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# Imagine!

## posAbilities

Empowering people with developmental disabilities



## Meet Deepi Leihl.... HandyDART Advocate

Contributed by Justine Chubb

As some of you may already know, one of our persons served has been advocating for more HandyDART buses (a door-to-door transportation service that uses specially-equipped vehicles for passengers with physical and cognitive disabilities) to be added in the community.

**Deepi Leihl** is a young woman who receives services from Richmond Life Skills who relies on the HandyDART service for transportation.

One of Deepi's life goals is to become a broadcaster so she can make a difference by increasing awareness of the many causes she believes in. Deepi took those two passions and became an advocate for this great cause. "My sister and I have been taking the HandyDART our whole life and it got to a point where we were frustrated because we could not get to places we wanted to go or the times we needed for to access the Community as that is a part of our LifeSkills goal," explained Deepi. She emphasized the need for greater change: "We, the persons with

mobility issues, need the B.C. Government and TransLink to be more accountable to the vulnerable people of our society by ensuring there is equal opportunity to be transported throughout our cities for appointments, education and socializing outlets."

Deepi had the wonderful opportunity of carrying out her goal of becoming a broadcaster as she was a correspondent for News 101 on CiTR 101.9 FM. She was taught the ins and outs of news story write ups and interview techniques by the News Director at CiTR.

Her story featured interviews with Linda McGowan - the consumer advocacy manager for MVT Canadian Bus Inc. (the company that runs HandyDART under TransLink), Jotti - a HandyDART client, and Beth - a support worker who works with HandyDART clients.

She discovered that news reporting has its challenges though as she explained, "it was difficult for me to report this story because it's so close to home ... I had to keep my emotions and opinions to myself and let my story do the talking, so that was tough, but at the end I was really happy with the outcome."

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Do you have a story for our quarterly newsletter or web-site?

Email [info@posAbilities.ca](mailto:info@posAbilities.ca) or contact the communications team at (604) 299-4001.

Justine Chubb, Staff Writer/Editor

[www.posAbilities.ca](http://www.posAbilities.ca)

## Meet Deepi Leihl.... HandyDART Advocate

Continued from Cover Page

Deepi as well had the opportunity of starting a petition online, creating even more awareness around her cause. "I just hope it makes a difference and people are aware that the TransLink need to make a change to their HandyDART services for the better by adding more buses to the service areas here in BC. The concern is that there are not sufficient drivers on shift to match the number of calls coming in each day/evening. With the population growing in BC, it will be an even greater problem, not less."

Even though these were challenging experiences for Deepi, the skills she developed through the process have been invaluable to her with respect to fulfilling her life goals. We know she will continue making a difference in the community through her advocacy work, and we look forward to seeing what other great causes she will be a part of in the future! To listen to Deepi's story, please visit:

[http://www.mixcloud.com/News101\\_CiTR/deepi-leihl-reports-on-translinks-handydart-door-to-door-shared-ride-transportation-service/](http://www.mixcloud.com/News101_CiTR/deepi-leihl-reports-on-translinks-handydart-door-to-door-shared-ride-transportation-service/)



## Altesse Engages through the Arts

Submitted by Nisha Pandey

**Dennis, Jason and Craig** enjoyed hosting an arts themed community event on February 7<sup>th</sup> at their home in Burnaby. A group sing-a-long was lead by **Colette** and everyone had the chance to visit and socialize that afternoon. There was also ample time for crafting, one of Dennis' passions. Friends from Alternatives and PACT as well as a few neighbours gathered to enjoy the fun!

## Together We Can All Plant a Seed Campaign! Contributed by Alisha Mann



*Can You Dig It* has partnered with **West Coast Seeds** and **Sokap** to raise funds throughout Canada, through selling seeds and offering sponsorship of garden beds, give back kits and educational resources. West Coast Seeds has offered to donate a portion of the proceeds of each kit

and package sold to build stronger communities.

Through this innovative platform, groups can also promote the campaign to raise funds for their own initiatives allowing the campaign to grow across Canada. "We are hoping to spread the love of inclusive community gardening in neighbourhoods throughout the nation by allowing gardens to fund themselves while buying an excellent product"

**Cinthia Page**, *Can You Dig It*.

promote the campaign and raise money for your initiative anywhere in Canada and you can even buy a town license and earn some extra money for your project, group or as an individual. It's that easy! We will handle the rest, shipping out your seeds in a timely fashion or providing you with a tax receipt for sponsorship, should you choose to support the project through sponsorship. **Sokap** will keep track of your account and deposit your funds. For more information please visit [www.sokap.com](http://www.sokap.com). Now you are ready to plant your new seeds and have extra funds for your project.



Thank you for supporting *Can You Dig It* and helping us help you build strong communities across Canada. For more information, please visit: [www.cydi.ca](http://www.cydi.ca) and [www.facebook.com/canyoudigitca](http://www.facebook.com/canyoudigitca)

# BUILDING COMMUNITY



## Harry is on the Road

**Harry M** is a resident at **New Britton** and is a motorcycle enthusiast! At the community engagement program planning session held last Fall, participants brainstormed ideas around connecting Harry and his passion for motorcycles to the community. In November, Harry visited the Harley Davidson store on Boundary Road in Vancouver. He had a blast and was warmly greeted by the helpful staff there. Nibbling on popcorn and sitting on a variety of different motorcycles in the shop, Harry was all smiles. One day, he'd love to ride in a side car. Continuing on this theme, Harry recently participated in "The Motorcycle Show" in Abbotsford. The show featured new products, opportunities to check out an array of bikes and some really neat live performances. Other cool ideas being explored at New Britton include connecting Harry with deaf riders through the Freedom Bikers Church, or other riders in the community. With Spring just around the corner, it's exciting to think about the opportunities that can arise from pursuing Harry's passion!



## Rainbow Discovery Alliance Hosts World Café

On Thursday, January 31, I had the opportunity of attending the World Café event put on by the **Rainbow Discovery Alliance** - a support network for persons with developmental disabilities who are LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Questioning) and those who support them as friends, families and allies. Upon arrival, I was greeted with a sea of welcoming faces as excitement was in the air to kick-off their very first World Café event! What a terrific world café it was - three tables, four great questions, two volunteer graphic facilitators and lots of ideas.



The young man behind all of this is **Colin**, who explained this started as a social club, a place for friends to gather to talk about "questions that matter". He cannot believe how far the group has come and having the opportunity to host an event such as this sparks the much needed conversation to move forward. He was so pleased with how the event turned out as a space was created for anyone to speak their mind, and contribute their thoughts and ideas without any judgment. Colin further explained how "it was so great to have my friends and allies there who support the LGBTQ community".

He's already looking towards the future as he plans on branching out to reach different communities. And as Colin reiterated, "it doesn't really matter what we're doing, as long as it's a place for friends to hang out". Join the RDA at their upcoming event, "**Spring Fling 2013 – Taking It to the West End Dinner**", taking place at **6pm on Wednesday, March 13** at the **Fountainhead Pub**: [www.thefountainheadpub.com/](http://www.thefountainheadpub.com/). For updates on this group and their upcoming event, please visit their facebook page: [www.facebook.com/RainbowDiscoveryAlliance](http://www.facebook.com/RainbowDiscoveryAlliance)

## Farmer's Markets



**Don't Sweat It Services is excited to announce their attendance at the following Farmer's Markets:**

- Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>** – Port Moody  
– Port Moody Rec Centre, 300 Ioco Road, 10am-2pm
- Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>** – Vancouver  
– Nat Bailey Stadium, 30<sup>th</sup> Ave & Ontario Street, 10am-2pm
- Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>** – New Westminster  
– River Market, 810 Quayside Drive, 11am-3pm

Please come by, say hello and learn about our services including: recycling, rubbish removal, small moves, yard clean-ups, edible landscaping, garden installation, compost management and landscape maintenance. "Like" our facebook page to receive regular updates: [www.facebook.com/DontSweatItServices](http://www.facebook.com/DontSweatItServices)

## With thanks to our supporters

The **SpencerCreo Foundation** has given a generous gift of- \$25,000 a year for 3 years to *Can You Dig It*. We are deeply grateful for this generous support and look forward to expanding to even more communities across BC. Together, we can all plant a seed!

*With Thanks*

# FAMILIES MATTER

## Group Stepping Stones Triple P Program



Leilani Llacuna



Nikhat (Nikki) Ali



Kavita Kamat -  
Clinical Director

**Kavita Kamat** and **Leilani Llacuna**, Behavior Consultants from *posAbilities'* **Laurel Behavior Support Services (LBSS)** recently provided a **Group Stepping Stones Triple P®** Program to parents on the Sunshine Coast. Triple P® is an evidence-based positive parenting program founded on over 30 years of clinical and empirical research which was an initiative of the Parenting and Family Support Centre at the University of Queensland in Australia. Group Stepping Stones Triple P® is an adaptation of the Triple P Positive Parenting Program and is best served for families with children up to 12 years old with disabilities who currently have or are at-risk of developing behaviour problems. The Group Stepping Stones Triple P® in-service sessions were held at the Gibsons Community Centre and were sponsored by the **Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)**. The program included 5 weekly in-service sessions and 3 phone consultations. The weekly sessions provided families waiting for behaviour consultation services with positive parenting strategies, focused support, active-skills training, and practice in developing high-risk planned activities routines. The sessions also provided an opportunity for parents to build a parent support network through working closely together in a small group setting.

One parent who participated in the program describes her personal achievements and gains from participating in the Group Stepping Stones Triple P Program.

*Dear Parents,*

*The Stepping Stones Triple P Program has helped me with understanding how to better help my child. The facilitators that taught the program were very helpful with guiding me in every step. Leilani's phone calls helped me stay on track. The book also guides you with the tools that you need. The behaviour problems which I targeted, was eating at the dinner table and playtime.*

*For the strategies that I used to measure behaviour while eating at the table was behaviour diary, tally sheet and duration record. Every time that my child sat at the dinner room table and followed his expectations and would eat with us like a family, he would get hockey stickers. He really loves hockey stickers, so this motivated him to eat and enjoy dinner with us. Now that we have mastered this behaviour, I am slowing getting away from the stickers. As for playtime, I have set times to play games with both my kids. They get to take turns picking out a game which we play. This has helped decrease the fighting between them to get my attention. They both enjoy this time and they are learning to play together. I feel that this program is a great asset for any parent to take.*

*I want to thank Kavita Kamat and Leilani Llacuna for all their help.*

*Sincerely,*

*Parent of the Stepping Stones Triple P Program*

For more information, please visit their facebook page: [www.facebook.com/LaurelBehaviour](http://www.facebook.com/LaurelBehaviour) or contact Sareth Ly at 604-529-2364 or email [sly@posAbilities.ca](mailto:sly@posAbilities.ca)



## PROGRAM NEWS BEAT

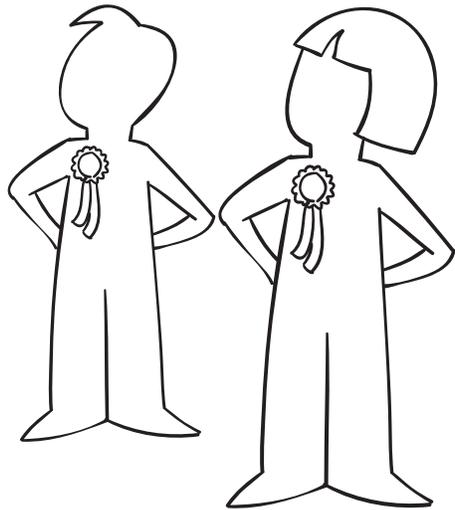
### Gifts of Hope

What can a farm do for a community in need? Change the course of its future, save lives and ignite hope. This gift of pigs, rabbits and a goat will be divvied up between families in communities throughout the developing world, which generates income to pay for food, housing, healthcare and education. Give this gift and change the future of families and their communities. This is a tiny, and frankly adorable gift that carries with it larger possibilities. Chickens become an instant source of income, often for women, helping them provide for their families.

A big thank you to the employees working at the **Head Office**, as well as the **Team Leaders**, and **SSW's in Jan and Gerry's Pods** for donating \$225!! From this donation, a community will receive a "farmload of animals" and six chicks!

# HEALTH & SAFETY

## Introducing WellnessFits



As part of our efforts to support staff health and wellness, we are excited to announce that we will be working together with the Canadian Cancer Society to make use of a new Workplace Wellness Program called **WellnessFits**, which they have launched to focus on cancer and chronic disease prevention.

WellnessFits gives employers the tools to create healthy, active workplaces, to improve employee wellness. WellnessFits is a partnership of the Canadian Cancer Society, BC and Yukon Region and the Province of British Columbia's Healthy Families BC Initiative.

Adults spend about half of all waking hours at work, so it's easy to see why workplace wellness matters! The program is based on three steps:

- Educate** Learn about healthy living
- Act** Discover resources that will help you put healthy choices into action
- Support** Individuals and employers can access personal support and online resources



For more information on this program, please visit the Employee Resource Centre Wellness Page.



## Recognition Committee Has Been Formed!

posAbilities is pleased to announce that the **Recognition Committee** has been formed! We are always open to receiving award nominations for employees who have gone above and beyond their role to help us achieve our mission. The committee will meet twice a year to review nominations and to honour recipients of the **Believe, Inspire** and **Empower** awards.

The Committee members are:

**Colette Babinszki**  
**Nick Birch**  
**Simone Brandl**

**Steve Cutler**  
**Caroline Dagg**  
**Erika Evans**

**Gerry Fremming**  
**Kanta Goel**  
**Raminder Kaur**



## Exercise Bike

**Does anyone have an exercise bike to donate to our program?**

If so, there are a few persons served who would really appreciate it!

Please contact **Tawfiq** at (604) 939 7262 or email [TSadiq-Zadah@posAbilities.ca](mailto:TSadiq-Zadah@posAbilities.ca) to connect.

To learn more about the recognition award criteria and to make a nomination, please visit the Employee Resource Centre Wellness Page.

## We're Social!

Many of our programs have joined the social media train! Let's connect and talk about inclusion at school, work and in your community!

**Alternative Creations Studio** is a space where artists can explore their abilities and express themselves through a variety of media.

 AlternativeCreationsStudio

**Can you dig it!** tackles the challenge of social isolation through community inclusive gardening.

 canyoudigitCA

**Don't Sweat It Services** is a social enterprise that provides garden, maintenance and recycling services.

 DontSweatItServices

**Laurel Behaviour Support Services** provides professional behaviour consultation and training services to children, youth, and adults with Autism and other developmental disabilities.

 LaurelBehaviour

**posAbilities Employment Service** assists job seekers to prepare for, secure, and maintain competitive employment.

 posAbilitiesEmployment

**Rainbow Discovery Alliance** is a network of persons with developmental disabilities who are LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Questioning) and those who support them as friends, families and allies.

 RainbowDiscoveryAlliance

 RainbowDiscover

**Shared Living** is a network of people who choose to share their homes and their lives.

 thepossibilitiesofsharedliving

 posAbilitiesSL

**Stage Door Troupe** is a group of talented actors who create ground-breaking and thought provoking productions.

 StageDoorTroupe



## "Get the Vote Out" Plain Language Voting Guide for BC Election 2013

**Inclusion BC** produces a plain language voting guide to encourage participation in provincial and federal elections. To download the 2013 BC Provincial Election version, please visit their website: <http://www.bcacl.org/whats-new/get-vote-out-plain-language-voting-guide-bc-election-2013>

posAbilities Stage Door Presents  
**Crazy Hat Dance**  
with DJ "Cap Topper"  
**April 18, 2013**  
Let's see some Crazy Hats!  
Heritage Hall - 3102 Main Street (@15th Ave)  
Time: 6:30 to 9:00 PM  
Tickets: \$10 in Advance at Stage Door or \$12 at the door.  
Call for information: 604-872-1252

There are lots of exciting developments happening on our **posAbilities** page! Check out our newest page, "**Go Volunteer**", for ways to get involved with your community by volunteering for the many walks, runs and marathons throughout the lower mainland! For more information, please visit: [www.posabilities.ca/your-posabilities/go-volunteer/](http://www.posabilities.ca/your-posabilities/go-volunteer/)

Stay updated by connecting with us through our social media platforms. We recently joined **Pinterest** - a pinboard-style photo sharing website! We welcome you to browse our pinboards for inspiration, information and resources!



posAbilitiesCA



posAbilities11



posAbilitiesCA



posAbilities

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## **posAbilities sponsors staff participation in Toastmasters Communication and Leadership Development Training**

Toastmasters is a longstanding, world-wide movement that supports people in gaining communication and leadership skills. The core program consists of delivering 10 speeches, each of which focusses on developing a foundational skill for effective public speaking. In addition, members learn leadership skills as they participate in various roles at the meeting and within their chapter. Examples include chairing a meeting, providing constructive feedback or perhaps assisting with the coordination of a district wide event like a speech contest.

Did you know that guests are welcome at most clubs, and that there are trainings available at just about any time of day in every community? The details are all available on the Toastmasters web site. The organization makes it as easy as possible to fit this learning opportunity into your busy schedule! It's a good idea to visit a few clubs that meet at a time and place convenient for you. At these meetings you can observe (or participate if you dare) and assess whether or not the club meets your learning objectives. For example, some clubs are geared towards developing corporate communications skills, while others are more varied. As you advance with Toastmasters, you can pursue various programs to develop your professional public speaking and presentation skills or learn the art of emceeing or story-telling. On average, participants will take about one year to complete the core program. Staff who have achieved certification from Toastmasters, can submit a copy of their certificate along with receipts for reimbursement of the membership fees and training manual to *posAbilities*. Please note that staff time to participate is voluntary and unpaid. For more information on how to get involved, please email [Toastmasters@posAbilities.ca](mailto:Toastmasters@posAbilities.ca) or call Monique at (604) 299-4001.



## **Welcome Joe Erpenbeck!**

*posAbilities* welcomes **Joe Erpenbeck** back to Canada, and this time to stay a little while! Joe has accepted employment as the **Director of ABCD (Asset-Based Community Development)**. We hired Joe as part of our strategic plan to increase community engagement and better connect persons served to their local neighbourhoods and communities. Some of you will have met him or heard him speak when he was here in June 2011 or November 2012.

Joe is a fellow with the ABCD Institute at Northwestern University and has worked for several years connecting people with disabilities to their local neighbourhoods. He is passionate about seeing the gifts in people, building natural and reciprocal relationships, and promoting healthy, resilient and caring communities. We are excited to learn from him, and to distribute this learning throughout the sector. In fact, we are also sharing Joe in a partnership with Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion, Simon Fraser Society for Community Living, and Powell River Association for Community Living. Together, we are collectively hoping to get better and better at growing the "community" side of "community living."



## Don't Sweat It

Socially Responsible Home and Garden Services



### CONTACT US FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

Phone: 604-872-4001

[www.DontSweatItServices.com](http://www.DontSweatItServices.com)

# CONGRATULATIONS!

On behalf of our organization, I would like to recognize and thank the following employees for their years of service to posAbilities.

Your dedication to persons served, your peers and our stakeholders is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Fernando Coelho, CEO

**20 Years of Service**  
Brian Works

**10 Years of Service**  
Kathryn de Lisser  
Brenda Quick



Candice Chung

**5 Years of Service**  
Dan Carlos  
Candice Chung  
Ashok Kumar

## Celebrating Fred Pfeffer: 25 years of dedicated service



*Fred rocking in the 80's*



*25 years later  
and still smiling*

Fred Pfeffer began his journey working for the **Proactive Community Services Society** in 1988. It was evident very early on there was something special about him, as he landed the job on the spot and within a half hour he had already been handed a set of keys! He began working as a residential care worker, all while continuing his education studying Psychology at Simon Fraser University. After a year and a half, Fred was relocated to Broadway House on Victoria Drive and worked there for almost 20 years. He currently works at Rosemont House and cannot believe how fast the time has gone.

Rosemont's Senior Support Worker, Teresa Janecka, shares with us, "as a teammate at Rosemont, Fred can be counted upon to approach any given

situation with integrity, kindness and often, a sense of humour. He has been known to recount a fascinating biking adventure or describe in detail delicious culinary experiences, with schnitzel in the leading role, all in the interest of engaging those around him and sharing his passion freely. Fred has a love of the outdoors and with his example encourages others to pursue a balanced and healthy lifestyle."

Throughout his many years, Fred has seen a lot of change within the organization, but the most significant change he has seen is the quality of staff. He's seen a progression of more people coming in who are better suited and capable of handling the work these jobs require. He explains how the importance of someone's character and overall demeanor play such a vital role, as the persons we serve are so perceptive in picking up these traits. Fred's inherent abilities to care for and empathize with our persons served are the reasons for his longevity within the organization and he's so pleased to see more staff cultivating these skills by going above and beyond what is expected.

If there's one piece of advice he would like to share with his fellow staff is that of simply "to have fun!" He's always remembered to use humour in his daily life as a way to relieve stress, stay connected with the persons he serves, and maintain a healthy balance. Even though 25 years may seem like a long time, time flies when you truly enjoy the work you do.

Congratulations, Fred for being the first person to reach 25 years of service, and we thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to persons served, your fellow staff, and our stakeholders.



## Jo Dickey Foundation

The Jo Dickey Foundation assists members of the community with mental and physical disabilities by improving their quality of life through small grants aimed at fulfilling a person's "wants", not "needs". For examples of eligible items and activities and to apply for funding visit their website:

[www.jodickeyfoundation.ca](http://www.jodickeyfoundation.ca)

# BC Budget 2013

February 20, 2013

The **Minister of Finance** announced the 2013 BC Budget yesterday. [Visit the BC Budget 2013 website](#) to read official budget documents.

**Inclusion BC Executive Director Faith Bodnar** and political analyst and Inclusion BC supporter Michael Prince were in Victoria to respond to the budget and its impact on children and youth with special needs, adults with developmental disabilities and their families. Highlights:

- No budget increases were made to **Community Living BC**, despite our repeated calls for an immediate and urgent investment. Inclusion BC continues to hear from families who are told there is simply no money to provide them with the supports they desperately need. While we are encouraged by the work being done on the 12 recommendations from the Deputy Minister's report, without an immediate financial investment, CLBC will continue operating in crisis-mode. See below for more details.
- No increases were made to **Persons with Disability benefits**. Despite the rising cost of living in BC, one of the most expensive places to live in the country, our PWD rates are 6th lowest in Canada. The Province of BC recently responded to community and made [many positive changes](#) to PWD benefits, including raising the earnings exemptions. However, we continue calling on Government to raise the rates so that people with disabilities are not consistently forced to live in poverty. [Read the report, "Overdue" for more information.](#)
- See below for other highlights from the 2013 budget.

Visit our website for more updates in the near future. [www.inclusionbc.org](http://www.inclusionbc.org) Read our [budget recommendations](#) submitted to the Standing Committee on Finance as part of the public budget consultation process in October, 2012.

## Inclusion BC Brief Analysis of BC Budget 2013

Children and Youth with Special Needs

- The Ministry of Children and Family Development will see an additional \$76 million over three years allocated towards the BC Early Learning Strategy. The funding will create new child care spaces and improve the quality of care.

While this is a welcome announcement, improvements to the access and quality of the supported child development program are necessary to allow children with special needs to access these new spaces.

- An increase of \$7 million was announced for the coordination of early childhood development programs though it was not made clear what "coordination" would entail.

- Budget documents failed to mention or address the growing waitlists for children requiring early childhood development supports and the fact that we still do not have a handle on the size of the caseloads and waitlists.

We do know that children are aging out of the supports before they are able to receive what they need. As we fail to provide children with the supports they need at a young age, we pay more for the additional services they require as they enter the school system and then when they graduate high school.

## Education

The Ministry of Education budget was overall flat-lined over the next three years.

- The **Learning Improvement Fund** saw an increase from \$30 million to \$60 million. Inclusion BC calls for clear, targeted direction from the Ministry in terms of ensuring outcomes that actually improve education for students, especially those with special needs.
- The Ministry of Education must take a leadership role in supporting all educators, including classroom teachers, to address diversity in the classroom. While there will be an additional 400 Teaching Assistants hired over the next three years within the existing budget allocation, we need to ensure that all educators and para educators receive the pre and post service training to allow them to support students with special needs in regular classrooms.
- A new \$1200 grant was announced for students between 6 and 7 years of age to receive a Registered Education Savings Plan investment. This is a welcome announcement but will not come into effect for two years, when the province's budget is "firmly in surplus."

## Supports to Adults with Developmental Disabilities

We learned that Community Living BC would not receive any funding increase.

- A small contingency fund exists to address increases in caseloads. This is extremely concerning as the funding would be allocated to those who come forward on an emergency basis or who advocate publicly. This perpetuates a one-off system to address growing needs and deepens a very real crisis in community living. It cannot address the unmet needs of people waiting for services.

Individuals and their families remain desperately invisible. By not recognizing them in this budget we are balancing our books on the backs of our most vulnerable citizens.

Continued on reverse



## Inclusion BC

### Formerly known as the BC Association for Community Living (BCACL)

**Did you know that recently BCACL adopted a new name - Inclusion BC?** This provincial non-profit association is dedicated to promoting the participation of people with developmental disabilities in all aspects of community life. It also supports activities dedicated to building inclusive communities that value the diverse abilities of all people. In the coming month, look for notices about its latest campaign – **Ready, Willing and Able** – an employment support initiative. For more information, please visit their website: [www.inclusionbc.org](http://www.inclusionbc.org)

## 2013 Inclusion BC Conference “WE are Community: Defining Inclusion”

**Inclusion BC** will host its 2013 conference, “**WE are Community: Defining Inclusion**” in **Vancouver, British Columbia on May 22-25, 2013** at the Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel. We expect 600 delegates to register for the conference, which will feature a pre-conference day coordinated by the Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship at UBC; dozens of informative and interesting workshops for self-advocates, families, service providers, advocates, and the community; keynote speakers and plenaries; and much more. We are pleased to be one of the co-sponsors along with the **BC Centre for Ability** and **Spectrum Society for Community Living**.

**Workshops will include the following themes and topics:**

- Community Building
- Employment and Transitions
- Inclusion and Advocacy
- Self Advocacy
- Youth

For more information, please visit their website:  
<http://bcacl.org/conference-2013>

## BC Budget 2013 (Continued)

### Community Living BC Caseloads:

#### Residential:

- Residential Services caseloads will increase from 5750 in 2012/13 to 6000 in 2013/14 and to 6625 in 2015/16.
- At the same time, there is a forecasted decrease in the average cost per client, which will go from \$71,000 in 2012/13 to \$68,500 in 2013/14 to \$66,000 in 2014/15 and \$63,000 in 2015/16.

We are concerned increasing caseloads and decreasing costs per person can only happen when existing services are cut and reduced for newly eligible individuals. This formula risks putting us through yet another round of budget cuts.

#### Day Programs:

- Day Program caseloads will increase from 14,500 in 2012/13 to 15,400 in 2013/14 to 16,100 in 2014/15 and 16,900 in 2015/16 while costs per person are expected to decrease.

Again, this is an unsustainable way to address the needs of those newly eligible for CLBC services. Budget documents acknowledge that ageing is adding additional pressures to CLBC’s capacity. If we want to maintain a high quality community system of supports and services we cannot continue to bleed services away from people who need them.

### Income Security

#### Persons with Disability Benefits

No increase was announced to these very low rates over the next three years.

BC’s Disability Benefits continue to be the 6th lowest in Canada. We must address these abysmally low rates so that those receiving benefits have the money they need to live beyond subsistence levels.

## Community Living BC Publishes Three Year Service Plan



People with developmental disabilities deserve good lives in welcoming communities and Community Living BC helps them and their families achieve goals and live the life they want. They help them get connected to supports and services to live as fully and independently as possible in their community.

As a part of Community Living BC’s requirements under the Crown Agency Accountability System and as stated in the Government’s Letter of Expectations, CLBC is pleased to present its ninth three-year Service Plan for 2013/14 to 2015/16. To view this plan, please visit their website: <http://www.communitylivingbc.ca/>