



NEWS RELEASE

UPPER FRASER COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL FOSTER INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Abbotsford, April 2, 2007 – Community Living BC (CLBC) has now finalized the members of its Upper Fraser 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 Upper Fraser 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 Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Fort Langley, Langley and Mission.

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 Upper Fraser community council is comprised of the following members:

Self-Advocates	Jerry Laidlaw	Mission	Sits on the BCACL board and is the chair of the self-advocate caucus.
	Bryce Schaufelberger	Mission	Was one of the original CLBC board members and is past-president of Mission's self-advocacy group.
	Heidi Schneider	Langley	A self-advocate and parent of two children with disabilities.
Family Members	Laurel Archer	Langley	Parent of two children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.
	Shirley Paterson	Fort Langley	Parent of a twelve year child with autism.
	Clayton Arkesteyn-Vogler	Abbotsford	An adoptive father, proprietary caregiver, and foster parent.
	Elizabeth Kennedy	Abbotsford	Parent of a daughter with Angelman Syndrome, and sits on the board of the Canadian Angelman Syndrome Society.
Service Providers	Kim Sherlock	Chilliwack	Parent of an adult son with a developmental disability.
	Cathy Bonnett	Mission	Works with individuals with disabilities who are interested in creativity, relationships and marriage.
	Brenda Gillette	Chilliwack	Is the executive director of the Chilliwack Association for Community Living.
	Brandy Penman	Chilliwack	An active member of a microboard that provides services for a child with special needs.
Community Members	Kathleen Rake	Mission	Works as a small-business advisor and writer, and has a daughter with developmental disabilities.
	Suzanne Heppell	Abbotsford	Owens the Career Gate Community College in Abbotsford.

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.

-30-

Contact: Sally Greenwood
Director, Communications
604-664-0101
www.communitylivingbc.ca