

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....



Thank you to our direct support workers who took part in our “front porch” photo session last week. Can you see the smiles in their eyes?

Many thanks to Jennifer Jacquot Photography **#FrontStepsProject**

This front porch photo initiative that captured employees who have front line roles at their workplace and families who acknowledge that staying home during this time is the safe thing to do, brings recognition to our direct support team members and the valuable role that they have chosen for a career.

These photos certainly do capture the current environment. We appreciate the ongoing efforts of all employees at CLWD to work safely and to help those whom we support stay safe and well.

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2020 Inspiring Possibilities Estate Planning Guide

A message to share from www.communitylivingontario.ca

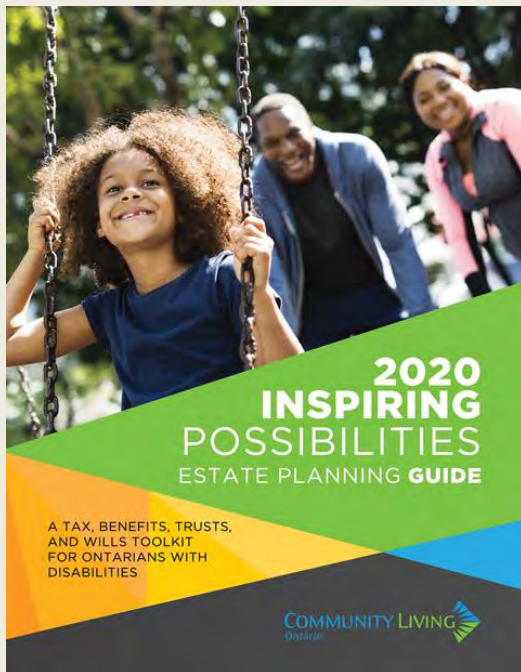
While we recognize these are uncertain times, Community Living Ontario continues to work hard to make sure you have access to the information you need to navigate these difficult times, safely and economically.

The guide, originally released in 2016, has been updated to reflect the 2019-2020 policy and legal changes to estate planning that would impact you and your loved ones.

We hope you find the document useful and it helps make your planning easier.

<https://communitylivingontario.ca/en/estate-guide/>

Community Living Ontario has committed to updating and maintaining this guide on a regular basis and would like to continue to expand the educational resources available for people who have a disability and their families.



Pandemic response and CLWD

As with other organizations in our communities, in order to prevent the spread of infection from Covid-19, the offices of CLWD have remained closed to the public since late March.

The Hub building has also been closed, while support workers connected with that location help people, each in a different setting.

Family Support Workers and Infant and Child Development Workers have been connecting with families and participating in virtual meetings (for example, with schools and therapists). The Family Support Team have also assisted at our central screening station, as all support workers have actively screened twice daily to ensure everyone is healthy as they begin and end their work day.

Community Living Walkerton and District continues to work closely with Grey Bruce Health Unit, and with the other organizations with whom we share some services, BPACL in Warton and CLOSD in Owen Sound. These supportive relationships have been of benefit as we acquire the necessary Personal Protective Equipment for employees and develop accurate policies and procedures to respond to the risks affiliated with community spread of Covid-19. We have been the grateful recipients of some donated products from local businesses and companies.

Most importantly, all those supported and members of our support teams have remained free of the Covid-19 virus, and we continue efforts to maintain that status.

Community Living Month - A note from Community Living Ontario

The CN Tower shone bright in blue and green on Friday, May 15 at dusk, in honour of those working hard to keep people who have an intellectual disability and their families safe.

May is traditionally recognized as Community Living Month, a time to celebrate the Community Living Movement and its achievements. Although we have postponed the celebration until September, we'd like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the people in our communities who make our work possible.

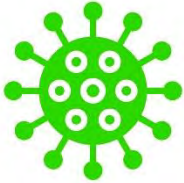
This week, we say a huge THANK YOU to people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities for your continued leadership, enthusiasm, and insights in helping us advocate for your right to live meaningful, inclusive lives in your communities. As we continue to figure out life during this pandemic, now and forever, we're in this together!



On-line Resources During Days of Covid-19

During these days of physical distance, while staying at home as much as possible, several groups have been regularly offering resources for families and people with intellectual disabilities.

COVID 19 Resources *Connectability*



What to do while in isolation: Disability sector resources, physical distancing activities, and ways to stay connected.

<https://connectability.ca/en/>

How to stay safe, well and connected



Health Care Access Research
and Developmental Disabilities

There is lots of talk right now about COVID-19 or the Coronavirus. We may come across lots of information out there, but it is not always easy to understand and it can be confusing. Our team is pulling together resources from around the world and information to support people with developmental disabilities and their families during this time.

At times like this, being healthy really matters. There are things we can do to keep our bodies healthy and things we can do to help us think and feel well. Even though many of us are missing out on activities we usually do, and on seeing people we usually see, it still matters that we feel connected with each other and not alone.

<https://www.hcarddcovid.com/info>

CLO's Resource Hub *Staying Connected*

COMMUNITY LIVING
Ontario

This **resources hub** will be updated regularly with the latest news, tips, information and resources for people, families and agencies. Each resource includes a short description and the intended audience. Community Living Ontario has vetted these resources to ensure they align with our community philosophy. Our goal is to aggregate a variety of tools, best practices, videos, podcasts, and stories that will help you with your day to day tasks. Please feel free to share this page and its content widely with your networks.

Remember: **We're all in this together!** www.communitylivingontario.ca

Do you know about ...

'What's Up Wednesdays': Covid-19 Information in Plain Language

What's Up Wednesdays are for people with disabilities to get their questions about COVID-19 answered in plain language.

Every Wednesday during COVID-19 |

People First Ontario, Respecting Rights at ARCH, and H-CARDD at CAMH want to answer some of your questions about COVID-19 to help everyone feel well, safe and connected. This comes in the form of an on-line meeting, but participants can phone in or just watch. Register:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/whats-up-wednesdays-covid-19-information-in-plain-language-tickets-102373911124>

2:00-3:00PM EST



P4P Network

It is never too late to start planning for the future of a child living with a disability. Recognizing this, Community Living Ontario, the Ministry of Community and Social Services and Partners for Planning have collaborated to produce a FREE, dynamic resource hub for parents and caregivers. Check out the new revisions on the site.

Look for the banner with this logo on our website!
www.clwalkerton.org

Community Coffee Break with Community Living Ontario

Update Friday June 5, 2020

For the last few months, the pandemic has taken over our lives. It's the main topic discussed at meetings, the focus of our work priorities, even central during our social conversations.

Join us with your favourite coffee (or coffee equivalent) on **Friday, June 19, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.** to take a break from it all.

We will have live entertainment from the talented singer-songwriter [Peter Katz](#), fun games and best of all **no COVID content!**

BONUS: Head to our Instagram ([@clontario](#)) to learn how you could win **1 of 25 free boxes of coffee** (graciously donated to us by Starbucks).



<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7987642320846283280>

Congratulations!

Each year at CLWD we recognize the years of service of employees. With restrictions of the current pandemic, the usual luncheon hosted by the Board of Directors is not possible. Cards of congratulations and gifts were still possible, so in May 2020 we are celebrating with:

35 Years	Kathy Kieffer
30 Year	Annette Thomas
20 years	Lisa Patterson Sonya Niziolek Marlene Webb
15 Years	Linda Beckberger Clara Furtado Cortnee Morten Terri Meyer Laurie Schaus
10 Years	Crista Carmichael Charlene Hays Melissa Holliday Erin Kuntz Amy Sawyer
5 Years	Emily Kunkel Brady Horrigan Rebecca Kuntz Emma Harrison Beth Muzika-Harrison Tina Farquhar Hilary Klein

The Board of Directors of Community Living Walkerton and District offers sincere thanks to each of these people for their significant contribution and ongoing commitment toward the services provided by our organization.

Abilities Expo

COVID-19 can't stop the #1 event for people with disabilities because it's gone virtual. That means that on June 19-21, you can access life-changing resources at the Abilities Virtual Experience...for free.

Register right now to make sure you can:

- Check out products to boost your independence
- Get advice from community experts
- Join adaptive activities in the Virtual Events Arena
- Learn how finance big ticket medical equipment and more

Tell your friends...this could be the event that changes everything.



www.abilities.com

Awards...you can nominate someone

According to the CLO website, the deadline for nominations for these awards will be announced shortly.

<https://communitylivingontario.ca/en/awards/>

Anne Stafford "Light Up the Future"

Bursary CLO Award

The Anne Stafford "Light Up the Future" Bursary is awarded to support individuals who have an intellectual disability to pursue a personal development opportunity through either an education program or personal interest course.

Deadline: Applications will be accepted until **Friday, June 26, 2020**. www.communitylivingontario.ca

James Montgomerie Honour Award

CLO Award

This award is given to a person who has an intellectual disability who promotes equality of all citizens.

Jason Rae Leadership Award

CLO Award

A service-minded role model who did not let his disability get in the way of his passion for life, Jason Rae was a contributing member of the Trent Hills community, actively involved with Advocates for Community Education, a two-term president of Community Living Campbellford/Brighton's Board of Directors, and a member of many boards and committees focused on inclusion.

Self-Advocates Share Real Life Impacts of COVID-19.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fP70PINA-KI&feature=youtu.be> Published on May 26, 2020

If you click on this link you might hear from someone you know. This is a recording of a webinar hosted by Community Living Ontario where four self-advocates (members of the Community Living Ontario Council and Board of Directors) discuss how various restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic have affected their lives.

One of the members active on the webinar is from our local self advocate group...Walkerton Action Committee. Crystal Wales has been a member of Council for almost 2 years.

Thanks for sharing your experience Crystal!



Free Webinar
Self-Advocates Share Real Life Impacts of COVID-19
Tuesday, May 26
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm EDT

Crystal Wales, Yvonne Spicer, Niko Pupella, Raina Flexhaug

COMMUNITY LIVING Ontario

We're All #InThisTogether *from Community Living Ontario Update Friday May 15, 2020*

Over the past few weeks, Community Living Ontario has been collecting your #InThisTogether photo submissions in honour of all those working hard to keep people who have an intellectual disability and their families safe. We were overwhelmed by your show of support: **We received over 350 photos!** To show our appreciation, we've turned the spotlight on *you* by creating this montage to showcase your generosity and creativity.

Note: This montage was released to coincide with the lighting of the CN Tower Community Living colours, happening Friday, May 15 at dusk. Watch for the photo greeting from someone very familiar to Community Living Walkerton and District!



Check it out on Youtube! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liqD6dzKGko&feature=youtu.be>

While this may not be a time for celebration, it is a time to say thank you, it is a time to shed a light on the resilience and ingenuity of the sector. (CLO, May 15, 2020)

Serving Hot Drinks on Family Day

On February 17th 2020, an enthused crew from the Action Committee served hot drinks at the Walkerton Community Centre.... on a lovely winter day. They were back by special request!

This was a great contribution to the community events, and was appreciated by the Brockton Recreation Staff as well as the children and adults who came to the booth. Below are pictures of some of the crew.



Helen Clancy is pictured below with her display of medals from Special Olympic events. Helen is regularly invited to host this display on Family Day at the Community Centre.



Reaching Out...to the Community and Each Other

During these 'stay at home' days, the members of the Walkerton Action Committee have received weekly messages and shared jokes, sent by their executive members. News has been shared, for example, that the Speaking Out Conference for 2020 has been cancelled. As well, they made the decision to hold off on executive elections until June 2021. The committee also reached out to businesses that have faithfully sponsored their events, sending a message to say thank you for all they have done for their group and for the citizens of Brockton.

Two different contests have been held during the pandemic...winners were Cindy Mortimer and Marion Last who received gift cards from local restaurants.

Collecting for the food bank



During the week leading up to Valentines Day 2020 (the Walkerton Action Committee accepted the challenge to do a donation drive for the Walkerton Food Bank. The challenge was from the Sound Advocates.



Walkerton Action Committee responds to Foodbank challenge February 2020

Gardening Season is Here !



The potatoes have been planted (the work of a volunteer) in the Action Committee plot at the Community Garden! It is to be hoped that the Action Committee members who enjoy the garden will be able to work there sometime later this summer. New rules for the garden are in place...for example, only 5 people can be in the garden at one time, and gardens can be tended only every second day on a pre-arranged schedule. Meanwhile, nature and volunteers will take care of the potatoes, which are being grown for the Walkerton Foodbank.

Brief Update....The Action Committee has been working with a group of citizens to complete the **Barrier-free** portion of the **Brockton Community Garden**; the accessible beds are great, and the water lines will come in the future.

Some fun....Right now, there is a wee contest amongst members of the Action Committee to guess the type of surprise plant that is planted in the middle of the garden plot. The first person who guesses correctly will be the recipient of a gift card from a local restaurant



Help Us Stop Bill C-7!

Community Living Ontario Update Friday May 29, 2020 by Marwa Osman



If passed, Bill C-7 will expand medical assistance in dying in ways that threaten the safety of people with disabilities. Sign up to learn more and to volunteer to engage with your MP on this issue.

Bill C-7 would expand access to medically-assisted death for people who are experiencing unbearable physical or psychological suffering caused by a progressively worsening illness, disease or disability. In simpler terms, it will allow people with disabilities to die with medical assistance *because* they have a disability. This is discriminatory, stigmatizing and devaluing, and puts lives at risk.

Fill out the form below to volunteer to engage your Member of Parliament on this issue.

Lives Worth Living, Lives Worth Saving – Speaking Out Against Bill C-7

There are a lot of things that can and should be made easier for people with intellectual disabilities in our country and our society. But making it easier to use the MAiD laws to end our lives is not one of them. - Kory Earle, President, People First of Canada

In June of this year, federal parliamentarians are scheduled to consider Bill C-7, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying). If passed, this legislation will make it possible for a person to choose to access medical assistance to end their life, even if their death is not reasonably foreseeable.

Currently, Canadians can only access medical assistance in dying if their death is reasonably foreseeable.

Bill C-7 will expand access to medically-assisted death for people who are “experiencing unbearable physical or psychological suffering from an illness, disease, disability or state of decline that cannot be relieved under conditions that the person considers acceptable.” In simpler terms, it would allow for people with disabilities to die with medical assistance because they have a disability.

In jurisdictions where the ‘end of life’ criterion has been removed from medical assistance in dying (as Bill C-7 proposes to do), we have seen that people who are devalued by society – including people with disabilities – have been coerced into ending their lives while in a state of personal suffering. However, this suffering is not caused by a disability – rather it is caused by the pervasive and unjustifiable lack of services and supports needed by many people with disabilities to lead a full life.

The Canadian Association for Community Living is organizing a national campaign to oppose Bill C-7. In Ontario, Community Living Ontario will be marshalling the incredible resources of the disability community, with the goal of meeting with every federal MP in the province. Keep your eyes open next week for more information!



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Vision newsletter is published in the months of April, October, & January



Thank You Volunteers



Our Association extends sincere thanks to the volunteers who comprise the Board of Directors. Community Living Walkerton and District is a non-profit organization. Founded in 1956 our Mission is to nurture inclusion: supporting children, youth and adults with intellectual disabilities and their families, promoting their full participation as valued and contributing citizens.

Fundamental to realizing this mission is the dedicated effort of the volunteer Board; current members are:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------|
| Sharon Sewers, President | Katherine Benninger | Debi Mortimer |
| Margaret Elliott-Niesen, Past President | Dan Gieruszak | Nancy Skiba |
| Wilf Lane, Treasurer | Craig Harrison | Dan Sullivan |
| David Benninger | Anita Gathercole | Joan White |

We offer Membership opportunities for those who wish to show support for the organization. Members receive our newsletters and invitations to the Annual General Meeting. Please call our office 519-881-3713 ext. 102 for further information.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP: April 1/2020 – March 31/2021

It is time for the Association’s membership year to begin. The membership is \$5.00 per person. Your yearly membership fee assists with the costs of the production of this newsletter as well as the work of our organization. **Thank you for your support.**

Enclosed please find \$_____ for membership fees for Community Living Walkerton and District.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Email address: _____

Please return this information to:

Community Living Walkerton and District, P.O. Box 999, 19 Durham St. E., Walkerton, ON N0G 2V0