

## NEWS RELEASE

### NORTHWEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL FOSTER INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

**Terrace, June 25, 2007** – Community Living BC (CLBC) has now finalized the members of its Northwest 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 Northwest 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 Burns Lake, New Aiyansh, Prince Rupert, Smithers, and Terrace.

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 Northwest community council is comprised of the following members:

<b>Self-Advocates</b>	Laudelina Andrade	Terrace	A self-advocate involved with many community activities. Likes to be a voice for self advocates.
<b>Family Members</b>	Earnie Harding	Smithers	Grandparent and also guardian to an adult with a developmental disability.
	Myrna Mortensen	Smithers	Parent of an adult child with developmental disability who resides in the family home.
	Lynn Huges	Terrace	Parent of a youth with a developmental disability.
	John McNish	Prince Rupert	Parent of a middle-aged son who presently resides in a group home.
	Sheila Azak	New Aiyansh	Family member of an adult with a developmental disability.
<b>Service Providers</b>	Susan Schienbien	Burns Lake	Is interested in participating to develop co-ordinated services, greater choices and enhanced community services.
	Sharon Taylor	Smithers	Is a service provider for children's services in her area.
	Mary Clattenburg	Prince Rupert	A service provider for people in her community including people with a developmental disability.
<b>Community Members</b>	Susan Viveiros	Terrace	Currently works for a community agency. Worked previously as a social worker in community living services.
	Ann Peltier	Terrace	Currently an administrator for a community agency. Interested in the needs of a diverse group of people.
	Linda Haines	Terrace	Family member of a child with disability. Currently she is working for Choices Community Living in Terrace.

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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