

# In Our Community

October 5, 2001



## The Community Living concept

*The Community Living concept is the fundamental belief that everyone has the right to be a contributing member to his or her community. It is only through this contribution that any individual is able to grasp a sense of ones potential to be someone unique in the world. It is a concept that asks you to see the individual first and their appearance or life situation second.*

### Inside this issue:

- Accreditation 2
- Provincial Government Core Review
- Profiles on People 3
- Leave A Legacy 4
- Letter to Deputy

## OCTOBER IS COMMUNITY LIVING MONTH

Once again we are pleased to announce that the Provincial Government has proclaimed October as Community Living Month

Until the middle 1800's, most people with mental challenges either lived with their families or in foster families who received money from the town for their care. Some, who were labeled "moral imbeciles," ended up in jail.

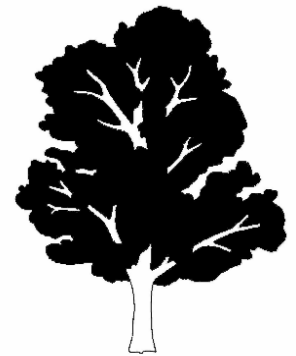
Institutions tried to prepare people for life in the community, but the community rejected them, unless there was a glut of jobs and a shortage of non-disabled people. This almost never happened, especially in times of large-scale immigration. So institutions began to plan to keep people for a lifetime.

In order to get state funds for their institutions, superintendents constructed "feeblemindedness" as a social problem. In the early 1900's, it would be labeled a "menace."

Parents were generally reluctant to have their children come home for visits, especially when institutions considered such visits harmful. Over time, most families lost contact with their institutionalized members.

Today we are members of the community. Our desire is to be part of it and to make our contributions to this community. We have learned to advocate for ourselves and have established a network of friends and families who will advocate on our behalf when necessary.

*Advocacy can be defined as the representation of the interests of one person by another. Advocacy is about stating a case, influencing decisions, ending assumptions, getting better services, being treated equally, being included, being*



### *Growing Together*

*protected from abuse, re-dressing the balance of power, becoming more aware of and exercising rights.*

What we are asking for is the same simple considerations that you take for granted on a daily basis, nothing more.

## HOUSING PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO BC HOUSING

Kelowna and District Society for Community Living is currently in the process of proposing a housing project to BC Housing. This has been a long and involved process which started in the Fall of 2000.

Our proposal is for a thirty-five unit facility that will cater to individuals in the following categories:

- Individuals with challenges

(physical and developmental) who are able to live independently

- Individuals with challenges (physical and developmental) who require support to live independently

- Families with low incomes who support a family member with a

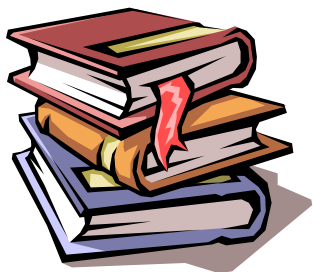
physical or developmental challenge

- Families with low incomes who are headed up by a parent with a physical or developmental challenge

"Aging in place" will be a significant consideration in the buildings design.

## SOCIETY TO START ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

On November 27, 2001 we will be starting the Accreditation process. Accreditation is a process we go through to show that our programs meet a level of standard as outlined by the accreditation body. In our case the accreditation body is the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities or CARF for short. CARF is a private, not-for-profit organization that accredits programs and services in Adult Day Services, Assisted Living, Behavioral Health, Employment and Community Services, and Medical Rehabilitation. CARF develops and



maintains practical and relevant standards of quality for such programs. The standards are developed by the field, which consists of the persons receiving services, rehabilitation professionals, and purchasers of service, and are applied through a peer review process to determine how well an organization is serving its consumers. Every year stan-

dards are reviewed and new ones developed to keep pace with changing conditions and current consumer needs. For us the process for accreditation is a onerous and time consuming one. Parts of your Management Team

can expect to spend up to eight hours a week over the course of a year just to prepare for the evaluation. Staff and Board members alike will also be very much involved in various aspects of the preparation and training. The end result however will be well worth the effort. Once the Society is accredited are relationship with government will change from our current position of renewing contracts on a yearly basis to a continuing agreement similar to those found in the school or hospital systems.

## Provincial Government Core Review and Deregulation Initiatives

Several months ago the Provincial Government announced its Core Review and its Deregulation initiatives. Core Review is a comprehensive and rigorous examination of all provincial programs and activities. Its overarching objective is to identify and to confirm the Government's core roles and responsibilities and to identify ways to improve delivery of government services.

The initial review of most ministry and crown agency mandates and activities, as well as identification of service delivery alternatives, will be completed this fall. Implementation will begin by January so the results can be incorporated into ministry services and

performance plans for the 2002-03 fiscal year. The review will then focus on ongoing evaluation, reporting and improvement measures.

*The core review is slated to be completed by this fall*

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER AND DANCE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2001

We are pleased to confirm that KDSCL will once again have its annual dinner and dance at the Immaculate Hall on Sutherland Avenue. The dinner will be held on December 14, 2001.



The doors will open

at 5:30 P.M., Dinner will be at 6:00 P.M., entertainment and dance at 7:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M.

Tickets are free but must be picked up at 555 Fuller Avenue prior to the event.

Please note that due to increasing costs, tickets will only be available

to Participants and Parent/Caregivers (limit of 3), Staff, Board members and Spouses.

We will be collecting canned goods for the Kelowna Food Bank. Please remember to bring your donation.



## Profile on Susan Gilmour



Susan Gilmour is the receptionist at Integrated Career Opportunities and she has worked there for nine years. She is also a Board member with the Society.

Susan has a great determination to overcome any obstacles that life might throw at her. When people and community said that they didn't think that she could do that, she responded by going out and doing what they said she couldn't. As a result she now has a drivers license, car and a full-time job. She is actively involved in the Self Advocacy movement and currently sits on the Societies Board of Directors.

Susan is very determined to succeed. So, if you feel the need to be proven wrong, just tell her that she can't do something.

## Profile on Donna-Lynne Kenyon

Donna-Lynne has been working for Kelowna & District Society for Community Living more than ten years, primarily with Integrated Career Opportunities. ICO is the Vocational division of K.D.S.C.L. that assists people to find employment in the community. In this capacity Donna-Lynne was instrumental in introducing the integrated vocational programs in Winfield. These programs are still successfully running today. It was during this time, of personal experience of working with individuals with unique abilities and needs, that Donna-Lynne developed some basic principles of supported employment.

"My main goal was to create, for our clients, employment and social opportunities in their own community. This is a way to enhance an individuals life...to give him or her a deeper feeling of inclusion, of personal self-worth and esteem."

Using community involvement as a primary goal, Donna-Lynne initiated and supported volunteer placements at the local thrift shop, at the Winfield fire hall, and at the community police station. She then involved her clients in the youth centres and in the elementary school hot lunch programs. To better serve a greater number of people, Donna-Lynne, opened a storefront ICO office in Winfield, using it and the office equipment to teach basic office skills to several clients.

"It was a very rewarding and exciting time. I was responsible for finding jobs, work placements and volunteer positions. I also had to direct and schedule staff to support the clients in the work placements. I embraced the challenge to learn a variety of new work skills."

The success of these programs is evident in Winfield today where ICO participants are now well known and respected for their volunteer work as well as their paid positions in their community.

Donna-Lynne has also researched and assembled an educational program to teach about supported employment. She was often contracted by Helm Enterprises to present the two-day course to students of the Human Service Workers Program. Donna-Lynne is currently the Project Supervisor of Integrated Career Opportunities, supervising and scheduling a team of 18 - 20 staff.

This team of support workers assist a client base of at least 100 individuals at more than 50 job sites in our Lake Country, Kelowna and West Side Communities.

Donna-Lynne's job enables her to put into practice her deeply held beliefs in integration and inclusion. It is a job where people can make a difference.



**KELOWNA AND DISTRICT SOCIETY FOR  
COMMUNITY LIVING**

555 Fuller Avenue  
Kelowna BC V1Y 7W8  
Phone: 250-763-4484  
Fax: 250-763-4488  
Email: [kdscl@kdscl.bc.ca](mailto:kdscl@kdscl.bc.ca)  
Website: [www.kdscl.bc.ca](http://www.kdscl.bc.ca)



*Growing Together.*

**We're on the Web**

Email: [kdscl@kdscl.bc.ca](mailto:kdscl@kdscl.bc.ca)  
Website: [www.kdscl.bc.ca](http://www.kdscl.bc.ca)



**LEAVE A LEGACY**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

**The Mission and Vision**

Leave a Legacy is a grass roots public awareness campaign to increase charitable giving from British Columbians through their estates. Not-for-profit organizations (defined here as charities and non-profit organizations), allied professionals, the media and sponsors are collaborating in this mission.

The Vision is that by May 2001, all British Columbians will be aware of their personal capacity to make a significant gift through their estate to a cause that is meaningful to them and they will know where to go for appropriate professional advice.

The simple act of making a gift to charity through a will makes it possible for everyone to leave a legacy of good works. A charitable gift from an estate is a way to express compassion and provide support for a cause beyond one's lifetime. It is an enduring expression of leadership to create a better community.

Most people who have a will have not included a gift to charity. When asked, however, thirty-four percent of Canadians state they would consider making a charitable bequest if they were asked.

As governments continue to decrease financial support for the not-for-profit sector, the delivery of many services is at risk. Annual donations from individuals fluctuate from year to year, making it difficult for not-for-profits to plan to meet increasing needs.

## Open Letter to Chris Haynes, Deputy Minister, MCFD regarding deregulation

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the opportunity to have input into the Ministry's vision of community living. We realize the new government is under a lot of financial pressure and appreciate you soliciting input from the people who have the most community living knowledge and experience. Our organizations have worked extremely hard to provide excellent services to individuals with disabilities, their families and the government. We operate with limited administration dollars, minimal overhead and lean management teams. We pride ourselves in utilizing our community resources by using volunteers, soliciting financial support from the for-profit sector and through our own fund raising efforts. We are responsive to the

needs of our constituents and the community as a whole. The costs in community living have escalated for numerous reasons. An imposed collective agreement, folks living longer, individuals and their families wanting more individualized, community based services, and the bureaucracy that has been imposed on service providers. We believe and so do many of our colleagues that there is money to be freed up in community living and that given flexibility, we could increase our capacity to support more people. What prevents us from being more efficient and effective is for the most part, directly related to government. There is an abundance of waste and redundancy in the government system and if existing resources were freed up our organizations would be able to increase our capacity to

serve more people better. We have numerous monitoring and regulatory bodies. Special services have been imposed where generic services could be utilized. Initiatives are imposed that do not benefit our clientele but create make work projects that further impose administrative expectations. Human resources are allocated to administrative roles instead of direct services. Our organizations have the resources, ability and capacity to resolve many of the issues in community living however we need more flexibility and a government who will listen. Not one model of support fits every community. Sincerely, KSCL, KDSCL, KCDS, KDA, NOCLS, PDSCL, PDCSS, SOAICL.