



NEWS RELEASE

INITIAL PUBLIC MEETINGS FOCUSED ON INCREASED NEED FOR EDUCATION, HOUSING

Vernon, July 6, 2007 – Family members and stakeholders are interested in more education about planning for the future of their children with developmental disabilities, they told the Community Living BC (CLBC) North Okanagan Community Council. More than one hundred stakeholders met and spoke with council members at the community council's first public meetings in Vernon, Revelstoke and Salmon Arm from June 18 to 21.

The North Okanagan Community Council was the first council in the province to be appointed and will act as community ambassadors to CLBC. The North Okanagan Community Council's mandate is to create, sustain and nurture the mutual sharing of information, action, decision-making and accountability between local CLBC management and community.

Some of the themes brought up at the meetings included continuous communication regarding CLBC's new service delivery model and the need to focus on housing and employment for people with developmental disabilities. The council will meet monthly in the fall to frame strategies to assist CLBC to address these issues in the area.

There are currently two vacancies on the council as a result of members moving out of the area. The council is looking for a community or business member who is civic minded and able to connect with broad interest groups in the Vernon area and a family member who has younger children who are eligible for services from CLBC.

If you or someone you or someone you know might be interested in being nominated for one of these positions please call: Dianne Mumm, community council nominations committee chair at 250-549- 5490, or Bill Tidsbury, Manager, Community Planning and Development at 250-549-5667 or e-mail at Bill.Tidsbury@gov.bc.ca.

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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