



NEWS RELEASE

SOUTH ISLAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL FOSTER INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Victoria, June 8, 2007 – Community Living BC (CLBC) has now finalized the members of its South Island 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 South Island council has a combination of individuals with developmental disabilities (more commonly known as self-advocates), parents, service providers and community members. The council represents the communities served by the South Island Region, the boundary of which extends west to Port Renfrew, north to Shawnigan Lake South and includes the Greater Victoria area, Sidney and the Gulf Islands.

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 South Island community council is comprised of the following members:

Self-Advocates	Sheenagh Morrison	Victoria	A young adult who moved from the family home to a Supported Living apartment several years ago. Sheenagh has a job and also volunteers.
	Luke Melchior	Victoria	Has an extensive background of public speaking on behalf of people with disabilities.
Family Members	Diana Day	Victoria	Diana's adult son is supported by CLBC, who was recently awarded a brand new home at below market value thanks to her efforts.
	Mary Valeriotte	Victoria	Mary is the parent of an adult child with a developmental disability and has sat on the boards of the Ontario Rett Syndrome Association and the Oakville Association for Community Living.
	Beverley Straub	Victoria	Beverley is the parent of Carl who has just turned 19 years of age and has transitioned to adult services. Carl resides in a group home.
	Victor Peters	Brentwood Bay	Victor is the parent of Christina, a self-advocate who has been employed by MCFD/CLBC for 13 years. Victor is a former teacher and principal who, after retirement, had a successful career as an entrepreneur.
	Louise Doucet	Salt Spring Island	Louise is the parent of an adult child who lives in the family home. Louise currently sits on the board of the Gulf Island Together Society.
	Carol Antoine	Tsawout Reserve	Has a son with Cerebral Palsy. She wants to explore new approaches to service delivery and share information with Aboriginal Communities.

Community Members	Chantal Brodeur	Victoria	Chantal has been involved with BC Special Olympics, the Inter-Cultural Association of Victoria, the City of Victoria Parks, Recreation and Community Services Advisory Committee, and the YWCA Women of Distinction Awards.
	Rosemary Juszko	Victoria	Rosemary's volunteer community involvement in the past has included sitting on the BCACL board as well as the Citizen's Advocacy Board. She is currently a contractor with Lifetime Networks Victoria.
Service Providers	Roberta Scott	Victoria	Has experience with both the home-sharing model group-living model. She has varied experience as a host agency and CLBC-contracted service provider.
	Joanne van Pelt	Salt Spring Island	Is the director of Child and Youth Service on the island and provides day programs for adults and individual support services for youth with developmental disabilities.

Recruitment will continue for either a family member, self-advocate, service provider or community member to represent the Sooke area.

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 member 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.