



NEWS RELEASE

CENTRAL ISLAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL FOSTER INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Nanaimo, April 24, 2007 – Community Living BC (CLBC) has now finalized the members of its Central Island community council, which will give community and business leaders the opportunity to work with families to enrich the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

The Central Island council has a combination of individuals with developmental disabilities (more commonly known as self-advocates), parents, service providers and community members. The members represent the communities of Cowichan Valley, Duncan, Nanaimo, Parksville, Port Alberni, Tofino, Ucluelet and Qualicum.

The councils are being established across the province to ensure that communities have more meaningful involvement in how their services are delivered and outcomes are achieved for individuals with disabilities and their families.

The Central Island community council is comprised of the following members:

Self-Advocates	Ron Greenhorn	Nanaimo	Volunteers in the community and is involved in several organizations.
	Heather Porteous	Nanaimo	Interested in speaking for the needs of adults with a developmental disability.
Family Members	Christa Schiffelers	Port Alberni	Parent of an adult with a developmental disability. Sits on the board of daughter's microboard.
	Doreen Shaw	Parksville/Qualicum	Parent of an adult with a developmental disability.
	Geoff Wright	Parksville/Qualicum	Parent of an adult with a developmental disability.
	Stuart Donaldson	Nanaimo	Parent of an adult with a developmental disability.
	Jean Scholefield	Duncan/Cowichan Valley	Parent of an adult with a developmental disability. Involved with Cowichan Valley Association for Community Living board and Special Olympics.
Service Providers	Patricia Messenger	Port Alberni	Long time Foster Parent. Previous experience running an autism program and is part of a microboard.
	Tina Fabbro	Nanaimo	Runs a creative, individualized adult program with a focus on making community connections.
Community Member	Terry Patterson	Nanaimo	Runs his own photography business in Nanaimo.

Recruitment will continue for either a family member, self-advocate, or other community member to represent the Cowichan area.

The councils will review financial information about CLBC's budget and participate in determining how to best utilize limited resources. They will also work with CLBC managers to identify gaps, overlaps, issues and service delivery problems within the area. In addition, they will help set priorities for new or existing funding and participate in determining the impacts of financial decisions.

Each community council will act as an ambassador and a bridge to creating inclusive communities and participate in shared decision making. Together with CLBC staff and managers they will enhance the creation of safe environments, improve access to community resources and acknowledge the gifts and contributions of people with disabilities.

In addition, they will help develop and promote creative solutions which improve community access and inclusion. The councils will also identify research that will enhance our knowledge of how best to support people in community.

Community Living BC is the Crown agency responsible for providing support and services to people with developmental disabilities, children with special needs and their families in British Columbia. It has a board of self-advocates, family and community members, as well as staff located throughout the province. It believes that people with developmental disabilities and their families know best when it comes to their needs, goals and planning for the future.

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