

Vision

Community Living Walkerton and District envisions a community where all people are welcomed, accepted and included.



In The Public Eye....

10th anniversary champions!



pictured left:

Ben Teichroeb, member of Walkerton Action Committee, receives 10th Anniversary AODA Champion Award for Municipality of South Bruce.

November 2015

Congratulations!



pictured left:

Doris Weber, member of Walkerton Action Committee, receives 10th Anniversary AODA Champion Award for Municipality of Brockton.

November 2015



The AODA 10th Anniversary Champion Award recognizes outstanding individuals who demonstrate leadership in accessibility, disability issues, passion, and commitment in the promotion and awareness of accessibility and inclusiveness in their community. On June 13, 2015 the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) celebrated 10 years as legislation. The Act was enacted in continuance of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA), 2001. The purpose of this Act is to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the province.

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FEDERAL REPORT: Majority of Canadians Support Strong Safeguards for Physician-Assisted Suicide

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, January 18th, 2016, Toronto, ON

The Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) is very encouraged by the findings of the Federal Panel report on physician-assisted suicide, released today by the Government of Canada. Key among the findings from a survey of almost 15,000 Canadians (including a representative sample) was that about 50% support the establishment of an external mechanism to ensure that every request for physician-assisted suicide meets legal requirements, prior to it being granted. CACL has urged the federal and provincial/territorial government and professional associations that advance independent review of requests is essential to protect the physician role, and to safeguard vulnerable patients.

Joy Bacon, CACL President, said, "We are so encouraged to see that the concerns we have about how physician-assisted suicide could undermine the integrity of the physician role in the health care system, and leave vulnerable people with intellectual and other disabilities at risk, is shared by such a large proportion of Canadians." Michael Bach, CACL Executive Vice-President, said, "This report is a very rich source of data and perspectives from Canadians from all walks of life. The findings make clear that a large majority of Canadians believe that a system for physician-assisted suicide needs very robust safeguards, including national palliative care, home care and disability supports strategies. Canadians with intellectual and other disabilities will be hampered in making informed and voluntary choices if they don't have needed palliative and disability supports available, and the majority simply don't."

As the Special Parliamentary Joint Committee on Physician-Assisted Dying begins its hearings, CACL urges that the findings of this report be given detailed consideration. CACL believes they point to strong public support for safeguards to protect vulnerable persons from being induced or coerced into requesting assisted suicide - including advance independent review and the need for vulnerability assessment, for which the Federal Panel report gives significant attention.

CACL respects the Charter-protected right to physician-assisted suicide for people who are suffering because of grievous and irremediable medical conditions, including for people with intellectual disabilities. We will work to ensure that a robust safeguards system upholds the Supreme Court of Canada's restriction on eligibility of persons who may be induced to commit suicide in a time of weakness.

The Federal External Panel report shows, without a doubt, that a large group of Canadians share our concerns and support establishment of safeguards to assure access, protect the vulnerable, and specify physicians' roles, responsibilities and criminal liability under the system.

The full report is available in English and in French www.justice.gc.ca
Media Contact
For more information please contact Michael Bach at (416) 209-7942 or email mbach@cacl.ca



Mission Statement from www.cacl.ca

"The Canadian Association for Community Living is a family-based association assisting people with intellectual disabilities and their families to lead the way in advancing inclusion in their own lives and in their communities. We do this in Canada and around the world by sharing information, fostering leadership for inclusion, engaging community leaders and policy makers, seeding innovation and supporting research. We are dedicated to attaining full participation in community life, ending exclusion and discrimination on the basis of intellectual disability, promoting respect for diversity and advancing human rights to ensure equality for all Canadians." *As endorsed by CACL Board March 28, 2012*

Campaign for Safe Access to Assisted Suicide

In October 2015, the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) launched a campaign "to build common ground among Canadians on a system of safeguards for physician-assisted suicide in Canada." In an article on CACL's website, <http://www.cacl.ca/news-stories/blog/protecting-choice-and-safeguarding-inclusion-finding-common-ground-physician-assis> Executive Vice-President Michael Bach explains that CACL did go to the Supreme Court of Canada arguing that the risks for vulnerable Canadians were too great, but does accept the Court's decision in *Carter v. Canada* and respects that many Canadians want this choice to be available. Some health professionals and other Canadians express concerns about potential risks for those who are vulnerable Canadians. The campaign seeks "a robust safeguard system to ensure that people for whom there are other options available are not induced to taking their own lives."

On January 18, 2016, CACL published an article on their blog entitled, '*Our Community Living Position on Physician-Assisted Suicide*'. This blog identifies the concerns and addresses the reason for CACL suggesting vulnerability assessments for persons who do not have a terminal condition and a waiting period. It provides an explanation for their advocacy for an independent review (through a body like the Consent and Capacity Board) and not two doctors as proposed by the 'Provincial-Territorial Expert Advisory Group on Physician-Assisted Dying'.

Read the full blog at:

<http://www.cacl.ca/news-stories/blog/our-community-living-position-physician-assisted-suicide>

Input Sought on New Estate Planning

Guide - Ron Laroche, reprinted Community Living Ontario Update
Friday January 15, 2016

People with an intellectual disability and their families will soon have a new resource when discussing wills, trusts and estate planning with their legal and financial advisors.

The *Community Living Ontario Wills and Estate Planning Guide* will likely cover topics such as government benefits, beneficiaries with disabilities, financial and tax considerations, management of assets owned by people with a disability, as well as planning related to wills, trusts, and estates.

In order to best capture the most relevant topics, people and their families are encouraged to provide feedback on what resources they would like to see included in the guide.

Brendon Pooran, Principal Lawyer at [Pooran Law](#), says 99% per cent of the families that he works with are planning for a child with a disability, and the overwhelming majority of them are facing the same issues, including the Ontario Disability Support Program.

"One of the most important considerations when working through the estate plan is the preservation of ODSP benefits. And so a lot of the tools that we use, we set up in such a way that a person's ODSP benefits aren't jeopardized," said Pooran.

"I think it's going to help parents and family members really connect the dots. There are so many different components involved with putting a future plan together. The goal of the Wills and Estate Planning Guide is to connect them and have them make sense of it as a whole for the family member."

The guide, which will be made possible in part thanks to a \$15,000 grant from the [Law Foundation of Ontario](#), will be available free of charge to individuals and families as a downloadable document, likely by June 2016.

A similar guide was developed by Community Living Ontario during the 1980s. Because the new Wills and Estate Planning Guide will be electronic, it will be updated regularly to reflect changes to government regulations and tax laws.

"There are regulations with social assistance programs in other provinces that have changed quite a bit over the last year or two, and our hope is that we'll see similar changes with ODSP as well. There have also been several enhancements to RDSP over the years, and so I do anticipate there will be constant amendments to the various pieces of legislation that impact the families' future plans, so having this book in an electronic format is very valuable from that standpoint," added Pooran.

All suggestions for the guide should be directed to Heather Evans by email at hevans@communitylivingontario.ca, no later than Friday, January 29, 2016.



It is never too late to start planning for the future of a child living with a disability. Recognizing this, Community Living Ontario, the Ministry of Community and Social Services and Partners for Planning have collaborated to produce a FREE, dynamic resource hub for parents and caregivers. Look for the red running shoes on our website!
www.clwalkerton.org

Thousands Sign UN Protocol Petition - Viv Snead, reprinted, Community Living Ontario Update
Friday Dec. 4, 2015



The total continues to rise – 15,000 and counting – in support of an online petition launched November 13th urging Prime Minister Trudeau to ratify the protocol to the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Salvatore Amenta, a friend of the Community Living movement, began the online appeal as a follow up to his open letter and opinion piece that appeared in a Toronto newspaper last month (Click here to read our Update Friday story from November 13th and to sign the petition).

It started small, but the "floodgates opened" when the petition site change.org contacted him, wanting to promote it. "It came out of the blue. Their contacting me was like a miracle," he said.

"In a matter of an hour or two of being on change.org, there was a thousand, then two thousand, and then there was no stopping it and it climbed and climbed."

Amenta has also updated the letter accompanying the petition. Along with signing and ratifying the protocol, the letter urges the Prime Minister to endorse Article 33, which mandates a system for monitoring the performance of all countries who have signed the Convention. Canada signed it eight years ago and ratified it five years ago.

Amenta is aiming for 20,000 signatures now. Supporters can sign and leave comments until December 31st.

After that, he will email it to Prime Minister Trudeau in January.

Do you know about Magnusmode?

Nadia Hamilton, Founder and CEO of Magnusmode, started the social venture in 2011. Inspired by her younger brother Troy, Nadia has dedicated her life to assisting individuals with special needs. Troy, who has autism, faced a frustrating lack of options after he graduated from high school. As an instructional therapist, Nadia has worked with many families facing similar challenges. She understands their fears and frustrations. This led her to create a set of online tools that would blend proven methods of instruction with elements of game design, and cater to the unique needs of teens and young adults with autism and other special needs. Her goal is to help others learn life skills to live with greater independence and confidence in the real world. Find them on Facebook or <http://magnusmode.com>

What about MagnusCards?

MagnusCards is a unique and free mobile application that can be used by parents and community partners to create digital social stories to build life skills for independent living and community involvement. This is noted as an 'Autism Life Skills & Transition Support Tool'.

Magnus is a wizard who has lost his magic powers and is learning to live without them. Magnus uses how-to guides (MagnusCards) to master doing everyday activities without magic. In MagnusCards, he guides people with autism and developmental disabilities to manage and master grocery shopping, cooking, public transit and other everyday life skills.

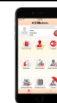


To get MagnusCards, sign up at www.magnusmode.com and download the app on Apple or Google Play app stores. For more information, please email support@magnusmode.com.

These guides are optimized for children, teens and adults of all abilities and can also be customized by support workers, parents and teachers. This feature enables users to personalize descriptions and use photos they are familiar with. In addition, support organizations can use MagnusCards to enhance life skills training for individuals through a simple pilot program. Use of MagnusCards alongside other accessibility tools can help enhance existing programming and provide their members with a safe and fun means of support. For example, the Royal Ontario Museum plan a pilot the use of the MagnusCards platform to create two new Card Deck guides: 'Going to the ROM' and 'Dino Tours'. These guides feature step-by-step instructions with pictures, audio and text to help visitors learn new skills for navigating the ROM Experience.



ICE4Autism



Developed in partnership with Autism Canada, the iPhone and iPad app, ICE4Autism, is the only autism-specific "in case of emergency" app for people on the Autism spectrum.

The mobile app stores vital information about unique needs, sensitivities and behaviours. You can include special instructions for first responders, information on how to communicate, and other important emergency information. A December 2015 press release from Autism Canada, available on www.ice4autism.com, explains:

ICE4Autism is the only autism-specific in case of emergency (ICE) mobile app. Developed in collaboration with people on the spectrum for people on the spectrum, ICE4Autism stores critical information about an autistic person's unique needs, sensitivities and behaviors directly on their iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch providing first responders, ER doctors and nurses with immediate access to the information needed to treat them properly. For more information, please visit www.ICE4Autism.com or the AppStore: <https://itunes.apple.com/app/ice4autism/id969601780?mt=8>

Mark Your Calendars



Wednesday evenings: 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Series of 4 Sessions – February 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th 2016

Introduction to Mental Illness

A Four Part Series in Owen Sound

If you or someone you know suffers from mental illness, this four part evening series may be of interest to you.

Sessions are free but please pre-register,

Contact: nhall@hopegb.org

March 1-2, 2016

Commence 2016

Ryerson Student Centre, Toronto ON.

What does it take to have a good plan for leaving school? How do young people who have an intellectual disability discover their gifts, explore their passions and find the roles they can take on, that will make for an exciting life?

Contact: Amina Patel 1-800-278-8025 ext 241

Amina@communitylivingontario.ca

March 21-24, 2016

A Revised Conceptualization of Social Role Valorization (Leadership Level SRV)

Rexall Centre, York University, Toronto, Ontario.

Organization: Southern Ontario Training Group

Contact: Peg Jenner at pjenner@rogers.com

Did you know?

Ontario Disability Employment Network's Centre for Excellence has been established to help Ontario build and maintain the best possible employment service delivery network for Ontarians who have a disability. Our ideal employment delivery network is responsive to the employment needs of job seekers who have a disability, and achieves the best possible outcomes by fostering and promoting the highest standards of practice for employment service providers across the province.

The Centre for Excellence focuses on 5 key areas:

- 1) **Training and Development**
 - a. For staff of employment service agencies
 - b. For employers and other stakeholder groups
- 2) **Consulting Services**
 - a. For agencies looking to improve their employment service delivery and/or to transition from alternate day programs in favour of establishing a community employment program
 - b. For businesses looking to establish strategies to recruit, accommodate and/or retain employees who have a disability
- 3) **Marketing and Employer Engagement**
 - a. Increasing awareness of the opportunities to include people with a disability in the business sector
- 4) **Innovation & Best Practice**
 - a. Identifying and promoting best practices and replicating these across the province
 - b. Create a provincial recognition program
- 5) **Building Community Networks and Outreach Initiatives**
 - a. To establish communities of practice and build collaboration within the employment service sector

Learn more at <http://odenetwork.com/>

Words of wisdom

TWO THINGS TO REMEMBER IN LIFE:

"Take care of your thoughts when you are alone", and

"Take care of your words when you are with people."

Inspiring and Positive Quotes

CLWD Continuing Education Committee

is again raising funds to support students who are enrolled in post-secondary studies, selling frozen food products from MacMillan's in February with delivery on March 9, 2016. This campaign will feature meats on a separate order form. Baked products, as well as those delicious soup mixes will also be offered. Please see the attached flyer. Orders and payment may be returned by Feb, 24 and no later than March 1st.

The Christmas campaign was a great success...
thanks to all who ordered!

Law Commission Out with Its Interim Report

—reprinted from Community Living Ontario, Update Friday Jan. 15, 2016



Earlier this week, the Law Commission of Ontario released its **Interim Report on Legal Capacity, Decision-making and Guardianship** for public feedback. The document (click here to read it) contains draft recommendations designed to respond to concerns about Ontario's laws addressing situations where decisions are needed but decision-making abilities are at issue.

Community Living Ontario took part in the Law Commission of Ontario's Advisory Group, which developed the report. Throughout, Community Living Ontario has advocated for a legal framework for supported decision-making that is consistent with provisions contained in the United Nations' Convention on Persons with Disabilities.

In the coming weeks, Community Living Ontario will be preparing a response to the Interim Report, in hopes of strengthening the recommendations pertaining to supported decision-making outlined in the draft; analysis and the proposed recommendations to the Law Commission of Ontario will also be provided to Community Living Ontario's stakeholders.

People are encouraged to take the opportunity to comment on the Interim Report and to call for stronger provisions for supported decision-making.

The deadline to respond to the draft recommendations is Friday, March 4, 2016. Click here to find out how to best respond.
<http://www.lco-cdo.org/en/capacity-guardianship-interim-report-share-your-feedback>

Bits and Pieces

February is Inclusive Education Month - a time for members of the Community Living movement to promote and raise awareness about inclusive education. In addition to breaking down myths about inclusive education, this feature month provides educators, students and parents an opportunity to share ideas on strategies to enhance inclusion and successful school experiences for every child. Read more <http://www.cacl.ca/news-stories/blog/february-inclusive-education-month-0>

And please take advantage of the **Inclusive Education Resource Library** on the website of www.communitylivingontario.ca



<http://ow.ly/X0ZMN>

From January 15 – February 2, 2016, The Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre in Oakville will be hosting the 5th Annual 'Art from the Heart', an annual art exhibition featuring over 20 artists from 4 Community living Associations: Oakville, Brampton/Caledon, Scarborough, and the Creative Village Studio in Toronto. If you're in the area, go check it out!

ReAction4Inclusion was held at the YMCA Geneva Park in Orillia in November 2015, and CLWD was again able to sponsor students and a teacher from **Walkerton District Community School** to attend. With the theme, **Change Makers**, participants were encouraged to lead their school and community to be an inclusive and welcoming place for all students and citizens! **Thank you for attending...** Brianne Merchant, Moira Robertson, Brianna Parker, Emalee Fulsang and Darlene Bailey.

In order to succeed you must fail, so that you know what not to do the next time.

Anthony J. D'Angelo

Chocolates for Sale



As a fundraiser for the Speaking Out Conference in 2016, mint smoothies from Rheo Thompson Candies are being sold by some members of the Action Committee. These are delicious, and very nice as gifts2 for \$5.00 or \$3.00 each. Call 519 881 3713 ext. 118

Great for your Valentine!



Walkerton Special Olympic Athletes



Go Team Ontario!

ROCK ON
CORNER BROOK • 2016

We will be cheering with enthusiasm for everyone, including Speed Skater Ben Caldecott, who has qualified for the 2016 National Winter Games which are taking place in Corner Brook Nfld from Feb. 29 to Mar. 6.....Congratulations!

Cathy Cormack of Walkerton and Brian Carr of Ayton have been selected as coaches with the Speed Skating team.

Others from South Saugeen Special Olympics have also qualified, including Tyler Jilek from Fordwich who qualified in curling with the Kincardine team and Michael Bailey from Hanover who has qualified in Nordic Skiing with Central Bruce.

Advocates in Action

Thanks to the hosts of the CLWD Christmas Party in December 2015!

The dinner and dancing with the Leask Brothers Band made a wonderful evening.



Come on down to **Family Day** activities at the Walkerton arena and enjoy a **hot drink** served by the Action Committee from 1 - 3 pm on Feb. 15th.





Speaking Out Retreat

Held in Walkerton on November 6, 2015, ninety people, from as far away as Dundas, came to learn from each other and have fun. Hosted by self-advocates from Hanover, Port Elgin, Owen Sound, Walkerton and Wingham this event was one of two retreat days sponsored by the Speaking Out Conference committee. Keynote speaker was Daniel Steeves of Listowel; he told about his work to prepare portable ramps for community businesses. The afternoon sessions were presented by self-advocates from the hosting groups. Dinner was prepared by the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary and the evening dance featured DJs Penny and Jackie (popular at last year's conference in Port Elgin).



www.speakingoutconference.com

Some follow-up....



ARCH Disability Law Centre in

Toronto provides some services for people with intellectual disabilities. Their December 2015 newsletter, *ARCH Alert*, contains some important insights regarding lives lived in some Ontario institutions which were closed by 2009. The Editors' note, below, gives a hint of the contents of this issue of *ARCH Alert*, which can be found at <http://www.archdisabilitylaw.ca/>

Editors' Note

By: Robert Lattanzio and Amanda Ward

This issue of the *ARCH Alert* celebrates the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, and aspires to give a voice to claimants of the Class Actions against the Huronia Regional Centre, Southwestern Regional Centre and the Rideau Regional Institutions. We felt that this is an appropriate day to reflect and commemorate the closing of the class actions, and to recognize and celebrate the strength of the residents and survivors from those institutions.

Included in this issue are articles written by former residents and claimants, a social worker, and an article written by a family member of a former resident of Huronia Regional Centre. These are powerful articles that we hope can help to shed light on what residents endured while living in these institutions.

We decided to focus this *ARCH Alert* issue in response to requests from former residents who wanted to voice what they experienced, but who did not have an opportunity yet to do so. While some articles in this issue may be heart-breaking for some, they are important stories that need to be told. As we move forward as a society, we cannot forget what happened to persons with disabilities in the past, lest anything similar happen again. We look forward to a future where all people are treated equally, with dignity and respect.

We hope you find this issue of the *ARCH Alert* informative and inspirational.

<http://www.archdisabilitylaw.ca/node/1099>

Community Living Walkerton and District is having an anniversary in 2016!

Check this out!

The list of 104 Charter Members of the association, October 11, 1956, contains at least three names of people you might meet as you enjoy life in 2016 in Walkerton.

The following link opens the beginning section of ***From Small Beginnings***, the history of our association which was compiled in 1992 for our 35th anniversary – offering an important perspective.

<http://clwalkerton.org/docs/1956-1966.pdf>



Issues #50 and 51 of **Spotlight on Transformation-** A developmental Services Bulletin from the Ministry of Community and Social Services, can be found on the internet www.clwalkerton.org

The Developmental Services Housing Taskforce is requesting creative ideas. An article about the tentative settlement of the Class Action Lawsuit involving 12 former residential facilities is available, as well comment about addressing the jury recommendations following the Guy Mitchell inquest.

Please note:

Along with the CLWD Accessible Customer Service Policy and Accessible Customer Service Feedback Form, now available on the website of Community Living Walkerton and District is the CLWD Service and Support Feedback Form.

Reference:

Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act, 2008

Legislative Authority: Section 7(1) 1

Effective date: June 1, 2012

Check in regularly to see what's new
and inspiring!

www.facebook.com/clwalkerton



COMMUNITY LIVING
Walkerton and District

Inspiring Possibilities

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