



NEWS RELEASE

SURREY COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL FOSTER INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Surrey, April 26, 2007 – Community Living BC (CLBC) has now finalized the members of its Surrey 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 Surrey 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 Surrey and White Rock.

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 Surrey community council is comprised of the following members:

Self-Advocates	Connie Hulley	Surrey	Receives supports from a local CLBC-contracted agency.
	Larry Shareski	White Rock	Receives supports from a local CLBC-contracted agency.
Family Members	Rachhpal Sidhu	Surrey	Father of a daughter with a developmental disability who is approaching adulthood.
	Laurie Romey	Surrey	Parent of son with autism. On the Board of the Autism Society of BC.
	Kris Pointon	Surrey	Mother of a young adult daughter with a developmental disability who receives support services from CLBC.
	Marie Sabine	White Rock	Parent of an adult daughter who receives CLBC-funded supports through a local community living agency.
	Diana Diggle	Surrey	Parent of a young adult son with a developmental disability who receives CLBC-funded supports.
	Jane Moon	Surrey	Parent of young son with autism. Leads a Chinese support group that consists of moms of children with special needs.
Service Providers	Coreen Windbiel	Surrey	Is the Respite coordinator for the Surrey Association for Community Living, which is a contracted agency with CLBC.
	Mark Benjamin	Surrey	Contracted service provider of CLBC serving adults through a variety of program options.

	Cheryl-Anne Hendy	Surrey	A private-caregiver contracted by CLBC in Surrey who supports an adult individual in her home.
Community Members	Madeleine Addison	Surrey	Supports access to services and inclusion for all individuals and families in our community.
	Sandra Cottingham	Surrey/ White Rock	Works for the Surrey School District as a District Special Ed Consultant.

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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