



## NEWS RELEASE

### PRINCE GEORGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL FOSTER INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

**Prince George, June 7, 2007** – Community Living BC (CLBC) has now finalized the members of its Prince George 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 Prince George council has a combination of individuals with developmental disabilities (more commonly known as self-advocates), parents, service providers and community members. The members represent Prince George and surrounding communities.

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 Prince George community council is comprised of the following members:

<b>Self-Advocates</b>	Ruth Stanton	Prince George	Involved with the Prince George Self Advocate Group thru AiMHi.
<b>Family Members</b>	Barbara Warkentine	Prince George	Parent of an adult with a developmental disability.
	Terry Robertson	Prince George	Parent of a youth with a developmental disability. She is a member of the Family Support Institute and was previously a member of the Interim Authority for CLBC.
	Bonnie Fallowfield	Quesnel	Parent of a youth with a developmental disability. Bonnie is the Regional Resource Parent for the Family Support Institute.
	Frank Jamin	Prince George	A family member of a young adult with disabilities. Frank was previously a community living services social worker.
<b>Service Providers</b>	Shona Hornung	Prince George	Works at AimHi and would like to be more involved in advocating for the needs of people with developmental disabilities in the community.
<b>Community Members</b>	Charlene VanKoughnett	Quesnel	Works for the Native Friendship Centre in Quesnel.

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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