats that would ordinarily take place this year in order to host another conference in 2020.*



10 19 2019



## Of current Interest...

### My Experience on Council

Crystal Wales, of the Walkerton Action Committee, is also an elected member of Council of Community Living Ontario. This is an excerpt of her description of Council's work.



In 2016 I ran for Council, but it was 2018 when I got in. I added to my speech my experience as a Lions Club member and the importance of making it easier for everyone to have access to places. I also included that I go to schools with my self-advocate group and talk about inclusion, and that I had been elected as Secretary of my self-advocate group, the Action Committee.

**How Council Runs:** Council elects a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. There is also someone appointed by Council as a contact person with the Board of Directors of Community Living Ontario.

Members are elected for a two-year term...half the Council spots are up for election each year. There are 12 council members from all over Ontario.

We have face-to-face meetings 3 or 4 times a year, when we go to Toronto. Every month we have telephone conferences which are 1 - 1 ½ hours long.

At monthly meetings and face-to-face meetings, we have an agenda saying what we will be talking about. Mainly we discuss what Council can do when there is important news in Ontario such as changes to ODSP, or how we can make a difference to help other self-advocates like those who live in poverty.

Council plans to focus their 2020 advocacy efforts on seven issues. I think the first two are really important:

1. People who have a disability living in poverty.
2. The creation of large residential/institution-like living environments.

Council keeps a facebook page and on the website for Community Living Ontario there is a page for Council. You can visit us there!

## Some follow-up....

### Walkerton Action Committee shares plans for 2020

Members of the Walkerton Action Committee routinely make a plan for the coming year, to guide their discussions and decisions. Each member is aware that changes can be made as the year progresses,

Below are two sections of their 6-page plan for 2020... that seems to be a good mix of fun, learning and full of contributions to the community as a whole.

**2020 Themes**

-important to think about language and children as well as adults

**ACCESSIBILITY**

...an accessible community is important for everyone

**Support Each Other's Voice**

...to contribute to our families and community

...advocate for others to have good support

**Inclusion always!**

**Winter:**  
Support meetings about Accessible Garden project  
Family Day Hot Drinks  
Movie Night

**Spring:**  
Inclusion Presentation  
Western Dance and Card Party at Legion  
Wii Bowlerama for Heart and Stroke

**Summer:**  
Garden  
Summer lunch bbqs,  
Foodbank challenge

**Fall:**  
Pasta Dinner, funds for Hospice or Hospital  
CLO Conference  
Christmas Party for family and friends

**Please note:**

Along with the CLWD Accessible Customer Service Policy and Accessible Customer Service Feedback Form, now available on the website of Community Living Walkerton and District is the CLWD Service and Support Feedback Form.

**Reference:**

Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act, 2008  
Legislative Authority: Section 7(1) 1  
Effective date: June 1, 2012

## Support Worker

**Community Living Walkerton and District** is actively seeking **Personal Support Workers, Social Service Workers** and **Developmental Service Workers** to join our part time Support Worker team.

If you are looking for an opportunity to work regularly scheduled hours in a positive work environment assisting 4 - 5 people, then this is the job for you! If you are looking for a career that has meaning and where you can make a difference in people's lives, we look forward to hearing from you!

Please send your cover letter and resume to: Ms. Sharon Teeple,

**Email:**

[steeples@clwalkerton.org](mailto:steeples@clwalkerton.org) or mail c/o Box 999, Walkerton ON N0G 2V0

Check in regularly to see what's new  
and inspiring!

[www.facebook.com/clwalkerton](http://www.facebook.com/clwalkerton)



**COMMUNITY LIVING**  
Walkerton and District



*Inspiring Possibilities*

19 Durham Street, East, Box 999, Walkerton, ON N0G 2V0

Tel.519-881-3713 Fax.519-881-0531

email: [cpatterson@clwalkerton.org](mailto:cpatterson@clwalkerton.org)

[www.clwalkerton.org](http://www.clwalkerton.org)

Sharon Sewers  
President

Carol Patterson  
Editor

Rick Hill  
Executive Director

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