



NEWS RELEASE

VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL FOSTER INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Vancouver, April 30, 2007 – Community Living BC (CLBC) has now finalized the members of its Vancouver 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 Vancouver council has a combination of individuals with developmental disabilities (more commonly known as self-advocates), parents, service providers and community members.

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 Vancouver community council is comprised of the following members:

Self-Advocate	Richard McDonald	Receives apartment support through a contractor with Community Living BC and lives independently.
Family Members	Rachelle Czerwinski	Parent of a son who receives support services from Community Living BC. She is the coordinator of the Vancouver Parents Transition Group.
	Sue Salter	Parent of a young adult daughter receiving support services from Community Living BC.
	Peter Swayne	Parent of a young adult daughter receiving support services from Community Living BC.
	John Tsang	Parent of a son who receives support services from Community Living BC.
	Yaming Chen	Parent of a son who receives support services from Community Living BC.
	Rita Leedholm	Parent of a son who receives support services from Community Living BC. She is also a self-advocate.
Service Providers	Ernie Baatz	Works for Spectrum Society for Community Living.
	Jan Wood	Works for Mainstream Association for Proactive Community Living.
	Mara St. Onge-Dueck	Proprietary caregiver for two individuals.
Community Members	Ken Wakeman	Retired social worker.
	Natalie Marach	Lawyer for Watson Goepel Maledy in Vancouver.
	Ann Dumas	Retired Vancouver School Board administrator for special needs children.

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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