



NEWS RELEASE

WEST KOOTENAYS COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL FOSTER INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Castlegar, February 22, 2007 – Community Living BC (CLBC) has now finalized the members of its West Kootenays 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 West Kootenays 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 Castlegar, Fauquier, Fruitvale, Grand Forks, Nelson, Naskup and Trail.

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 West Kootenays community council is comprised of the following members:

Self-Advocates	Sandrell Fraser	Castlegar	Sandrell enjoys helping people and wants to speak for others who have difficulty speaking for themselves.
	Nick Toner	Nelson	Has been involved in other boards and councils representing self-advocates.
Family Members	Laurie Tetlock	Grand Forks	Has an adult son who receives support services from CLBC.
	Helen Lorimer	Castlegar	Has an adult son who receives support services from CLBC.
	Angela Lavrnway	Fruitvale	Is a teacher at the local elementary school and has a daughter who was recently diagnosed with autism.
Service Providers	Vince Devito	Nelson	Vince's agency is Communica Services in Nelson and is very involved in service delivery to people with developmental disabilities.
	Nancy Gurr	Trail	Nancy is the Executive Director for the Trail Association for Community Living.
Community Partners	Janet Royko	Fauquier	Is very involved on various boards, councils and committees in her community and Naskup.
	Sandi McCreight	Castlegar	Is very involved in the Castlegar Community Response Network in the community of Castlegar.

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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