



NEWS RELEASE

NORTH ISLAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL FOSTER INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Courtenay, February 26, 2007 – Community Living BC (CLBC) has now finalized the members of its North 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 North 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 Campbell River, the Comox Valley and Port Hardy.

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 North Island community council is comprised of the following members:

Self-Advocates	Michael McLellan	Comox Valley	Self-advocate involved in many activities.
	Nicole Dowling	Comox Valley	Self-advocate involved in many activities.
Family Members	Dave Johnson	Port Hardy	Parent of young adult.
	Carolyn Armstrong	Comox Valley	Parent of a 10 year old.
	Stu Meldrum	Campbell River	Parent of an adult and chair of the Campbell River and District Association for Community Living.
	Evelyn Hiscock	Comox Valley	Parent of an adult supported by a microboard.
	Heather Cornfield	Campbell River	Parent of an adult.
Service Providers	Denise Sedrovic	Campbell River	Parent of a 16 year old youth transitioning from child to adult services.
	Debby Tutt	Comox Valley	Provides children's services with the Child Development Association.
	Jacqueline Cross	Campbell River	Family care home provider for two people with challenging support requirements.
	Eugene Hrushowy	Comox Valley/ Campbell River	Strong leader in the two communities providing services through Bridges Day Program and Future Focus.
Community Members	Chris Parker	Port Hardy	Executive Director of the North Island Crisis and Counselling Centre.
	Brad Erhardt	Comox Valley	On Courtenay city council's access committee.

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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