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# Imagine!

## Richmond Through the Ages

With quotes from the Richmond News, November 14, 2018:

<https://www.richmond-news.com/community/pop-up-painting-sparks-mural-mob-in-richmond-1.23433943>

From September 12-14, on Lansdowne and No. 3 roads in Richmond, a little mural magic ensued. That's right, posAbilities' team members and persons served sparked a full blown mural mob! With a little bit of paint and a whole lot of passion, "Richmond Through the Ages" was formed – a new piece of community art depicting what Richmond was and has grown into. Three large panels were painted between the doors and windows of our very own Richmond Social Network (RSN) on the north facing wall of Lansdowne and No. 3 Road, depicting the past, present and future of the Lansdowne plateau area. Scenes of the fishing industry, old horse racing track and Canada Line came to life on these walls. This was made possible from the generosity of Vancouver Foundation's Neighbourhood Small Grants and posAbilities.

Irena Flego from RSN spoke to the importance of this event, stating, **"The main purpose is community inclusion ... it's about doing something meaningful together."**

Commissioned artists Bobae Kim and Kelly Williams took the lead, supervising the project and guiding participants through their vision. This tenacious team of painters included folks from posAbilities, police officers, students and passersby – all were welcome to pick up a brush and make their mark. A teacher from Kwantlen University invited her international students to get involved after seeing a poster advertising the event.

**"It's great for them to get out into the community and feel like they are a part of it. They walk past here a lot and my hope is they will see this in the future and go, 'Hey, I was a part of this!'"**

– Satchel.

**"A great learning opportunity and at the same time another opportunity to make friends."** – Kwantlen students.

**"I loved being a part of painting the flowers!"** – Jotti.

**"I think it looks so good! So colourful and pretty!"** – Daisy.

Continued on Page 2



Do you have a story for our quarterly newsletter or website?

Email: [communications@posAbilities.ca](mailto:communications@posAbilities.ca) or call (604) 299-4001 ext. 235.



# Richmond Through the Ages

Continued from Page 1



Community inclusion through the power of art initiated engaging conversations, connections, and relationships over the course of this three-day mural madness. This interactive event created a fun atmosphere where members of the community were inspired to join in, socialize, and create valuable art for all of Richmond to enjoy. Be sure to check out the mural next time you're in the city!

**"It adds something artsy to the neighborhood!"** – Community member.

**"I am very proud of our work. I think we did a good job! And I really enjoyed all the people helping with the community mural."** – Audrey.

The Richmond News stopped by to get the full story which you can read here: <https://bit.ly/2EjbfQK>

# THE ARTS



## Crawling with Art, Fun, and Smiles

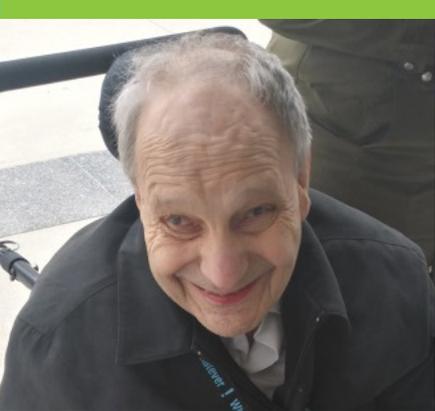
The Eastside Culture Crawl is a free annual event that transforms communities through visual arts. It aims to inspire, educate, and engage artists and those curious about art within the shared spaces of various studios across Vancouver's Eastside. From paintings to drawings to photography and more, there was truly something eye-catching for everyone. In fact, this year's Crawl achieved record-breaking attendance of 40,000+ studio visits!

Alternative Creations Studio once again welcomed hundreds of curious admirers, art lovers, and talented artists into their space for this year's Crawl. Some of the new work the studio worked on and exhibited this year includes their "Reversal Series". It blurs together aspects of drawing and painting to create ethereal, abstract and figurative works that hover on the precipice of appearance and disappearance, like a figure in the mist. The works were made in stages on both sides of the semi-permeable canvas, with a reference given to the reversed side.

Alternatives also opened their gallery doors for the Crawl's preview exhibit "Spaces, Places, and Traces". This salon-style exhibition explored individual and communal interpretations of places we inhabit, spaces we occupy, and the traces we leave behind.

An incredible creative community of 500+ artists, their commitment and dedication to their art, and the interest and passion of the public make this annual visual arts festival a truly special and singular event. We look forward to seeing you all next year for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Eastside Culture Crawl – November 14-17, 2019.





# Dennis Shines at Kickstart's 10x5: Artist Talk

Art can often serve as a therapeutic form of expression, especially for those who may face challenges with communicating their emotions verbally. Meet Dennis Aiello, an artist with diverse abilities and resident of Altesse House. Dennis has been drawing scenes focused around houses since the age of 16. His talent is currently being supported by posAbilities and Artists Helping Artists (AHA),

an art collective supported by the Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion (BACI). AHA provides artists with studio space, art materials and the opportunity to pursue their aspirations concerning artistic expression.

On September 29 at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre Plaza, Dennis was one of the 10 remarkable individuals chosen to present their artwork at the 10x5: Art and Disability Artist Talk as a part of BC Culture Days. This event was hosted by Kickstart Disability Arts & Culture, a Vancouver-based non-profit who supports and promotes the professional work of artists with disabilities to public audiences, raising awareness of their contribution to the arts, and paying the artists for their work. Although apprehensive at first, Dennis was delighted to be part of this experience. Each featured guest was given the opportunity to share their talent both visually and verbally to the public, followed by a Q&A panel. He presented slides of his work, and engaged in questions with the moderator and audience.

Dennis has a specialty in drawing intricate houses with the use of pencils, crayons, and oil pastels. His artistic process involves drawing his scenes in pencil, followed by staff members helping him outline his work in black marker. For the final step, Dennis uses pencil crayons to bring his pictures to life through vivid colours. He is very focused when working on his pictures, putting his heart and soul into each piece. He loves to draw houses with different scenery such as trees, birds, the sun and clouds. At the Artist Talk, Dennis shared some of the stories behind his creations and expressed his joy of making art.

*"I will not stop drawing homes unless I die."* Dennis loves to draw pictures of where he has been and where he'd love to go. The stories and lives he intertwines into his artwork add a magical and creative touch to his pictures. A variety of storylines are blended into these illustrations, ranging from pleasant to action-packed experiences in locations around the globe. Dennis draws homes in Hawaii, planes crashing, houses catching fire, happy home life in the England countryside, and couples living together.

*"Sometimes I draw houses with fireplaces inside. You don't see 'em, but they're there! That's Katelyn inside the house. Katelyn and her... I better not say... her sweetie."* Dennis chuckles.

Dennis makes it clear that he is doing more than just drawing houses – he is building imaginary homes in which he feels comfortable sharing his unique view on the world around him. Residential Services Facilitator, Tammy Kirk, described the pride that she felt seeing him in the spotlight. *"Everyone at Altesse House and AHA were so proud and excited to see Dennis get recognized for his work. He works really hard on each picture. He was very nervous leading up to the event, but in the end he had so much fun and would do it again. Dennis has said that drawing makes him so happy and he wouldn't do anything else."*

## Celebrating Art and Community

On October 11, the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual INCLUSION Art Show & Sale was full of excitement, wonder, and hard work. At the show, artists from programs and studios across Metro Vancouver came together to showcase their intricate creations and diverse skill sets ranging from pottery to paintings to jewelry and more! The beautiful displays were not only eye-catching but gave guests the opportunity to interact and talk to artists about their processes and techniques – skills which artists shared with gleaming smiles that spread from cheek to cheek.

The live art demonstrations were another hit this year! Andrea Hrysko taught guests how to make clay mandalas and Rebecca Nosella showed off her painting techniques using everyday tools like pot scrubbers! Next up was Justin Albay who showed guests how to make chainmail jewelry, followed by Cody Tresierra who painted a beautiful landscape using only his mouth – a technique he learned while recovering from a life-threatening vehicle accident.

Throughout the day, we kept guests entertained with our rockin' emcees, speakers and live music from pianist, Manuel Hii, and the Jack Ray Trio. While the day was a success in its entirety, one of the most memorable moments of the night was the closing commentary offered by Larissa Gunkel, a budding public speaker. Her remarks were both moving and hopeful, touching on ways that our global community is positively united through art.

Towards the end of the evening, we announced the holiday card design winner. This year, we congratulate Selkirk Centre for Community Engagement for their piece, "Turquoise Splendor". Not only is Selkirk a place for talented artists of all abilities, but is a space that works to make the community stronger through involvement in various partnerships and initiatives. A big shout out to Selkirk, we look forward to seeing more of your fantastic creations in the future!

We are thankful for the opportunity to put on a show of this magnitude every year. We would like to thank our sign language interpreters from the Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Douglas College, sponsors, Art Show Committee and volunteers, dedicated team members, artists, families and guests. We couldn't have had this experience without you!

Curious to learn more about the show? Visit [bit.ly/2BU52lz](http://bit.ly/2BU52lz) for more photos and highlights!

**2018  
Holiday  
Card Design  
Winner**

*"Turquoise  
Splendor"  
by Selkirk  
Centre*



### INCLUSION Sponsors & Supporters





## PES Shares their Success on the Lynda Steele Show

On October 19, James Miller of *posAbilities* Employment Service (PES) was invited to The Lynda Steele Show on CKNW News. He was honoured to be given this platform to share the hard work PES does in finding competitive employment with the individuals they support.

***"It's always a pleasure to speak about the services we provide, be it via family support groups, school transition fairs or business events. Whenever I have such an opportunity, I always reflect on the fantastic work of our team and the wonderful stories of success we see so often for the individuals we support. Occasionally, we're fortunate enough to reach a wider audience through the media."*** – James.

In light of autism awareness and acceptance month, James spoke alongside two other guests, the owner of el Santo Mexican restaurant, Alejandro Diaz, and Diego, one of his employees who shares that he is on the autism spectrum. An estimated 70-90% of people living with autism are currently unemployed. Diego was hired by Alejandro through *posAbilities* Employment Service. His passion for food and cooking led him to his current position as an assistant cook. James describes how the PES team sat down with 26-year-old Diego and identified his interests, unique skills and abilities, and what supports he would need in order to thrive in the workforce. And with help from an Employment Specialist, a mutually beneficial employment connection was made.

***"Going live on the radio was a little nerve wracking, but thankfully I wasn't alone. Hearing the person we support and their employer speak so eloquently and authentically about their working relationship, again gave me cause to reflect on the real difference paid employment makes in people's lives. I was proud to represent our team, but the stories of success always speak for themselves."*** – James.

Listen to the full podcast here: [bit.ly/2KvtGvf](http://bit.ly/2KvtGvf)



## That's Meraki!

*Contributed by Grounded Space*

It was only a year ago that this rough and tumble group of employees bonded together to form the *posAbilities* Grounded Space crew. We didn't have an inkling of the journey to come, or a firm idea of what being a part of Grounded Space would entail, but that didn't stop us. We had the energy and an eagerness to learn – two key ingredients required to start any new adventure.

We dove right in, creating pamphlets and showing up at events to let our team members know what we would be up to in the coming months. We were asked over and over, "What exactly is Grounded Space?" Our answer remained the same: ***"Grounded Space is a social research and development collective founded and supported by InWithForward, a social design organization based in Vancouver."*** Yes, it is a mouth full.

We spent hours in the field shadowing programs and conducting interviews with support workers and persons served alike. Upon completing our research, we combined our data to discover sweet spots to try new interventions and ways of doing things. Here were two of our broadest findings:

1. Support workers feel skilled and motivated to try new things, but also feel they have little opportunity to do so.
2. Persons served and support workers often feel they have to stick to routines, and may not be aware of alternatives that exist for them, or in many cases, alternatives do not exist at all.

So we ended up with support workers and persons served who wanted the opportunity to try new things, but were either unaware of, or lacking in new things to try. Through many sessions of brainstorming and endless idea generating, we came up with a solution that would give people the chance to try new things and gain exposure to a wider array of novel experiences. We also wondered if we could generate something that would give people more meaning, agency and control in their lives. In you haven't noticed – we are a group of dreamers. We continued to entertain the idea that this magical "thing" could also be used as a tool for connecting with the community.

And boom, Meraki was born! Ha, if only it was that simple. It wasn't, but we'll spare you the messy details as there were too many to count. So what is Meraki? It is a Greek word meaning to put soul, creativity and love into everything one does. For *posAbilities*, Meraki is a library of experiences that come to you, including prompts to engage your community within these experiences.

We've prototyped five different experiences with five programs and have received generally positive feedback. One experience is a sushi kit that provides everything required to make sushi, as well as decorations and invitations to have a sushi dinner party. For one of the groups testing this experience, the sushi making didn't go quite right. They ended up with more of a sushi blob than a sushi roll! But when we gathered feedback, we didn't hear any responses along the lines of "It was horrible," or "Nothing went right." Instead, we heard "It was a beautiful disaster!" For us, this is what it's all about. Yes, things didn't go as planned, but this group still had fun putting their heart, soul, and creativity into a new experience. That's Meraki!



## Cathy Miller Takes the Stage

On November 9, Cathy Miller (resident of Columbia House) attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Health and Wellbeing in Children, Youth, and Adults with Developmental Disabilities Conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Richmond. The conference is an interactive event run by Community Living BC (CLBC) and highlights various strategies and partnerships that help those living with developmental disabilities flourish in their communities. The conference's main goal was for caregivers, clinicians, and families to develop a better understanding of the challenges individuals with developmental disabilities face. The conference also provided plenty of updated findings related to healthcare research including information about the psychiatric, behavioural, physical, and mental health of individuals with developmental disabilities. Throughout its entirety, healthcare professionals were encouraged to engage and connect with one another in order to explore and share the current best practices in the field of caregiving.

While healthcare professionals, educators, and thought leaders from across Canada assembled into their seats, Cathy Miller prepared to take the stage. Though nervous at first, Cathy eased into her speech with confidence, speaking with pride and eloquence. She spoke for 10-15 minutes about her experience as an adult living with developmental disabilities and touched upon the community activities she enjoys. This included commentary about her volunteer work at the George Derby Senior Care Centre where she delivers mail and her involvement in various community events where she shares her story with event goers. Cathy was extremely excited and honoured to participate in the conference and truly captured the attention of those in the room. After her speech, she mingled with attendees, ate delicious food, and enjoyed the rest of her day with those around her. We are very proud of Cathy's accomplishments and certainly hope she is given another opportunity to share her thoughts and experiences with others soon!



## Celebrating the 26th Annual UN Day of Persons with Disabilities

*Contributed by Monique Nelson, Director of Community Engagement*

On December 3, we came together to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD). For its 26<sup>th</sup> year, advocates, family members, caregivers, and community leaders promoted the need for a deeper understanding of disability issues, awareness for the rights of individuals with disabilities, and support for inclusion in every aspect of life. The importance of this day was to honour the achievements and contributions individuals of all abilities make to society and to assist in amplifying the advocacy in place to help build diverse communities and inclusive futures for all. This year's theme was "empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality."

IDPD returned to Metro Vancouver with exciting events including an Art Show and Sale, musical performances, film festivals, and an outdoor gathering! *posAbilities* was a proud supporter sponsor of the Sprout Film Festival, PEBCelebrates Live, and Kickstart's IDPD events.

This year, my son Nick and I were guests at the Sprout Film Festival co-hosted by Inclusion BC and the BC Self Advocacy Foundation, as well as the PEBCelebrates Live art and film festival at the Roundhouse Centre. The content of the films, visual art and music were superb! We laughed, cried and chatted non-stop for hours with other guests experiencing the events.

Our first stop was the Columbia Theatre, a gorgeous heritage building in New Westminster, and fitting location for a film event. The Sprout Film Festival included nine short films and a talk back at the end. Their mission is to inspire audiences, promote inclusion and support transformative filmmaking as an integral part of social change. This unique event focusses exclusively on films that celebrate the diverse lives and creativity of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. These films strive to challenge assumptions and break down stereotypes, making the invisible visible.

After this event and way too much buttery popcorn, we hopped on the skytrain and headed down to the Roundhouse Community Centre, where a full day celebration of music, art and films was unfolding. The Open Door Group did an exceptional job hosting the event. They presented inspirational workshops, fed the troops nutritious and delicious food, curated the film festival, and opened up the floor to many unique artists displaying their pottery, paintings, photography cards and more! We even indulged in a little bit of Old Abbey Ales beet and coffee infused beer too!

The day was filled with wonderful opportunities to reconnect with old friends and meet new people who share our passion for inclusion, film, music and art. We engaged in conversations about citizenship, contribution, challenging social care systems and stigma busting – as well as meaning, beauty and love. We also took the time to think about what it's like to be labelled, and how this can impact daily living at home, work and in the wider community. Highlights of our day included Teresa Pocock's "Born to Represent" music video, "Jeremy the Dud" a film set in an alternate universe where disability is the norm, pop/R&B musical duo Seven Fennec, and the All Bodies Dance performance.

I would encourage anyone who has ever thought of participating in IDPD events to go out and do it! Bring a friend too, as there is still a lot of room for this celebration to grow and be more inclusive of people with and without disabilities.

# Accessible Christmas Activities to Light up Your Holiday Spirit

It's that time of year again! Trees and houses lined with twinkling lights, festive tunes on the radio, and holiday sweets and treats you just can't seem to ignore. With all the hustle and bustle of the season, it's easy to lose sight of what's most important. Try to remember that the holidays are really a time for you to spend with your loved ones. Slow down and enjoy all the simple pleasures! Do you need a little help getting into the holiday spirit? We've got you covered with some of the best accessible winter activities in the Greater Vancouver and surrounding area. Visit [bit.ly/2RBy9pr](https://bit.ly/2RBy9pr) for a full list of our top 10 must-do accessible winter activities.



## Lights at Lafarge | Until January 20

Visit Lafarge Lake park this holiday season and take in the sights of twinkling lights that encircle 1.2 km of the Lafarge Lake loop. The loop is divided into over ten zones including a winter lights entry gate, fantasy forest, woodland creatures, illuminated flowers, mushrooms, and Canadian symbols. Each night, the lights

will turn on at approximately 4:30 pm, transforming Lafarge into the perfect spot to grab some fresh air and cozy up with friends, your significant other, or simply spend quality time with family! Be sure to watch out for new surprises and additions to the light displays this year. This amazing spectacle is free.



## Vancouver Christmas Market | Until December 23

Celebrate Christmas the German way when you indulge in 80+ huts of authentic German treats and light displays. Newly added are Instagrammable spots like a Lovers Lane which consists of a Love Lock Installation, a sleek new WunderBAR, and a Winterdeck with stunning views of Vancouver's North Shore. If you're a caregiver bringing someone you support, simply show your registered caregiver card to staff for free admission. Jack Poole Plaza is a fully accessible venue, and additional measures are implemented through the market for accessibility. There are also wheelchair accessible toilets on site.

## Christmas Glow | Until January 19

Escape the cold and explore interactive indoor light gardens! Visit Langley's Milner Village Garden Centre to experience their new theme, "The Warmth of the Season". Journey through "Glow Around the World" light gardens, shop for unique trinkets in their market, or take a ride on Glen the Glow-comotive. With food trucks, bars, and live entertainment, there's truly something for everyone to enjoy. Don't forget to tell Santa your Christmas wish list! Free entry into Glow is offered for caregivers accompanying the people they support. Simply show proper identification to receive this special deal.

## VanDusen Festival of Lights | Until January 6

Feel the enchantment of the holiday season when you lay your eyes on over one million dazzling lights covering 15 acres of the VanDusen Botanical Gardens. Most paths are paved and fully accessible for wheelchairs. However, it's important to note that the Heather Garden, Black Garden, and Gingko Garden are not fully accessible. With interactive themed areas, dancing light shows, candles, and Kris Kringle himself, there won't be a dull moment in sight! There will also be savoury and tasty treats from local food trucks and vendors to keep you warm and toasty throughout the night.



## King Arthur's Court – Annual Christmas Pantomime (Relaxed Performance) | December 22

What better way to celebrate the holidays than with a little live theatre! Join in on the adventure as King Arthur grows from boy to king. Metro Theatre offers a relaxed performance to audiences with sensory processing and communication disorders, individuals who identify on the Autism

spectrum, and other learning disabilities and sensitivities. Audience members are free to make noise and come and go throughout the show. Light and audio levels will also be adjusted. A half price ticket deal is offered to all team members, persons served and their families! Tickets can be purchased via the Metro Box Office at 604-266-7191 or online at [tickets.metrotheatre.com](https://tickets.metrotheatre.com) using the Promo Code "METROPANTO".



## People of posAbilities

Photos by: Maxine Tamoto, @prunecandy

People of posAbilities is a recruitment and retention campaign that borrows inspiration from *Humans of New York* and *Six Word Stories*, two popular blogs that tell stories about individuals with unique experiences. The campaign mirrors this notion of storytelling, and captures the talent, diversity and mobility of team members across our Association.

Look for our social media posts and stories to find out how the Ambassadors featured here help us advance our mission of persons with developmental disabilities leading full and good lives in their communities. We hope that you will be inspired by their stories, and personal journeys of growth and professional development.

People of posAbilities (#pplofposA) is featured on our social media channels and website: [www.posAbilities.ca/blog](http://www.posAbilities.ca/blog)

Let's find out how you can flourish here too. Come explore your possibilities: <https://posabilities.ca/careers/current-opportunities/>



A night of Christmas carolling with Broadway House!

# Happy Holidays!



*The Grinch trees of Whoville! The Selkirk team had a blast making Grinch trees at the Amsterdam Greenhouses & Garden Centre in Pitt Meadows. The team was looking for a fun activity to do together and one of our persons served, Brian, suggested the nursery as he has a friend who works there whom he visits every week. They all had a great time and got to take their trees home. Brian says, "I felt like the king of the day, it was pretty awesome. We did lots of activities but my favourite was getting our pictures taken."*

## Fernando's Holiday Message



As we approach the end of 2018, we reflect on the many years of offering service in a sector such as ours that is constantly and rapidly evolving. We have made progress over the years in designing and innovating new services and supports that are

both visionary yet realistic – all, while delivering quality supports and raising our profile and prominence in the communities we serve. There is still plenty to be achieved in *posAbilities'* evolution towards a future where *good lives and full lives for everyone* becomes a reality. Each and every one of our team members has the experience, skills, passion and commitment to contribute towards building that future. Our next strategic plan will support and guide us along that journey and we look forward to sharing it with all of you all in 2019. We anticipate many more successes and achievements in the years to come.

We want to thank each one of you for choosing to be a part of the *posAbilities* family. We appreciate your commitment and dedication, which have been integral to our success. In this holiday season, we wish you and your families joy, warm memories, good health and a new year filled with happiness and peace.

Best of the season,

**Fernando Coelho,**  
Chief Executive Officer



**ROOTS staff team getting festive this year.**



**The Alternatives team dropping off their Tigger and Eeyore at Bright Nights in Stanley Park.**



**Steph, Jerald and Alex from Norfolk House having a blast carolling at Lafarge Lake in Coquitlam.**



**Malalai volunteering for the Salvation Army at Royal City Center.**

## Life Is a Series of Transitions

As we prepare to turn the calendar page over to January 2019, it's a good time to reflect on our experiences of growth and transition over the past year as individuals, families and supporters of persons with disabilities. I would like to introduce you to some tools that have been developed by the Family Support Institute of BC to help us along the way.

Have you visited their website: [www.findsupportbc.com](http://www.findsupportbc.com)? It is a comprehensive database of supports that you can search for by disability, age and community. For example, you can apply the filters, then discover a menu that includes education programs, advocacy groups, social services and more! While there, check out the handy transition checklists for children/youth of all ages and stages. Whether the person you support is an infant or a young adult, you'll find a clickable series of age ranges with checklists to help you stay on track with the financial, legal, personal and educational plans and tasks that support a good life.

Take for example, the ages 14-15, the early high school years. At this time, the checklist is filled with colour coded icons: white icons guide you to topics that are important to consider at this age or stage (also shown as next steps); orange icons highlight highest priority areas; and green ones indicate areas to review, or which will be escalated to orange in the next stage. You can print off these lists and keep them handy as a reminder of the tasks at hand, and as a positive reinforcement as you mark items off as 'complete!'

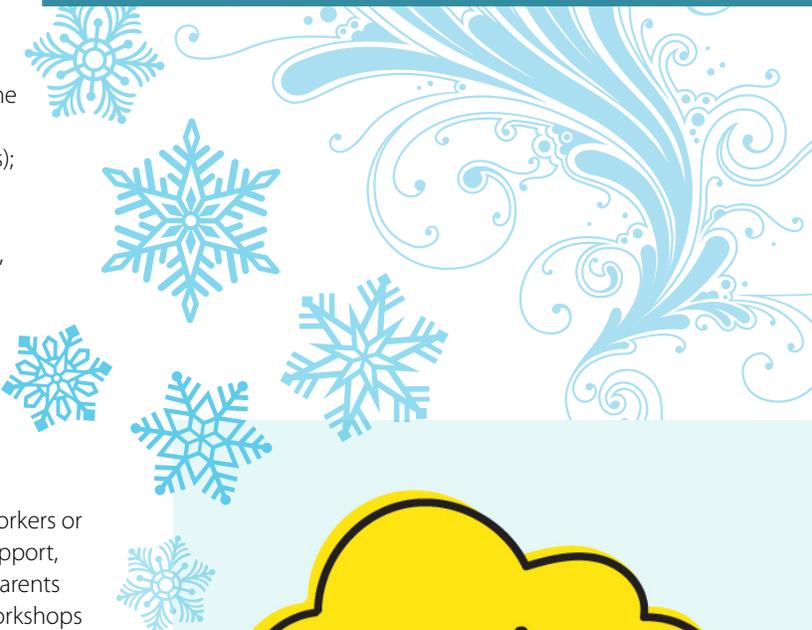
A recent addition to the FSI family of support tools, (which also includes [www.supportworkercentral.com](http://www.supportworkercentral.com) – a website and job board, filled with resources for families who are employing support workers) is the **MyBookletBC project**. This allows individuals and families to register for free, and then to download various booklet templates. These can be tailored with text and photos specific to an individual. They are fabulous visual tools that can very quickly bring new teachers, assistants, support workers or any other team members up to speed on how to appropriately provide support, without having to review a stack of reports. It's also a great time saver for parents and caregivers! Author/Designer, Lydia Kang, is available to provide free workshops for families! Contact her to learn more, visit [www.mybookletbc.ca](http://www.mybookletbc.ca) and click on the contact page for info.

In addition, *posAbilities* and the Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion are planning a **series of educational workshops** for families this winter. Please contact me for details about these upcoming workshops, and to reserve your spot: **Basic Banking and Budgeting, Fraud and Identity Theft Prevention, the Registered Disability Savings Plan** (all presented by Vancity staff and Ability Tax and Trust) and **Understanding Estates and Trusts**. If you would like to learn more about our workshops, or those offered by other organizations, please contact me.

Lastly, I am pleased to share that our Laurel Behaviour Support Services team has recently become part of a larger support group, facilitated by the Ministry of Children and Family Development to assist them in their work on family preservation. In Burnaby and the Tri Cities communities, our Behaviour Consultants are now supporting families of children and youth who have behaviour support needs and who are not identified as having an intellectual or developmental disability. To learn more, please contact our team at [www.laurelbc.ca](http://www.laurelbc.ca)

Happy Holidays to you and yours, wishing you peace and joy!

Sincerely, Monique



## Congrats Kudoz!

Shout out to Kudoz who was chosen as one of 16 projects out of 180 applicants to receive funding from the BC government to boost community inclusion and accessibility. The 16 projects focus on employment, sports, education and community participation.

Read more here: <https://bit.ly/2GfC8qm>