



coming together

...to create change

A National Family Leadership newsletter

Volunteerism

A Message from Mary Whitehead, Chair

As I write this editorial Governor General, David Johnston, has started a national campaign focused on encouraging more people to volunteer their time and talents for causes close to their hearts. His campaign is entitled My Giving Moment.

For most of us that moment started with something or someone that gave a tug on our heart. We saw a need and realized we had the capacity to fill that need and make a difference. Whether it involved fundraising for a local ACL association, sitting on the neighbourhood school Parent & Teacher group, becoming a member of a committee that works to advance our ACL agenda or donating money to that cause, we did what we could to make this world we share better for others, and in doing so for ourselves. There is no better feeling than to know you have made a difference

someone's life. Together, as individuals, as organizations, as a country, we can pave the way for change and equality for all citizens.

The volunteer base of CACL has always been our bedrock and the grassroots foundation of our organization. These people, who give so freely of their talent and time are the reason community is as diverse and accepting as it is. The volunteers of CACL hold the vision and values of the movement and are the driving force in creating inclusive communities where we are all valued and respected. Those CACL parents of 50 years ago showed us the impact that people with a shared passion and commitment can make in the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and their families. When even two or three gather together with a common vision they support and strengthen each others resolve to make

a difference. This is how movements are built and sustained. We must find a way to engage more young people and show them the energizing effect that is achieved by volunteering. We must empower them to recognize their strengths and challenge them to reach out and help others to make a difference. They are amazing in their passion and vision and if we can guide them to volunteer with a cause that ignites that passion there is no telling what they can achieve. We just need to help them find their giving moment.

In this edition, we feature people from across Canada who have found their giving moment. Volunteers who give freely of their time, often a lifetime, in supporting and advancing the values and mission of our movement. To them, and the thousands of volunteers they represent, our thanks.



Coming Together is compiled and produced by the CACL Family Leadership and Grassroots Engagement Advisory Committee to highlight the power of families to effect change and advance inclusion.



Diversity includes.

Tony Boone

Tony Boone of Fredericton, NB, has been volunteering for NBACL for 4 years, doing odd jobs and assisting with the set up at NBACL public events.

His volunteer work for NBACL allows staff to focus on supporting people with an intellectual disability and their families. One of the ways he helps the Association is by shredding paper. He is so efficient at it that the staff gave him the moniker of Tony “The Shredder Man.”

NBACL staff members helped Tony start a small paper shredding service called Tony the Shredder Man. He sells the paper he shreds by the bag to pet stores and other businesses looking for pet bedding or fire starter.

“Tony contributes a great deal to NBACL, so we are thrilled to see him express his entrepreneurial spirit through his small enterprise,” says NBACL Transition Facilitator, Lynn Akmens.



Lorraine Silliphant

Lorraine Silliphant of Fredericton, New Brunswick is recognized for her work in advancing the cause of children and adults with an intellectual disability provincially and nationally.

Starting with her work with the New Brunswick Association for Community Living 40 years ago, Lorraine played a key role in ensuring that people with an intellectual disability could become valued and contributing members in every aspect of community life. She worked to have disability listed as a prohibited

ground for discrimination when the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms was adopted in 1982. She also led efforts to deinstitutionalize children with an intellectual disability so that they could live, learn, work and participate fully in their communities.

Lorraine sits on several NBACL advisory committees and continues to share her wisdom and passion for the inclusion of persons with an intellectual disability.



Mary Oickle

Mary Oickle is a Board member of NSACL. She is a self advocate who speaks her mind. She has given presentations to the Minister of Community Services as well as a group of administrators who are supervisors of institutions here in Nova Scotia. Mary herself was in an institution for over 20 years of her 63 years and is a strong voice in speaking to government, conferences, families and people she meets in the community regarding how people with intellectual disabilities should not be in institutions. Often at meetings Mary is the “quiet one” until she speaks up and becomes passionate about issues affecting persons with disabilities. Nobody expects this quiet woman to have such determination and such a strong voice until we hear her speak of her own experiences at having been segregated and devalued.

Mary is an active member of People First Halifax, the Sharing and Caring Club, and the Nova Scotia Association for Community Living. Mary loves her life, and she loves to contribute to her community.

Mary was awarded the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal. In making the announcement, President of the Nova Scotia Association for Community Living, Lew Crews, stated, “Mary Oickle, has made an enormous contribution to the community living movement over many years.” When Mary received the Queens Diamond Jubilee Award she was inspired to present an award at the Family Forums. She presents a beautiful plaque at every Family Forum to a person she thinks has worked hard and deserves it. It is known as The Mary Oickle “Bright Future Award”



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Janey Diveky

Janet Diveky has been the driving force behind Yellowknife Association for Community Living’s major fundraiser – the Gumboot Rally. The Rally takes place in late April and features highlights such as Catchin’ Boots and Boot Shoot. Teams of five dress up, participate in goofy games and raise a significant amount of money for Association services.

Janet’s organizational talents and willingness to ask anyone for anything for a good cause help invigorate the fundraising team and keep the day’s activities on track. Janet’s commitment makes the Rally a day of fun and fundraising that many don’t want to miss, coming back to support us year after year.



Diversity includes.

Ammie Kipsigak

“Sometimes when you help others, it helps you more than them. These are words to live by. I invite people over to the house to have a meal. I call it Ammie’s menu. My name is Ammie Kipsigak.”

A former Mayor of Hall Beach, Ammie first got involved with the Nunavut Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society (NDMS) as a Director in 1999 when Nunavut was created. Over the last twelve years out of fourteen years, support of the Society’s operations has been sporadic at best. However still today, Ammie has dreams to set up small accessibility committees in every community in the territory.



Noah Papatsie

In 2010, Noah Papatsie started volunteering for the Nunavut Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society (NDMS), an advocacy and awareness organization for people with disabilities, and then last year, he ran for mayor of Iqaluit. He didn’t win, but he sure enjoyed the feeling of being mobile, meeting people and feeling useful again. He’ll be doing more of that as Nunavut’s first guide dog owner.

Papatsie was born in Iqaluit after his parents moved there from Pangnirtung in the 1960s. Papatsie’s father, Josie, was very active in civic issues, volunteering for local town, health and housing committees. Noah says it’s his parents who taught him leadership skills and the importance of community involvement.

“Challenges are not barriers,” says Papatsie, 44, and a father of three children. “Whatever challenges you get, there are no barriers. You can always go around them.”



Garry R. Cooke

Closing in on almost 50 years of volunteerism with the Community Living movement, Garry has served in many roles. He is currently on the Board of Directors of Community Living Ontario as Regional Director for Durham East and is the President of Community Living Oshawa/Clarington. Garry chairs the Government Relations Committee and the Nominations Committee and he is a member of the Executive Committee and the Finance Committee.

One of Garry's claims to fame is that he was President of Community Living Ontario during a key period in the Community Living movement. He was President during the closures of institutions; overseeing the most

significant change in Community Living history.

Mr. Cooke also served on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Association for Community Living and was a member of the national executive committee and the management committee.

Garry volunteered with the Ministry of Community and Social Services in several capacities over many years. He was also on the Board of Directors of the Roeher Institute at York University, and a member of Durham College "Creating Futures" University Fundraising Committee.

But Garry's commitment to volunteering



is even broader. He is a member of Technical Standard & Safety Authority, Fuels Safety Division, Ontario Propane Association, AF&AM No 21 GRC Jerusalem Lodge and the Royal Canadian Legion and the Navy League of Canada.

Garry and his wife have three daughters. Their eldest daughter has Down Syndrome.

Bill and Pat Sparke

When their daughter Sherri was born with Down Syndrome, Bill and Pat Sparks wanted what any other parent would want for their child: a good life with full participation in her community. This evoked their journey of advocacy and involvement with Community Living Toronto, impacting the lives of people with an intellectual disability through education, inclusion and independence for over 40 years.

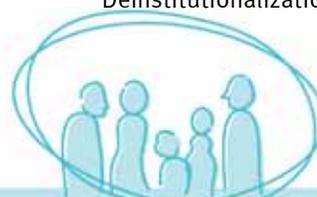
Both teachers in their professional lives, Bill and Pat were early and strong advocates for inclusive education. Bill even took a year from his professional life to identify best practices not only in Toronto but across North America. This

has helped create real choice and inclusion of students with an intellectual disability in our schools. Bill and Pat knew that inclusion started from birth, and providing support to other parents who have 'been through it' gave new parents not only reassurance, but guidance on navigating a new world. That's why they helped other parents form Pilot Parents, a key support program for new parents.

In memory of their daughter, they created The Sherri Sparks Travel Training Program, which has helped hundreds of people increase their independence, confidence and self-esteem by learning to use the Toronto Transit Commission.



Bill and Pat have also been active members with various committees at Community Living Toronto, including the Scarborough Regional Council, the Education Committee, the Board of Directors and SEAC . Bill has also been the President of Community Living Ontario and was recognized by the Province for his work related to the Five Year Plan for Deinstitutionalization.



Diversity includes.

Ethel Ellsworth and Velda Gaudet

Carpooling to a meeting on inclusive education, from their rural community of Tignish PEI, brought these two vibrant, women together for the first time, but their belief in full inclusion for all has kept them fast friends and powerful advocates for people with intellectual disabilities for three decades. Ethel Ellsworth and Velda Gaudet are true pioneers in the community inclusion movement on Prince Edward Island.

When Scott was born in 1972 Velda knew she was headed down a road less travelled but one she was prepared to navigate. Velda has been his strongest supporter from the early days when she took him and his other seven year old friends to the summer swim program at Skinners Pond Wharf, through the school

system while she was a member of the Provincial Education Coalition and worked with the Jr. High Buddy Program, to present day as she advocates for his residential setting.

Ethel had the volunteer spirit from an early age. In grade 8 she volunteered as peer support during lunch to students with special needs. Some of the friendships forged during those Jr. High years remain strong today.

Ethel was a canvasser for the local ACLs fundraising campaign before she was old enough to drive. Her sense of community volunteerism is evident in the many board position she has held through the years with ACL on every level from local to provincial and national.

Ethel and Velda are strong advocates for people with intellectual disabilities and their families and together are a formidable team.

Whether they are addressing the legislature or answering a call from a frantic parent their voices are heard and they are making a difference for people with an intellectual disability on Prince Edward Island.

Thank you ladies!



Doug Conn

Doug Conn got involved in his uncle's life more than 25 years ago, first as a nephew and then as his advocate as his uncle spent most of his life in the Valley View Centre in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. From there, Doug joined the Valley View Centre Family Group. At that time, he was thinking they were going to raise money for projects around the Centre improving the lives of those who live there.

Little did he know this volunteer work would lead him to the SACL and the realization of the needs of people with disabilities and the challenging struggles their families face on a day-to-day basis. Doug believes that we, the SACL, as an organization, which includes our branches can work alongside with our government, so a difference can be made for those we support.



June Avivi

June Avivi has and continues to be a dedicated and committed volunteer in the province of Saskatchewan. She has been engaged with the disability community for 55 years through the Community Living Association Saskatoon Inc. (CLASI), the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living (SACL), the Valley View Centre (VVC) Family Group and most recently the VVC Transition Steering Committee. In 1994, June received the Sterling Award to recognize her volunteer role for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

June has also been involved with the Early Childhood Education Council, Congregation Agudas Israel Synagogue and the Canadian Jewish Congress.

In addition to June's community involvement, June enjoys spending time with her three sons, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



Diversity includes.

Teresa and Kayla Willms

Teresa and Kayla became volunteers with Inclusion BC two years ago when Kayla began to make plans for her transition from high school. This mother and daughter team have been bravely sharing their journey through video on our blog “On My Way-transition planning BC”. In addition, they have both volunteered to co-facilitate a workshop that was developed by Inclusion BC that provides individuals, families and educators with the value, as well as the nuts and bolts, of early and thorough planning. The magic of sharing their personal story has added tremendous impact to the work of our organization.



Angela Robertson

Angela Robertson is a very active mother of 2 boys, Angus & Austin, ages 12 and 13. Soon after moving to the small community of Tumbler Ridge, Angela soon realized the lack of services in her community for families raising a child with a disability.

As a result, Angela has become a leader in convening other families with similar issues by starting a parent support group and sharing the resources of Inclusion BC with these families. This past year,

Angela organized a visit by Inclusion BC staff to the Tumbler Ridge and Dawson Creek communities. She also hosted our workshop, “On My Way-Meaningful Transition Planning” for a group of educators and families. This has opened the door to continued dialogue and outreach to more remote communities in BC.

Peter Chivers

Peter's professional background includes being a senior strategy consultant at KPMG, one of the global big-4 accounting firms. Currently Peter is an independent management consultant with a focus on enabling organizations to increase efficiency and effectiveness as well as dealing with organizational change. His expertise in this area has been invaluable to CACL and he is a much respected leader in our association.

Peter has been CACL Treasurer since 2011 but he has worked tirelessly with members of the national staff and board to help advance selected projects and initiatives. In addition to chairing the Audit Committee and the Assessment Task Force Peter volunteers many hours in the national office. His wisdom and leadership is a mainstay we have all come to count on.



Tim Stainton

Professionally Tim is Professor and Director of the School of Social Work and Director of the Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship at the University of British Columbia. He has published over one hundred books and articles on disability rights and issues. Tim has been a long-time advocate for persons with intellectual disabilities and his passion for advancing the rights of this segment of our population is evident in the

number of boards and committees he has been involved with in a variety of capacities. Currently Tim sits on the CACL Board of Directors as well as chairs the Values and Ethics Task Force. He is always available to assist any of the other CACL committees as needed and his commitment to our CACL values and vision is evident by his tireless efforts to move our agenda forward at every turn.



Diversity includes.



Debby Coombs

Debby worked for Family Services in the provincial government for many years and worked comfortably with community advocacy organizations and families.

Now retired, she understands existing gaps in services expressed by families and brings that knowledge with her as president of Community

Living Brandon. Concerns related to equality in access to community day care services has been an emerging issue for young families in the Westman area and Debby will be working with parents, agencies and associations to appropriately address this and other concerns in her work with Community Living Brandon.

Jim Croy



Living Manitoba table several times. Jim brings to the table the insight of a parent and knowledge of what other parents in the community want to see for their children in the future.

Jim's connections to families in the Selkirk and surrounding areas runs deep as Jim and his family are known throughout the community for their dedication to the Selkirk Special Olympics group. Jim and his family are involved in coaching the bowling, track and field and contributing to the Interlake Special Olympic fundraisers and special events. Jim is also a Board member for Riverside Grill, a social enterprise started by Community Living Selkirk. The focus of this venture is to provide training and develop employment opportunities for people with disabilities within the service industry.

he feels passionately about. Jim is well spoken and often designated as our public speaker – engaging his audience with his quick wit and passion for seeing things done right. Having a Board member that has deep connections to his community through working with other groups, understanding the business aspect of our work and being well respected adds to our capacity.

We are lucky to have someone with Jim's deep commitment, unwavering values and community connections helping to guide our organization. Jim strives to help to create a full and rich lifestyle for all individuals. Jim wants to see the continued acceptance of the people with disabilities, both in the workforce and the community at large.

Jim Croy has been involved in the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities for most of his life both as a parent and by working and volunteering in the field.

Jim has been a Community Living Selkirk Board member for over 12 years and has served as their representative at the Community

Living Brandon. Jim brings a level-headed approach to Board meetings but will not hesitate to take a stand on an issue

Jacqueline Babin

Jacqueline Babin is an exceptional woman. Committed for nearly three decades, she works and advocates for the improvement of living conditions of persons with disabilities and their families. Being the mother of Peter, who lives with an intellectual disability, she is able to understand what the families go through. She uses her expertise at the Rehabilitation Centre Gaspésie through various groups such as the Users' Committee, the Vigilance Committee, the evaluation of customer satisfaction as well as being a member of the Board of Directors. With some parents and special educators, she works to establish an association in the region to provide respite for parents while providing recreation for their child. In addition, she has served on the committee that is responsible for the process of accreditation, and monitoring the

Quebec Accreditation Board and the board of directors of the Agency for Health and Social Services Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine. Since 2008 she is a member of the Board of Directors of the Quebec Association for Community Living and has assumed the presidency since 2012. Seeing her career all these years, it is fair to say that the commitment of Mrs. Jacqueline Babin is a reflection of her personality: dynamic, passionate and human. It is important to note that the presence of her son in her life was a revelation of all abilities we know her to have. But what is unique is that she has decided to put her knowledge into serving others with intellectual disabilities and to allow their families to live a life of pleasure and relaxation, and to know they are not isolated due to the presence of a child with differences.



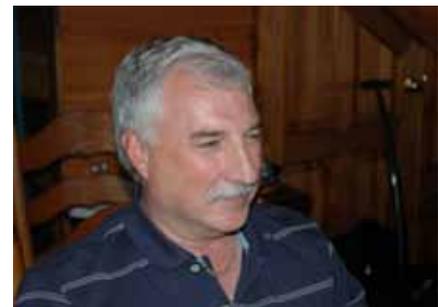
ALBERTA

Don Anderson

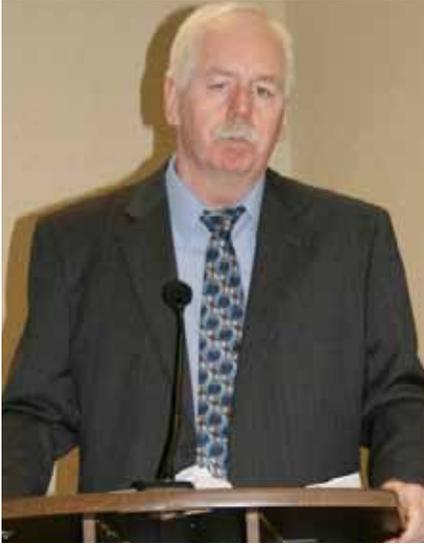
In his more than 10 years as a volunteer Don has served primarily as AACL's Treasurer inspiring others through his many supportive roles and commitments.

Don consistently supports AACL in all its fundraising efforts: volunteering at events, becoming an AACL Dream Maker, advising staff on personal financial matters and educating the public about the value of AACL to our province.

His personal commitment extends to applying his financial knowledge as an advocate for individuals and families, including a sustained commitment to a woman who was formerly institutionalized and who not only needed Don's help in managing her finances but in addressing her living situation.



Diversity includes.



Ray McIsaac

Ray has been involved with the Association for Community Living for over 25 years at the national, provincial and local community levels in support of persons with disabilities and their families. Married to Kathy, they have four adult sons/daughters, two of whom have autism related disabilities.

He is Past-President of NLACL and chairs the Future Planning Committee with responsibilities in the area of support trusts, the registered

disability savings program and legal reform to enable supported decision making. Ray has dedicated a significant amount of his time volunteering to advance the rights of individuals with intellectual disabilities in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador and throughout Canada.

Ray was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal at the 2012 CACL conference in Winnipeg.

Dennis Gill

Dennis Gill and his wife Roxann reside on Pilley's Island, NL. They are the parents of two children, Daniel and Jenna. Danny developed frequent epileptic seizures, petit mal and grand mal, after his initial immunization at three months, which led to subsequent severe developmental delay both intellectually and physically.

Though Danny cannot walk or talk, and is totally dependent on his parents and others for his many and varied needs, Dennis and Roxann believe that he has truly blessed their nuclear and extended family, and for over 33 years has taught them to be better human beings by way of caring, sharing, loving, and compassion, to cite just four traits. Dennis believes that they have been "down the disability road" in the real world. But, have kept a positive attitude, dealt head-on with

the various challenges which have beset them, and strived to make the best of a situation created beyond their control.

In 2013 he was presented with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee

Medal for all his volunteer work with the community of Pilley's Island and the dedication he have given to various committees and associations throughout Newfoundland and Labrador to help better the lives of those living with disabilities.



Diversity includes.