

"/>



Canadian  
Association for  
Community Living

info@

keeping  
you  
informed

Diversity includes.

Canadian Association for Community Living  
Volume 10 Issue 18 December 2012



50 years  
ans

Canadian Association  
for Community Living

Association canadienne pour  
l'intégration communautaire

Diversity includes. On se ressemble.

For Immediate Release  
Toronto  
December 3, 2012

## International Day of Persons with Disabilities It's Time for a new Social Contract

**International Day of Persons with Disabilities is held every December 3rd.**

Today, the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) celebrates the advances that many people with intellectual disabilities, their families and communities are making in building an inclusive and accessible Canada. Along with People First of Canada, CACL recently launched 'Ready, Willing and Able' documenting successful examples from across Canada of people with intellectual disabilities in the labour force. Together, with government and community partners we are demonstrating what inclusion looks like – in family and community life, in early learning and child care, on the playground, in school and the workplace. And, we have almost finished the job of closing large

residential institutions in Canada.

However, despite individual examples of success, and despite Canada having ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, pervasive discrimination and exclusion on the basis of intellectual and other disabilities still has deep roots in Canadian society. We have witnessed just how deep they are in recent weeks as we see families taking their adult children with intellectual disabilities to respite homes and shelters and abandoning them to service systems because they have no other choice. We are pleased to see that the Ombudsman in Ontario will be investigating this travesty of public trust in the months to come.

The crisis that families face in Ontario is being felt in communities across Canada. For too long people with intellectual disabilities have been abandoned to institutions and now community agencies because governments have not adequately stepped up to ensure individuals and families are supported, schools are inclusive, labour markets are accessible, and income assistance means more than getting in line at the local food bank.

Laurie Larson, President of CACL said *“Governments have failed to adequately respond to this crisis and have placed the responsibility of caring for adults with intellectual disabilities squarely on the shoulders of the families to an extent far beyond what can reasonably be expected. We need to strike a new social contract with families; lives hang in the balance. Effectively, the love that families feel for their sons and daughters is being exploited by all levels of government and society.”* Michael Bach, CACL Executive Vice-President said, *“Our hope on this December 3rd is that the inspiration of the UN Convention, and the new foundations it establishes for international law, become the ground on which a new social contract with people with disabilities and their families can take root in Canada, to overcome the legacy of exclusion and discrimination still affecting so many lives.”*

- 30 -

The Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) is a national association of over 40,000 members, 400 local, family led Associations for Community Living and 13 provincial/territorial Associations. We are families, people with intellectual disabilities and our supporters working together to ensure all people:

- Have the same rights and access to choice, supports and services as all other people.
- Have the same opportunities as others to live in freedom and dignity, and have the needed support to do so.
- Are able to voice and realize their aspirations and rights.

Founded in 1958, CACL provides leadership on the issue of inclusion and human rights of people with intellectual disabilities through public awareness, family leadership, community partnerships, research and information, and policy dialogue.

For more information, please contact Michael Bach, CACL Executive Vice-President – 416 209 7942.

## Visit or Contact Us

[Our Website](#)

[Donate Now](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Email Us](#)

**INFO@** is a newsletter published by **Canadian Association for Community Living**

To **SUBSCRIBE** to the **INFO@** newsletter please go to our [website](#).

To **UNSUBSCRIBE** from **INFO@** simply email [inform@cacl.ca](mailto:inform@cacl.ca)

© 2011 Canadian Association for Community Living & its licensors.

Charity registration number 10684 2545 RR0001

All rights reserved.

Would you like to forward this email to a friend? [Click here](#).

Share This Email: 

---

[Remove my name from all future email correspondence](#)

*Address postal inquiries to:*

Canadian Association for Community Living Foundation

Kinsmen Building, York University 4700 Keele Street

Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

Powered By

**Blackbaud eTapestry™** **Delivra**