



18 November 2010

Poverty of Canadians with Disabilities addressed in newly released Parliamentary Committee Report on Poverty

On Wednesday November 17th, the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities (the HUMA Committee) released its final report on the federal role in addressing poverty. The Report, *Federal Poverty Reduction Plan: Working in Partnership Towards Reducing Poverty in Canada*, is the result of a study on poverty the HUMA Committee began more than two years ago. The Canadian Association for Community Living commends the Committee for its focus on poverty and disability and its recommendations to address the staggering rates of poverty faced by Canadians with disabilities. The recommendations – including a refundable Disability Tax Credit, a federally funded and delivered basic income program for Canadians with disabilities and the expansion of EI Compassionate Care benefits – are reflective of what the disability community has been calling for.

The Government has 120 days to respond formally to the report and its recommendations.

The report can be found on the [House Publications](#) website.

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A Success! The CACL/BCACL/Family Focus National Conference October 2010:Whistler, BC.

The 2010 National Family conference, *Families: A Journey of Generations Moving Mountains*, was a great success. More than 500 conference participants gathered together in Whistler, BC, to talk about issues impacting families, self-advocates and professionals. John Lord opened the conference and provided the tone and context about building inclusive communities. At the opening ceremonies, conference participants were treated to a powerful and moving performance by Ynklude, an inclusive arts collective from the Yukon. Powerful sessions about intentional community building, inclusive education, closing institutions, ethical issues in health care, social media, family supports and everything in between.

John Lord joined conference participants again to facilitate an engaging conversation with three mothers – Audrey Cole, Jessica Humphrey and Aimee Morry – who talked about their personal experiences, their hopes, the barriers they have broken down and still face.

CACL would like to thank all of the conference participants and presenters and our great co-hosts [BCACL](#) and [Family Focus Society](#) for making Whistler 2010 a truly an unforgettable conference.

Join CACL next year in Halifax, NS, October 21-23, 2011 for our next amazing family conference.

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To be included, respected and have a valued role in community; to be seen as a person, a friend, a co-worker, a neighbour – not as a person with a disability first. This is a natural outcome of life in community. This year's conference will focus sessions and discussions on the many ways in which persons with intellectual disabilities can assume their rightful place in community, and the role that we, as family, friends, advocates, can play in helping make that happen.

For more information, visit www.nsacl.ca or E-mail communityinclusionnsacl@gmail.com

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CACL Newsletter Coming Together Profiles Family Leaders in Action

The Fall 2010 edition of CACL's Family Newsletter, *Coming Together*, is a special edition that features the powerful stories of nine families. These nine families are representative of the many thousands of other families across this country, who on a daily basis, work toward creating positive change within this country so that their family member may be fully accepted and included in all aspects of Canadian society. The newsletter demonstrates that disability is non-partisan and does not single out any particular social or economic class. Whether you are the federal Minister of Finance, a professional athlete, an internationally recognized academic, or a grandmother from a small village in PEI, having a family member with an intellectual disability provides both a common perspective and challenges. In this issue of *Coming Together* readers will see the pride, pain and remarkable resilience within all these families and will discover how each has emerged as a family leader. Family leaders whose actions, individually and collectively, are changing the face and structure of this country in ways that make us all more inclusive and accepting of diversity in all its forms. This and past Issues can be accessed on-line at: www.cacl.ca.

For more information please contact Laurie Larson, ynot2@sasktel.net

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CACL Launches Poverty Watch

On November 2, 2010, at End Exclusion, CACL launched the inaugural edition of its newest newsletter – *Poverty Watch*. *Poverty Watch* is a quarterly newsletter developed by CACL's National Action Committee on Disability Supports, Income and Employment. *Poverty Watch* will monitor Canada's progress toward the eradication of poverty for persons with intellectual disabilities and their families. The first edition can be found at www.cacl.ca.

For more information or to submit an article for consideration, please contact Anna MacQuarrie, amacquarrie@cacl.ca.

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End Exclusion 2010

On November 2 and 3, 2010, The Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) and the [Council of Canadians with Disabilities](#) (CCD), in partnership with Canada without Poverty, hosted End Exclusion 2010 in Ottawa, Ontario. End Exclusion 2010, invited participants to bring their voice to the national dialogue on poverty and disability. Participants had an opportunity to learn about poverty and disability and to share their thoughts and perspectives on how to alleviate the staggering poverty faced by people with disabilities and their families. The event was opened by the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. Minister Finley reiterated Canada's support for building an inclusive and accessible Canada and for implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In a powerful opening keynote, Cindy Blackstock, esteemed Aboriginal leader and activist, spoke about First Nations/Aboriginal poverty and disability. Leading community members and academic researchers presented on the efforts of an exciting disability research project *Disabling Poverty/Enabling Citizenship*. This important project will use a disability lens to investigate poverty as it affects persons with disabilities and will also formulate strategies for reducing poverty in the disability community. End Exclusion 2010 used three of the *Disabling Poverty/Enabling Citizenship's* main themes (demographic profile; income security and policy reform; equality rights and law reform) for roundtable discussion.

End Exclusion 2010 provided an opportunity for participants to learn about broader policy reduction efforts including presentations from Campaign 2000 and Canada without Poverty. End Exclusion 2010 also marked the launch of the [Caledon Institute](#) of Social Policy paper "[A Basic Income Plan for Canadians with Severe Disabilities](#)."

For more information please contact Anna MacQuarrie, amacquarrie@cacl.ca.

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People First of Canada - Annual General Meeting

The People First of Canada 19th Annual General Meeting was recently held on November 2nd & 3rd, 2010 in Ottawa, Ontario. The AGM was attended by People First representatives from every province and territory in Canada. Bendina Miller, President of CACL was in attendance, as well as several CACL staff and consultants.

Prior to the AGM, Board and staff of People First of Canada participated in the End Exclusion Conference entitled *Disabling Poverty/Enabling Citizenship*. This event was cosponsored by The Council of Canadians with Disabilities and the Canadian Association for Community Living in partnership with Canada Without Poverty. Calvin Wood, President of People First Nova Scotia gave an opening plenary address.

During the AGM, a video version of the Declaration for Support for Community Living was screened. This powerful video shows PF members reading the Declaration and can be seen at peoplefirstofcanada.ca. One of the highlights of the AGM

was the awarding of the Patrick Worth Award to Mr. Brian Connors, President of People First of New Brunswick for his outstanding contributions to inclusion in Canada.

Next year will mark the 20th Anniversary of People First of Canada. The PFC Our Annual General Meeting and Conference will be held at the Inn at the Forks in Winnipeg, on October 14 – 16, 2011.

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Towards Aging Friendly Inclusive Communities' Project

This CACL project focuses on developing ways in working with aging families in engaging local communities to support their individual future plans. A national team representing the provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Prince Edwards Island has been formed to develop a process to support families in developing short and long term plans. Project work thus far has validated both the proposed process of working directly with families and their communities, and the tools that we are developing to aid in the implementation of that process. CACL will work closely with each of the participating provinces in developing a process that is flexible, adaptable, and useful for any local community to use. These processes include implementing family and community workshops that will be supported with a resource guide that outlines ways to work with families, individuals, community workers and advocates.

For more information please contact Doris Rajan d.rajana@rogers.com.

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Caledon Institute of Social Policy Release Report on Basic Income for Canadians with Severe Disabilities

The Caledon Institute launched its new report, *A Basic Income for Canadians with Severe Disabilities*, at End Exclusion 2010. The report, commissioned by the Canadian Association for Community Living and the Council of Canadians with Disabilities, sets out a detailed plan for a new income program targeted at Canadians with severe disabilities. Using the Disability Tax Credit as basic eligibility, the report proposes two significant reforms: a new federal income program that would replace provincial/territorial social assistance for most working-age adults with severe disabilities; the second reform is to convert the existing non-refundable DTC to a refundable DTC. This valuable report makes a significant contribution to the national dialogue on possible options for addressing the staggering rates of poverty facing Canadians with disabilities. The report can be found on the [Caledon Institute website](#).

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New OECD Report on Disability in Canada

The Organization for Economic Cooperation recently released a new report that examines the major disability benefits and services offered by Federal and Provincial/Territorial Governments. The report is critical of the “complex web of federal and provincial programs that make it almost impossible for [persons with disabilities] to join or remain in the workforce.” The report makes a number of recommendations – including improved Federal-Provincial-Territorial coordination. The report, [Sickness, Disability and Work: Breaking the Barriers. Canada: Opportunities for Collaboration](#), is available on the [OECD website](#).

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Class action against the government of Ontario

Former residents of Huronia Regional Centre have been successful in getting court approval for a class action against the government of Ontario. On July 30, 2010, The Honourable Mr. Justice Cullity of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice,

certified this action as a class action, allowing residents of Huronia Regional Centre who resided at the facility between 1945 and 2009 to join in the class action.

On November 8/10, the Honourable Madame Justice Herman denied government lawyers leave to appeal the certification decision of the Honourable Mr. Justice Cullity. The case now proceeds toward a common issues trial - where a judge will consider the merits of the case and ultimately determine what must be done by way of individual restitution and societal reconciliation.

People in the class will not be forced or required to testify in court in the future. They will not have to speak publicly in any way about their experiences, unless they wish to.

We wish to acknowledge Marie Slark and Patricia Seth, the 2 lead plaintiffs, who have so courageously led the Huronia action, and their supporters, in particular Marilyn and Jim Dolmage.

institutionalsurvivors.com is a website to provide information to institutional survivors and all those who assist them.

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Donate Now!

We need your support! Your contribution will ensure that people with intellectual disabilities are provided with opportunity to fully participate in society. To arrange a donation by telephone, please call (416) 661-9611, extension 236.

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It's a fast, easy and convenient way to support programs and services for people with intellectual disabilities and their families. This new service is strictly secure and confidential, arranged through collaboration with CanadaHelps.org.

Your contribution is tax deductible. Official receipts will be mailed promptly to contributors. Donate securely online using your credit card.



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INFO@ is a newsletter published by the Canadian Association for Community Living to provide current information on relevant topics and issues to the Association, its members & affiliates, and the communities involved. Submissions for consideration for the next INFO@ can be emailed to Inform@CACL.ca.

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