



NEWS RELEASE

EAST KOOTENAYS COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL FOSTER INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Cranbrook, March 15, 2007 – Community Living BC (CLBC) has now finalized the members of its East Kootenays 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 East Kootenays 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 Cranbrook, Creston, Fernie, Golden, Invermere and Kimberley.

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 East Kootenays community council is comprised of the following members:

Self-Advocates	Mark Skelton	Kimberley	Receives one-to-one support through a contractor with Community Living BC and lives independently.
	Shea Leonty	Cranbrook	Receives support from a local agency contracted through Community Living BC and lives independently.
	Colleen Mosimann	Cranbrook	Lives independently and receives support services from a local agency funded through Community Living BC.
Family Members	Mick McLellan	Kimberley	Parent to an adult son receiving support services from Community Living BC.
	Lorna Goetz	Kimberley	Parent of an adult son who receives support services from Community Living BC.
	Heather Jensen	Cranbrook	Parent to a son who receives support through a local CLBC-funded agency. Is also a teacher in the local school district of Cranbrook.
	Glenda Townsend	Invermere	Parent of an adult son and daughter with developmental disabilities who both receive CLBC-funded support.
Service Providers	Donna McCready	Creston	Works for a contracted agency in Creston called Cresteramics.
	Lynn Mace	Fernie	Works for Columbia Basin Family Resource Society in Fernie.
Community Members	Denise Robison	Cranbrook	On the board of Cranbrook Society for Community Living.
	Rhonda Smith	Golden	Works as the Infant Development Consultant in Golden.

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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Contact: Sally Greenwood
Director, Communications
604-664-0101
www.communitylivingbc.ca