

## NEWS RELEASE

### NORTH SHORE COAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL FOSTER INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

**North Vancouver, June 6, 2007** – Community Living BC (CLBC) has now finalized the members of its North Shore Coast 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 Shore Coast 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 Gibsons, North Vancouver, Powell River, Sechelt, Squamish and West Vancouver.

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 Shore Coast community council is comprised of the following members:

<b>Self-Advocates</b>	Peter Russell	North Shore	Self-advocate involved in many activities.
	Yvonne Barabash	Gibsons	Self-advocate involved in many activities.
<b>Family Members</b>	Fiona Galvani	North Vancouver	Parent of young children.
	Cathy Abraham	North Vancouver	Parent of adult child.
	Cheryl Baker	North Vancouver Squamish Nation	Parent of a child transitioning from youth to adult.
	Maria McKee	Squamish	Parent of young child.
	Karen Sweetzer	Gibsons/Sechelt	Parent of adult child.
<b>Service Providers</b>	Liz Barnett	North Vancouver	Executive Director of the North Shore Disability Resource Centre.
	Glen McGlughan	Sechelt	Executive Director of the Sunshine Coast Association for Community Living.
<b>Community Members</b>	Coranne Anderson	Powell River	Runs Aaron Services and Supply, a water distribution company.
	Pat Hull	Powell River	Manager IRLY Building Center in Powell River and is involved in the Powell River Chamber of Commerce.
	Rick King	Squamish	Financial advisor in Squamish and previous town councillor.

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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