



## NEWS RELEASE

### PEACE DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL FOSTER INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

**Dawson Creek, June 18, 2007** – Community Living BC (CLBC) has now finalized the members of its Peace District 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 Peace District 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 the Peace District of north eastern British Columbia.

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 Northeast community council is comprised of the following members:

<b>Self-Advocates</b>	David Johnston	Dawson Creek	Wants to help better service for others with disabilities and to bring issues to the council from self-advocates and vice versa.
	Justin Pylatuk	Dawson Creek	Wants to help people with disabilities and disorders to live a better life. He expressed a desire for people with disabilities to “have a voice.”
<b>Family Members</b>	Hugh Erikson	Dawson Creek	Business owner in the community, parent to a 15 year old with developmental disability.
	Sharon Doerksen	Fort St. John	Parent of a 21 year old with a developmental disability.
	Phyllis Foster	Chetwynd	Has a 14 year old grandson with developmental disabilities.
	Melody Hauser	Dawson Creek	Parent to a child with a developmental disability.
	Cory Goodwin	Fort St. John	Parent to a youth with a developmental disability.
<b>Service Providers</b>	Marla Yaremicio	Dawson Creek	Works for Dawson Creek Society for Community Living. Has been involved with community living for the past 15 years both privately and professionally.
	Cindy Mohr	Fort St. John	Executive Director of Fort St. John Association for Community Living. Presently sits on a microboard for one of her relatives.
<b>Community Members</b>	Amy Nowicki	Dawson Creek	Works for Child Development Centre. She has three family members who receive services from CLBC and has extensive experience working with children, youth and adults with special needs.

	Calvin Kruk	Dawson Creek	Mayor of Dawson Creek. Has many connections in the community and is involved in many of the community's on-going events.
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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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