

Vision

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

In The Public Eye....

Welcoming Michele Bell, Executive Director

A recent change in the leadership position at Community Living Walkerton and District took effect September 1, 2020, within the Shared Services Agreement between CLWD, Community Living Owen Sound and District, and Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living. Rick Hill, had been in the role of Executive Director for the associations in Walkerton and Owen Sound and Rick will continue this role in Owen Sound. Michele Bell had been Executive Director of BPACL in Wiarton and her role will expand, as she will serve as Executive Director for the associations in Walkerton and Wiarton. For the last four years, as part of the Shared Services Agreement between these three organizations, Michele Bell and Rick Hill have worked closely together.

While we will miss seeing Rick in the office, we know he remains part of the complete Shared Services team and wish him the best. At the same time, we welcome Michele and look forward to her active involvement as CLWD continues to provide support to people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Michele tells us that she is excited to work with the team in Walkerton at such a challenging time for everyone in our community. She moved with her husband and two daughters to Southampton in 2016 from Toronto, to begin work with BPACL. The four years in Bruce County have flown by, and her family has recently added Sadie, a Covid puppy, to their ranks to keep them all on their toes! Michele explains that, for her, September 1st has always been her own personal 'new year'...a time to set goals, "looking at what I would like to accomplish in the next 12 months from a learning/growth perspective in both my professional and personal life."



Michele is confident that, once the pandemic is over, "when it is safer to gather together, there will be lots of celebrations". Meanwhile, she extends an invitation to drop by if you come by the office...she will usually be present on Tuesdays/Thursdays and Fridays.

Welcome to CLWD Michele!

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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."

RDSP & Homeownership: How We're Working to Reform the RDSP August 2020

My Home My Community is a national partnership initiative of Inclusion Canada (formerly the Canadian Association for Community Living) and People First of Canada and their member organizations.

www.myhomemycommunity.ca

For more than a year we've been working on creative ways to use the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) as a tool for achieving homeownership. In our last blog post we shared our design for the RDSP Homeownership Plan which would help people with developmental disabilities save money in their RDSP more quickly and allow them to withdraw that money to buy a home.

Now that we've designed a plan, it's time to put it into action! Making these changes to how RDSPs work will require cooperation from the federal government and financial institutions. We've created short fact sheets to help people understand the RDSP Homeownership Plan and why it should be put into action. Because the government and financial institutions will probably have different questions about the RDSP Homeownership Plan, we've created a resource for tax and finance professionals, and a separate resource for government.

The RDSP Homeownership Plan was co-designed with people with developmental disabilities and their families, and we know they are some of the strongest advocates for getting the RDSP Homeownership Plan adopted. That's why we've also created a resource for people with disabilities and a resource for families so that they can actively participate in promoting the Plan.

Although each hand-out was created for a specific audience, they share some key messages:

- People with developmental disabilities in Canada can and do own their own homes. Homeownership could be a reality for more people with development disabilities - if the right tools are put in place. The RDSP Homeownership Plan is one of those tools.
- The RDSP Homeownership Plan recommends simple changes to the RDSP that would help people with developmental disabilities to buy their own homes. These changes would make it easier to save money to buy a home, and access that money when it's needed. Plus, it won't cost the government any extra money!
- The RDSP Homeownership Plan can create more opportunities for inclusive housing in the community. This will give people with developmental disabilities the same range of housing options as their neighbours without disabilities.
- Homeownership can provide stability, control, and financial security for people with developmental disabilities now and in the future. These are benefits that many other people in Canada already enjoy - people with developmental disabilities deserve this too.

These resources are just one of the ways that My Home, My Community will be working on promoting the RDSP Homeownership Plan and its role in supporting people with developmental disabilities to achieve inclusive, safe, and stable housing. My Home, My Community and its partners are now calling for the federal government to implement the RDSP Homeownership Plan. We'll keep you updated on our progress here on the blog!

More details can be found at <http://www.myhomemycommunity.ca/news>

Note: My Home My Community is building housing opportunities and inclusive communities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are driving innovation in housing development and community supports, to ensure all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have a home that gives them choice, freedom, safety, and inclusion in their community. Ultimately, we work to give people with intellectual and developmental disabilities the same housing choices as everyone else in Canada.

A new milestone: Introducing Inclusion Canada

We believe in a Canada where people with an intellectual disability are equally valued and fully included in every aspect of community life. We also believe our name should reflect this vision.

For decades, the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) has worked to build an inclusive Canada – a Canada where everyone belongs. We are the national leading voice on the issues facing people with an intellectual disability and their families, and the principles of inclusion.

On September 14th, 2020 we formally adopted the name **Inclusion Canada** as we continue to advocate for a truly diverse and inclusive society that benefits us all.

<https://inclusioncanada.ca> on Twitter at @InclusionCA and on Facebook at facebook.com/InclusionCanadaFB.

Community Living Ontario 2020 Conference - virtual for the first time.

This year's theme was *In This Together: Moving The Collective Vision Forward*. The conference was held virtually on September 17th and 18th...and it was a great time of learning and fun. Congratulations to CLO for pulling that off!

Achieving Community Living Ontario's vision relies on us working together with membership, families, people who have an intellectual disability, government and other organizations with similar values. Five registrants from the Walkerton Action Committee attended...3 people participated using their electronic devices at home, and 2 joined in the board room at the office of CLWD.

One self-advocate said that the experience almost felt like the real deal, when usually we would meet in person at a conference centre. Essentially, both days were conducted as meetings on Zoom; that made it very interesting to look at the picture boxes on the screen and try to identify friends from near and far. The chat function was also busy, as participants sent greetings to friends they noticed who attended.

A number of the presentations were made by self advocates. An excellent interactive session by Council encouraged the audience toward successful advocacy, providing several tips...first to identify the issue, do the research, develop an action plan, carry out the plan, and finally evaluate the progress.

We suspect there were some glitches behind the scenes, but from our perspective in Walkerton, all went smoothly. The keynote speaker was Peter Katz, with a motivational message and music that had some people dancing on the screen _ so from beginning to end, a memorable experience.

Thanks to Community Living Ontario for hosting us!

Pandemic response and CLWD

Over the past few months, CLWD has taken necessary steps to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Most importantly, all those supported and members of our support teams have remained free of the Covid-19 virus. Information from our Public Health authorities coordinates closely with direction from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services; this continues to be the guidance we follow as updates are provided.

Although the offices of CLWD and The Hub building remain closed to the public, supports and services continue on an individualized basis through Supported Employment, Zoom meetings and ongoing assistance for daily living.

Family Support Workers, and Infant and Child Development Workers continue to connect with families and participate in virtual meetings on a rotating schedule between in-office and work-from-home.

CLWD is thankful each day for the diligence of our support teams during these challenging times.



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

Local self-advocates successful in election for Council of Community Living Ontario



Congratulations are in order for Crystal Wales (pictured left) and Jessica Forsyth (pictured right). These women are both elected members of Council of Community Living Ontario for 2-year terms. Crystal has experience on Council; Jess is a new member. Below, wording from their election speeches outlines some of their interests for Council work.



Crystal explained in her speech:
Covid 19 has created many difficulties for a lot of people. I sat in on many Zoom meetings brain storming on ways to make things easier for people to deal with the many changes such as not being able to go to work, not being with family and friends.

Jess explained in her speech:
I think we all have to work harder to make it easier for all of us: Easier for people with physical disabilities to get into buildings, Easier to understand things like on the ODSP papers, so have things more in plain language, Easier for people to learn the internet, use a tablet or phone or laptop.

CLWD Family Scholarship 2020/2021

Congratulations to recipients
Madison, Trystan, and Madison!



Madison Bryce is entering her second of two years at Georgian College in Office Administration –Executive. She is the daughter of Lori Bryce, Developmental Support Worker within group living.



Trystan Beninger is going into her final year at University of Guelph in Bachelor of Accounting. She is the daughter of Brenda Beninger, Developmental Support Worker at the Hub.



Madison Dales is starting at Nipissing University for Child and Family Studies with Concurrent Education in Junior/Intermediate (6 years in total). She is the daughter of Carole Dales, Infant and Child Development Worker.

Message from Special Olympics South Saugeen:

Hello Special Olympics Athletes! Our sports have been put on pause for the next little while. Rest assured, we will let you know once they begin again. In the meantime, we encourage you to visit www.specialolympicsontario.com and click on 'Healthy @ Home' to stay healthy, informed, positive and active. In the meantime, stay safe! We will see you again soon!



**Healthy
@ Home**

Awards...

Congratulations Brooke!



Brooke Leppington of Kincardine is the recipient of the 2020/2021 Community Living Walkerton and District Educational Bursary.

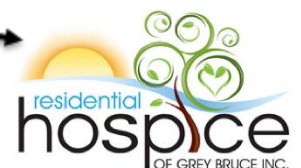
Absent from the photo (due to current pandemic) are members of the selection committee: Joan White (from the CLWD Board of Directors), Karen Elliott (Continuing Education Committee), and Crystal Wales (representing the Action Committee).

Paying it Forward!

A donation of \$1000 was sent to Residential Hospice of Grey Bruce Inc., by the Walkerton Action Committee. The original plan was to support the hospice with the proceeds from another all-you-can-eat pasta dinner at Pizza Delight in September 2020. Since that could not happen this year, committee members decided to pay forward the \$1000 grant that was won for the Action Committee by students from Sacred Heart High School, Avrie and Eva Marie. Two members met with these students some months ago and acquainted them with the workings of the Action Committee and all they do to contribute to their communities and to our organization at CLWD. This was a project/contest at the school through the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative Canada.



The Action Committee was pleased to participate, as it was a very useful way of continuing the important message of inclusion.



From P4P Network comes...

The Fundamentals of Future Planning - Webcast+ Series



As parents, family and friends, we appreciate the role we have in supporting our loved one with a disability to live a full and secure life, now and in the future. That's why we're excited to introduce a brand-new series called The Fundamentals of Future Planning, a six-part enhanced webcast offering. Register at:

<https://www.planningnetwork.ca/events/fundamentals-of-future-planning>

Over the course of three months, guest speakers will share their expertise on the following six topics, highlighting steps families can take to plan for a secure future:

Register for the FULL series or INDIVIDUAL webcasts

1. DESIGNING YOUR FUTURE

A Framework for Planning October 13, 2020 at 7pm

2. WILLS & ESTATE PLANNING

Legacy Planning for a Relative with a Disability October 27 at 7pm

3. CREATING FINANCIAL SECURITY

Financial Planning in Support of a Relative with a Disability November 10, 2020 at 7pm

4. MY LIFE, MY CHOICE, MY COMMUNITY

Thriving in Your Community November 24, 2020 at 7pm

5. NURTURING SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS

The Foundation to a Secure Future January 5, 2021 at 7pm

6. CREATIVE OPTIONS FOR HOME

Exploring Individualized Housing Models January 19, 2021 at 7pm

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU:

- A framework to support you and your loved one in planning for a full life and a safe and secure future.
- Opportunities to further explore webcast topics in facilitated Virtual Discussion Groups with other families.
- A set of digital workbooks identifying next steps that families and individuals can take to reach their goals.

Featured Book



I Am Not a Label: 34 artists, thinkers, athletes and activists with disabilities from past and

present July 7, 2020

Author: Cerrie Burnell

Illustrator: Lauren Baldo

Meet 30 artists, thinkers, athletes, and activists with disabilities, from past and present. From Frida Kahlo to Stephen Hawking, find out how these iconic figures have overcome obstacles, owned their differences, and paved the way for others by making their bodies and minds work for them.

These short biographies tell the stories of people who have faced unique challenges that have not stopped them from becoming trailblazers, innovators, advocates, and makers. Each person is a leading figure in their field, be it sports, science, math, art, breakdancing, or the world of pop.

This book may challenge your preconceptions of disability and mental health with the eye-opening stories of remarkable people including Ludwig van Beethoven, Helen Keller, Stephen Hawking, Temple Grandin, Stevie Wonder, Terry Fox.



Mark Your Calendars



- **Abilities Expo:** It's free and the whole event is online, so sign up today: <https://rebrand.ly/wy14zs5> #AbilitiesVE2 is right around the corner on Nov. 20-22 to bring you a bajillion products, resources, workshops, interviews with community leaders and SO MUCH MORE.
- **Speaking Out Conference 2021 - a conference for self advocates, families and support professionals:** The 2021 Speaking Out Conference had to be cancelled, along with the annual Mini-Golf Tournament. A new date for the conference has been announced, October 15 - 17, 2021 in Port Elgin at the Unifor Family Education Centre. "Being Our Best in 2021" With Key Note Speaker Unstoppable Tracy #1 international TedX Speaker, Best Selling Author, Decorated Athlete. Registration starts Monday May 10, 2021.
- The Action Committee members wish they could say 'Mark your calendar' for the next Christmas party! But in a pandemic, our celebration together will have to change. So watch for any news....they might just come up with something to mark to occasion!

Support for Walkerton Hospital Foundation



There was big news from the **Walkerton Action Committee** back in March/April 2020....their fundraiser for the Walkerton Hospital Foundation with Voisin's Maple Syrup was a success. Even though the pandemic was declared at the tale end of this event, members had been able to sell maple syrup and then donate \$378 to the hospital.

Thank you so much to all the great customers...we hope your sweet treat in time for Easter was tasty!



Keeping in touch....



During these 'stay at home' days, since the June issue of Vision Newsletter, the members of the Walkerton Action Committee have continued with weekly messages and shared jokes, sent from their executive members. Everyone on the committee seems eager for news, but the weekly jokes are especially popular. As well, more contests have been held:

- Brian Gordon was the winner who gave the titles of two songs with 'yellow' in the first line,
- Dave Benninger won the quiz to answer:
I am multi-coloured.
I appear after a storm.
People always point at me.
Everyone takes my picture.
Legend says there is gold at the bottom of me.
Who am I?
- Ashley Lamont won for guessing the surprize plant in the middle of the Action Committee garden...it was a watermelon.

Lately, some members have been sharing their dreams with each other. And when something important comes up, everyone seems ready to make decisions....even while apart. Recently, all agreed to have their chairperson write to government officials responsible for Long Term Care, advocating for:

- More alternatives to Long Term Care
- Greatly expanded home care,
- Long Term Care facilities to be, without exception, not-for-profit or municipally operated

The Action Committee also determined to delay the planned 2020 elections until June 2021, grateful that the members of the executive agreed to stay in positions until then.

Potatoes for the food bank and a treat for the birds



Action Committee gardeners were not able to work in the Community Garden this summer, but potatoes were harvested for the Walkerton Food Bank from the plot rented by the Action Committee...with volunteer help.



Some members kept tabs on the progress, and particularly enjoyed reporting on the amazing sunflowers. One plant grew 10 feet tall, and left good pickin's for the birds!



**ALSO HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS IS -
Kindness, Patience, Love, Enthusiasm,
and a Positive Attitude**

**Don't wait to catch it from others
Be the Carrier**

Proposed More than a Visitor Act (Caregiving in Congregate Settings) Advances in Ontario

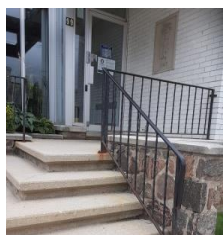
Legislature *from Update Friday*
October 2, 2020, Community Living Ontario

A private member's bill put forward by NDP MPP [Lisa Gretzky](#) recently passed second reading in the Ontario legislature, and has been referred to the Standing Committee on Social Policy. The bill has implications for Ontario's developmental services sector, and it is important that the sector have input as it moves forward.

If passed, the bill would enshrine certain rights for people living in group homes and other congregate settings, including ensuring that residents have "the right to access their designated caregiver in accordance with their needs and preferences," and "the right to choose to have their designated caregiver participate in and be fully informed of decisions regarding the person and to choose the degree of participation."

The full text of the bill can be found <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-203>.

If you have questions about the bill, or would like to provide input via Community Living Ontario, please contact **Shawn Pegg** shawn@communitylivingontario.ca



It was lovely to see these rocks of encouragement on the steps of the Hub this summer at CLWD! Thanks to the artist!



For Immediate Release

Thursday, September 24, 2020

TORONTO, ON – Inclusion Canada applauds the government's commitment to introduce a Disability Inclusion Plan as detailed in yesterday's Speech from the Throne. Inclusion Canada and our national disability partners have long championed a national action plan as essential to an inclusive life in Canada for people with an intellectual disability and their families.

The plan addresses significant gaps in our social infrastructure, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The government's plan will address three key areas of need:

- A new Canadian Disability Benefit modelled after the Guaranteed Income Supplement for seniors;
- A robust employment strategy for Canadians with disabilities;
- A better process to determine eligibility for government disability programs and benefits.

Nearly one quarter of the Canadian population has a disability.

"The Federal government's far-reaching Disability Inclusion Plan recognizes the inequalities faced by persons with disabilities and their families in Canada," says Krista Carr, Executive Vice President of Inclusion Canada, "the ambitious scope of the plan addresses core areas of need for people with a disability across the country and, if successfully implemented, will have a positive and lasting effect on the disability community as a whole."

People with a disability are among the most marginalized populations in the country because of a lack of disability related supports to lead fully inclusive lives. The proposed plan addresses these areas of need by tackling critical issues like unemployment, poverty and difficulty accessing important government benefits and programs.

"People with a disability disproportionately feel the effects of poverty and exclusion," says Robin Acton, President of Inclusion Canada, "I am pleased that the government's plan commits to reducing barriers to meaningful employment and benefits which, in turn, promotes inclusion."

Inclusion Canada looks forward to continuing our work with national disability partners and the Federal Government to ensure the implementation of a Disability Inclusion Plan that adequately addresses the disability community's needs.

Media Contact: Marc Muschler, Senior Communications Officer, Inclusion Canada, mmuschler@inclusioncanada.ca

Inclusion Canada is a national federation of 13 provincial-territorial associations and over 300 local associations working to advance the full inclusion and human rights of people with an intellectual disability and their families. We lead the way in building an inclusive Canada by strengthening families, defending rights, and transforming communities into places where everyone belongs.

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



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

www.facebook.com/clwalkerton

