



NEWS RELEASE

RICHMOND DELTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL FOSTER INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Richmond, June 12, 2007 – Community Living BC (CLBC) has now finalized the members of its Richmond Delta 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 Richmond Delta 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 Delta and Richmond.

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 Richmond Delta community council is comprised of the following members:

Self-Advocates	Rasika Aklujkar	Richmond	Self-advocate involved with many activities and previous board member at Richmond Society for Community Living.
	Hugh Holt	Delta	Self-advocate who wants to help make things better in his community by being on the community council.
	Michelle McNabb	Delta	Self-advocate who wants to make life better for others by being on the community council.
Family Members	Jan Weber	Richmond	Parent of a 25 year old son with a developmental disability who is living at home.
	Bob Robertson	Richmond	Parent of a 31 year old daughter with a developmental disability who is living at home. Past experience on boards within community living.
	Ruth Shannon	Richmond	Adoptive parent of a 15 year old with a developmental disability. Previous foster parent.
	Tanis Reimer	Richmond	Parent of a 21 year old with a developmental disability. President of the Board of Richmond Society for Community Living.
	Johanne Enemark	Richmond	Parent of an 18 year old son with a developmental disability.
	Rosemary Mullins	Delta	Parent of a 15 year old son with a developmental disability.
Service Providers	Janice Barr	Richmond	Executive Director of Richmond Society for Community Living.

	Anita Sihota	Delta	Executive Director of Delta Community Living Society.
	Sherrie Jamieson	Delta	Manager, Early Intervention Services with Delta Association for Child Development.
Community Members	Barbara Thomas-Bruzzese	Richmond	Department Coordinator with Kwantlen University College in the Access Program for people with Disabilities Department.

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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