



NEWS RELEASE

VERNON COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL FOSTER INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Vernon, February 5, 2007 – Community Living BC (CLBC) has now finalized the members of its Vernon 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 Vernon 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 Armstrong, Enderby, Lumby, Revelstoke, Salmon Arm, and Vernon.

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 Vernon community council is comprised of the following members:

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| Self-Advocates | Arnold Bennington | Vernon | Self-advocate involved in many activities. |
| | Kathleen Nelson | Salmon Arm | Involved with Salmon Arm Self-Advocates. |
| Family Members | Margaret Murphy | Vernon | Parent of a child in transition and connected to the infant development world. |
| | Lynne Barisoff | Revelstoke | Parent of a 17 year old. |
| | Patrick Allwood | Salmon Arm | Parent of an adult child, strongly involved in community. |
| | Dianne Mumm | Armstrong | Sister to an aging individual who lives at home and involved with fostering a child. |
| | Helmut Herrmann | Enderby | Parent of an adult child living at home. |
| | Mariella Kriesse | Lumby | Parent of a 15 year old child. |
| Service Providers | Patricia Winters | Vernon/Armstrong | Parent of a child who is aging at home and is on the VDACL board. |
| | Noelle Typusiak | Vernon | Foster parent and coordinator of local Foster Parent Association. |
| | Henry Sundquist | Vernon/Armstrong | Representing four, large service providers. |
| Community Members | Greg Cheyne | Salmon Arm | Representing rural service providers. |
| | Susan Shewchuk | Vernon | HSCL nurse. |
| | Carolyn Christiansen | Vernon | Lawyer from Nixon Wenger. |
| | Mark Kerwin | Vernon | Businessman on the Vernon Chamber of Commerce executive. |

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.

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