



We All Belong

Welcoming People with
Intellectual Disabilities in the NWT



Yellowknife Association for Community Living



We All Belong

Welcoming People with Intellectual Disabilities in the NWT

March 2006

Yellowknife Association for Community Living

4912 - 53rd Street,
P.O. Box 981,
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N7

Phone: (867) 920-2644

Fax: (867) 920-2348

E-mail: info@ykacl.ca

Website: www.ykacl.ca

This publication is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Social Development Partnerships Program. The opinions and interpretations in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Government of Canada



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Yellowknife Association for Community Living

Mission

The mission the Yellowknife Association for Community Living (YKACL) is to help those with intellectual disabilities to enjoy meaningful lives in supportive communities. To accomplish this, YKACL provides programming and services supporting both children and adults with intellectual and other disabilities and their families.

Background

The Yellowknife Association for Community Living is a non-profit organization, registered as a charity under the *Societies Act* of the Northwest Territories and registered under the *Income Tax Act* as a federal charity. We support families, children, youth, and adults with intellectual disabilities so that they are included and can contribute to community life in the Northwest Territories. We are part of the 400 member federation making up the Canadian Association for Community Living. The Yellowknife Association was founded in 1963 by a group of parents seeking supports for their children with intellectual disabilities. The Association is directed by a 15 person volunteer Board of Directors and employs 23 full time and approximately 30 part time and casual employees, providing services in eight different programs in five different locations in Yellowknife.

Harper's Story

“My name is Harper and I’m almost 12. I go to Mildred Hall School in Yellowknife and I’m in grade 6. When I was born I was diagnosed with Prader-Willi Syndrome. At school I work hard and I’m a good student but I do have difficulties. My brain doesn’t get the answers right away. It could take hours for me to understand a concept, but I ask for help so I can understand. I like school because it’s a great feeling for me to have friends who have different needs. I like participating in sports and other activities. My favorite sport is swimming and I try my best to improve and I never give up. I’m proud of myself for working hard and trying my best.”



From a Mother’s Perspective - “Inclusion allows Harper to participate academically and recreationally in everyday life - which is helping to prepare and strengthen her for independence in the real world. This has encouraged Harper to push herself and develop her strengths, and accept her differences. Inclusion is about dignity and humanity and about recognizing we’re all in this together. In our experience, inclusion is a principle that means we can all contribute and work and play together.”

“...help(ing) those with intellectual disabilities enjoy meaningful lives in supportive communities



YKACL Programs

Over the years, YKACL has introduced a number of programs increasing the participation of people with intellectual disabilities in community life.

Current programs include:



EmployABILITY

The EmployABILITY Program assists individuals with a self-identified disability to obtain employment by providing assessment, assistance with accessing training and education, resume writing, job search skills, career development assistance, job coaching and pre-employment training. EmployABILITY is funded by Human Resources Skills Development Canada.

The Family Project

The Family Project, funded by Social Development Canada's Community Inclusion Initiative, researches community needs, consults with families, and develops programs and services to meet the needs of families supporting a family member with a disability. The Project works towards developing community understanding, acceptance, and inclusion of persons with disabilities by providing information and education.



Literacy Outreach Program

The Literacy Outreach Program is offered in partnership with Aurora College and provides inclusive community-based literacy skill training to a diverse group of adult learners who have low literacy levels.



YKACL Programs



Living and Learning with FASD Project

Funded by Health Canada, the Living and Learning with FASD Project works with children and their parents who are affected by FASD. The program also provides community education and support to women who may be at risk of consuming alcohol during pregnancy.

Respite Service

The Respite Service provides support to individuals with disabilities and their families by facilitating a break for both the family and the individual with a disability. The service is available to those with any disability and to both children and adults. The service is funded by the Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Health and Social Services.



Skills Training and Inclusion Programs

The Skills Training and Inclusion Program, funded by the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority, provides employment, life skill training and community inclusion activities for adults with intellectual disabilities through the Summer Café and Catering Service and through Business Services.

Supported Independent Living Program and SIL Residence

Funded by the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority, the Supported Independent Living Program and SIL Residence provides life skills support and inclusionary activities for adults with intellectual disabilities who choose to live in their own home. The residential component is staffed 24 hours a day for three adults requiring more supervision and support.





Community Inclusion Initiative

Background

Seven years ago the Canadian Association for Community Living, of which the Yellowknife Association is a member, began a process of identifying and acting upon what was needed to fully include people with intellectual disabilities in their communities. Through the Community Inclusion Initiative, Social Development Canada has provided three million dollars annually to promote inclusion. These funds are shared amongst provincial and territorial Community Living Associations. The initiative reaches into all 13 provinces and territories and more than 600 communities across Canada. It has resulted in multiple partnerships between the national and provincial/territorial Associations for Community Living, government and community organizations, and other disability and family related organizations. It has directly involved thousands of individuals with disabilities and their families.

Impact in the NWT

The Yellowknife Association for Community Living has received \$80,000 a year for seven years to increase the community inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities and their families and to build community capacity for inclusion.

What our Association has learned through consulting with families and developing partnerships is being shared with and implemented by other organizations. Our projects have included: Employment Support, the Fort Rae Disability Project, Education, the Pamiqsiut Association for Community Living, the Respite Service, and a number of workshops for people with disabilities, parents, professionals, direct service providers and the general public.

What is Community Inclusion?

Community Inclusion means having the ability to participate fully, to contribute to one's community to the fullest extent desired, and to have value attached to your participation and contribution.

Another word for inclusion is belonging. Belonging means being accepted, welcomed and valued no matter what your abilities.

Barriers to inclusion still remain deeply rooted in community and government systems, in legislation, and in organizational policies and practices. Inclusion will occur when these larger systemic issues are addressed.

By systems we mean the organizations, their rules and regulations, and their funding arrangements about who gets what. Examples of these systems include social services, education, health care, employment, family supports, and recreational and social activities.

Sharing our Learnings

Employment Support

In 1998, YKACL opened a storefront office offering employment support to people with intellectual disabilities. Employers learned of the benefits of employing people with intellectual disabilities. Many people with disabilities experienced being paid for their work for the first time. They experienced increased self-esteem; increased sense of accomplishment and responsibility; and felt included in the workforce and in their community.

Over the next few years the Association met with other agencies providing services to people with disabilities. In 2003, YKACL, with the support of these agencies, received funding through Human Resources Development Canada and opened an office providing employment support to people with a self-identified disability. Our EmployABILITY program is now funded by Human Resources Skills Development Canada and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and supports approximately 60 individuals each month. The North Slave Employment Program, which provides service in the Dogrib communities of Rae Edzo, Wha Ti, Gameti, and Wekweti fits under the umbrella of the Association through a sub-contract with the NWT Council of Persons with Disabilities. YKACL has acted as a resource for other NWT communities establishing employment programs for persons with disabilities.

The Association continues to work collaboratively with the employment system including Human Resources Skills Development Canada; the Department of Education, Culture and Employment; the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce; employers; and post secondary education and training facilities to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities.



Julie's Story

"I'm included in my community because I got offered a job at A&W. I am so excited because I will earn money and I can show how valuable I am as an employee. I have my own uniform and that helps show that I can have a job and do a good job. I feel like I belong because I go shopping, go to the movies and can safely walk around town. Knowing that I can do these things makes me feel proud. If I couldn't, it would make me feel mad because I really enjoy the freedom of being able to earn my own money and hang out with my friends."

Pamiqsaiji Association for Community Living

With funding from the inclusion project, the Yellowknife Association for Community Living supported the development of an Association for Community Living in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. Two workshops were held in Rankin Inlet to discuss the goals and objectives of the prospective Association, ways to include community stakeholders, and understanding the ways in which the community was naturally supporting those with disabilities. The Pamiqsaiji Association for Community Living was formed and registered in 2001.



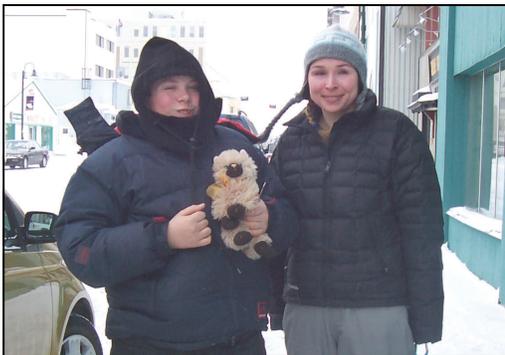
Sharing our Learnings

Respite

In 2002, the Yellowknife Association for Community Living began meeting regularly with families supporting a member with a disability, representatives of the NWT Council of Persons with Disabilities, the Centre for Northern Families, and government officials to develop an action plan to address the need for respite services. The Association hired a Family Coordinator to provide support to this committee. Research was conducted to determine what models of respite services were available across Canada and to determine appropriate service for Yellowknife and other NWT communities. The Department of Health and Social Services provided funding for a focus group in 2003 so the Committee could obtain further input from families.

The Committee continued to collaborate with the Department of Health and Social Services and in August 2003 funding was approved by the Department for a pilot Respite Service in Yellowknife. A Respite Service Coordinator was hired and YKACL began providing respite services to families in December 2003.

An evaluation of the program was completed in September 2005 by the Department of Health and Social Services. The Association collaborated with the Department to address the recommendations from that evaluation and the Service is currently supporting approximately 28 families. YKACL plans to work with the Department to determine a model for respite services for other NWT communities.



Andrew's Story

“My son is autistic, very bright, but quite challenged in social situations. The way to change this is, of course, to immerse him in as many social situations as possible. However, as a Mom, it is difficult to watch your child struggle through those social situations. Respite allows me to immerse my son in even more social situations through swimming, bowling, and other recreational opportunities, that benefit Andrew, and enable him to develop close relationships with someone other than his family. His respite workers become part of his social context for learning and it has been a great experience for all of us.”

Fort Rae Disability Project

The Yellowknife Association for Community Living worked with the Fort Rae Disability Committee. In 1998 the Association, under the direction of the committee, hired two staff from Fort Rae to work with adults with intellectual disabilities in the Fort Rae Friendship Centre. Up to six adults attended the program which included living at a summer camp and duck hunting, learning basic literacy skills, being paid for snow shovelling, and participating in the community caribou hunt. The committee developed a partnership with the Dogrib Band which provided up to \$40,000 for three years to support the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities.

In 1999 the Fort Rae Disability Committee registered as a non-profit society. A community workshop was held to discuss the work of the inclusion project in Rae and to plan for the future. In 2000 the Fort Rae Disability Committee began to manage its own finances and employees and became independent of the Yellowknife Association and the Community Inclusion Initiative funding.

Sharing our Learnings

Education

The Yellowknife Association for Community Living has provided basic literacy training to the participants of its Skills Training and Inclusion Program throughout the history of the program. In 1996 the Association partnered with Aurora College to operate the Literacy Outreach Centre. This program offers basic literacy support to people with or without disabilities in a classroom located at Aurora College. The funding for the Centre is now separate from the inclusion funding.

In 2000 YKACL delivered workshops in the Fort Rae elementary school and two elementary schools in Yellowknife to encourage young students to welcome and include their peers with disabilities.

Since 2001, the Association has sponsored workshops for parents providing information on the school system and how to work with educators. The inclusion project provides advocacy and support for parents in Yellowknife during meetings with school officials about the education of their children with disabilities within the Yellowknife school system.

In January 2005, the Association sponsored an Inclusive Education Forum attended by parents, educators, government officials and community agencies. The recommendations resulting from the forum were shared with ECE, and the Department assured YKACL that those recommendations would be considered in its strategic plan. Recommendations are being acted upon by the Association and its partners. These include the Association's involvement in a community group working towards the development of an inclusive child and family community resource centre. Another recommendation was the need to provide advocacy and communication training for parents. In conjunction with the NWT Teachers Association Conference, YKACL sponsored a Communication Workshop for parents and educators in February 2006.

My Story

“This year at school is going good. I am really learning and I am learning at my grade level with the rest of my class. No one in my class knows I used to feel stupid and was in a special class when I lived down south. I feel smart now and they treat me like I am smart. I've got friends which is great because I never had that before because I had to travel to my special class in the city. I am passing and getting real, not modified marks. I am now popular and I'm on the basketball team. When I was in the special class before, I got less gym time than the kids in the regular classes. I don't think that was fair. Now I feel like the teachers at school know I sometimes like to talk a lot but that's okay. I am not a behaviour problem. I am happy, I like basketball and I like my friends. I am glad we moved back to Yellowknife.”





Sharing our Learnings

Family Project

In 2002 the focus of the inclusion initiative turned to families. The Yellowknife Association for Community Living consulted with families supporting a member with a disability to determine their concerns and priorities. We identified current family services and shared this information. We formed a Community Advisory Committee with representation from families, city and territorial governments, and community agencies with an interest in disability issues. Leadership was provided by the Association's volunteer Board of Directors.

Families told us that respite, education, inclusive social and recreation opportunities, accessible transportation, accessible housing, and educational workshops were identified as areas of concern, with respite being identified as the top priority.

Since 2003 YKACL has sponsored workshops for people with disabilities, parents, professionals, direct service providers, and the general public on: Will and Estate Planning, Income Tax Child Disability Benefits, and Relationships and Sexuality. The Family Project was instrumental in encouraging and supporting families to participate in the GNWT Department of Education, Culture and Employment's Strategic Planning Consultation process. We have also participated in the planning process for a Congenital Anomaly Registry in the NWT, sponsored by the GNWT Department of Health and Social Services. We have worked to build a resource library and our web site to provide information to families and we have supported families advocating for services.

Through collaborating and advocating with parents and other disability-related organizations, we have been successful in having the City of Yellowknife dedicate funds in their 2005-2006 fiscal year budget for an accessible transportation system. The system began providing service in September, 2005. Our Association is involved in on-going discussion and advocacy for increased barrier-free housing. Our partnerships have resulted in the formation of a working group which has developed a common vision for an inclusive child and family community resource centre and work is proceeding to obtain research funding.

What our Association has learned through consulting with families and developing partnerships is being shared with, and implemented by, other organizations. An example of this is our ongoing consultations with ECE in its review of income support programs in the NWT.



Jack's Story

Raising a son with Down's Syndrome is not at all how we thought it would be. It's been a wonderful experience. He's unique, he's special and he brings joy to everyone. He's taught us about judgment... he's so accepting of everyone, so why wouldn't everyone accept him. He's taught us about ourselves... we don't take as much for granted now. We feel fortunate that we live in Yellowknife. We have a friend in Cambridge Bay who has a child with Down's Syndrome and it makes us realize our family is so lucky to live here because we have access to programs such as Early Intervention and the Respite Service. As for the future, we know there'll be no limitations put on Jack. The sky is the limit.

Sharing our Learnings

NWT Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities

In May 2001, the premier of the Northwest Territories formed the Disability Steering Committee Partnership and asked that the partnership develop an interdisciplinary and multidimensional framework to guide the development of effective programs and services, and to promote the full inclusion of persons with disabilities throughout the NWT.

The partnership has representation from the Northwest Territories Government, non-governmental organizations and Aboriginal organizations.

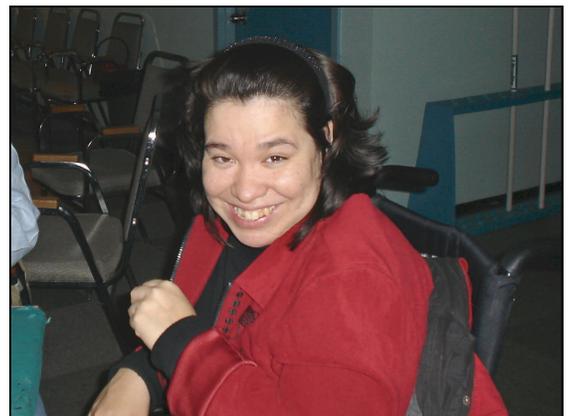
Five priority areas were identified:

1. **Education:** Ensure that barrier-free lifelong learning opportunities that maximize the potential of individuals with disabilities are realized.
2. **Employment:** Enhance the employability of persons with disabilities, encourage (re)entry into the labour market and support more work opportunities.
3. **Income:** Design a system that is responsive to the needs of persons with disabilities and provides for an income safety net which rewards individual work efforts to the greatest extent possible, but which provides financial assistance if self-support is impossible or insufficient.
4. **Disability Supports:** Ensure that disability supports provide for active participation at home, at school and in the community, and that maximize personal and economic independence.
5. **Housing:** Ensure that persons with disabilities will be provided with a range of housing options that are affordable, accessible and that maximize independence.

Since November 2002, the Minister Responsible for Persons with Disabilities and the Department of Health and Social Services have taken a leadership role in developing this NWT Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities in partnership with the Disability Steering Committee. The “NWT Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities” was published in September 2004. The partnership recognizes the need to evaluate the progress made on the provision of programs and services for persons with disabilities and meets on a semi-annual basis.

Judy's Story

“I work at EmployABILITY. Shredding is my job. I get paid and get to buy new clothes. I'm a big fan of fashion. It makes me feel really good and it makes me feel pretty. I also love to go swimming. The staff at the pool are really nice to me. I also love bowling, movies at the theatre, participating in Special Olympics and going for coffee with friends. I would like to get married someday if the right guy comes along. Right now I'm trying to get an apartment but it's been really hard to find an accessible apartment. Because I use a wheelchair, I need a special tub, wide doorways, ramps and an elevator. It's hard to find a place like that.”





Sharing our Learnings

Engaging Communities

In September, 2005, the Yellowknife Association for Community Living invited families and organizations from across the Northwest Territories to several consultations to discuss the state of inclusion in the Northwest Territories. The goal of the consultations was to identify local, territorial and national systems and practices that affect the inclusion of people with disabilities, their families, and their communities. This was accomplished by:

1. Bringing people with disabilities, families supporting a member with a disability, representatives of service organizations and community leaders together;
2. Sharing our experiences and stories about inclusion and exclusion;
3. Sharing our successes in bringing about change and innovation for inclusion through sharing information, building partnerships, providing leadership and strategic planning;
4. Identifying areas of concern and the systems and practices that affect those areas.

In holding this community consultation, our intent was to provide an opportunity for people to share their personal stories and experiences of inclusion or exclusion. By drawing upon these stories we were able to identify priorities for system policy and practice change to combat exclusion and advance community inclusion in the Northwest Territories. As our Association influences systems here in Yellowknife, it also influences how those systems interact with other communities in the NWT and across Canada. The process revealed the following areas as the top three priorities:

- 1. Social/Recreational**
- 2. Education**
- 3. Family Support**

In November 2005, the National Community Inclusion Initiative partners met to present and discuss the identified provincial and territorial priorities. Based on this information, the national sector priorities were determined. The identification of a national list of priority sectors will ensure that our efforts are focused and maximize impacts on each of these areas from a national perspective. The national priority sectors are as follows:

- 1. Employment**
- 2. Disability Supports**
- 3. Education**
- 4. Deinstitutionalization**
- 5. Housing**
- 6. Income**

The overarching goal of this national initiative is to promote citizenship engagement in development and implementation of public policies, practices, and community systems to strengthen and sustain the capacities of local communities to become fully inclusive of people with intellectual disabilities and their families. Through the fostering of partnerships and listening to families, the focus of the Family Project for the 2006-2008 fiscal years is to ensure adequate supports for people with intellectual disabilities to experience full social and recreational inclusion; transition planning to and from the education system; and increase family supports including a range of supported independent living options and ensuring the sustainability of the Respite Service.



Northwest Territories Resources – Non-Government

Alison McAteer House Phone: (867)873-5811

YWCA crisis shelter offering a safe place for abused women and children and support and counseling programs.

Autism NWT – www.autismnwt.com Phone: (867) 873-5747

Support Group for those with autism and their families, library of educational resources available for loan across the NWT.

Bosco Homes – Territorial Treatment Centre - www.boscohomes.ca Phone: (867) 920-4626

Residential treatment, crisis intervention, assessment for children experiencing social, emotional, behavioural difficulties.

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association – Yellowknife Branch Phone: (867) 873-4735

Volunteer-run support group. Promotion of public awareness and promotion of self-help among the hard of hearing.

Canadian National Institute for the Blind - Yellowknife Office Phone: (867) 873-2647

CNIB's Vision: A world of independence and equality for people who are blind or visually impaired.

Centre for Northern Families Phone: (867) 873-2566

Emergency housing, advocacy, pre/postnatal program, family support program, drop-in clothes depot, support counselling.

Learning Disabilities Association of the NWT - www.nald.ca/ldanwt.htm Phone: (867) 873-6378

Offers resource information and workshops as well as advocacy for children and adults with learning disabilities.

NWT Council of Persons with Disabilities – www.nwtability.ca Phone: (867) 873-8230 or 1-800-491-8885

Their mission is to achieve self-determination and full citizenship for persons with disabilities.

NWT Human Rights Commission – www.nwthumanrights.ca Phone: (867) 669-5575 or 1-888-669-5575

An independent agency that administers the NWT Human Rights Act and deals with complaints of discrimination.

NWT Literacy Council - www.nwt.literacy.ca Phone: (867) 873-9262

A territorial organization that promotes and supports literacy in all the official languages of the NWT.

NWT Seniors Society – www.nwtseniorssociety.ca Phone: (867) 920-7444

The society provides information and acts as a resource for seniors and elders across the NWT.

Salvation Army NWT Resource Centre - <http://ab.salvationarmy.ca/yellowknife/addictions.html> Phone: (867) 920-4673

Provides a healing atmosphere which enables men to take responsibility for all aspects their lives.

YWCA Phone: (867) 920-2777

Support for adults with developmental disabilities and adults with chronic psychiatric illnesses.

Yellowknife Association for Community Living - www.ykacl.ca Phone: (867) 920-2644

Assists people with intellectual disabilities and their families to enjoy meaningful lives in supportive communities.

EmployABILITY Phone: (867) 873-3560

Family Project Phone: (867) 766-4294

Literacy Outreach Program Phone: (867) 920-3016

Living and Learning with FASD Project Phone: (867) 973-9069

Respite Service Phone: (867) 766-4295

Skills Training and Inclusion Program Phone: (867) 873-2218

Supported Independent Living Program and SIL Residence Phone: (867) 873-9061

Yellowknife Foster Family Association - www.theedge.ca/yffa Phone: (867) 920-7160

Support for foster families through support groups, newsletters, recreational activities, resources and advocacy.



Northwest Territories Resources – Government

Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority - www.gov.nt.ca/agendas/health/index.html Phone: (867) 777-8146
Serves Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Holman, Inuvik, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, Tsiigehtchic and Tuktoyaktuk.

Deh Cho Health and Social Services Authority - www.gov.nt.ca/agendas/health/index.html Phone: (867) 695-3815
Serves Fort Liard, Fort Providence, Fort Simpson, Hay River Reserve, Jean Marie River, Kakisa, Nahanni Butte, Trout Lake and Wrigley.

Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority - www.gov.nt.ca/agendas/health/index.html Phone: (867) 872-6200
Serves Fort Smith.

Hay River Health and Social Services Authority - www.gov.nt.ca/agendas/health/index.html Phone: (867) 874-7115
Serves Hay River and Enterprise.

Sahtu Health and Social Services Authority - www.gov.nt.ca/agendas/health/index.html Phone: (867) 587-3439
Serves Colville Lake, Deline, Fort Good Hope, Norman Wells and Tulita.

Stanton Territorial Health Authority - www.srhb.org Phone: (867) 669-4224
Stanton Territorial Hospital is the major referral centre for the Northwest Territories and the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut and is administered by the Stanton Territorial Health Authority.

Occupational Therapy Phone: (867) 669-4340

Speech Therapy Phone: (867) 669-3130

Tlcho Community Services Agency - www.gov.nt.ca/agendas/health/index.html Phone: (867) 392-3000
Serves Behchoko (Rae Edzo), Gamèti (Rae Lakes), Wekweëti (Snare Lake) and Whatì (Lac La Martre).

Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority - www.yhssa.org Phone: (867) 873-7276
Serves Yellowknife, N'Dilo, Dettah, Lutsel K'e, and Fort Resolution.

Child and Family Services Phone: (867) 920-6522

Family Counselling Services Phone: (867) 920-6522

Healthy Family Program Phone: (867) 873-7412

Homecare Phone: (867) 920-3338

New Horizons Centre Phone: (867) 920-3233

Office of the Public Guardian, GNWT Health and Social Services Dept.

www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca/Features/Programs_and_Services/public_guardian/public_guardian.asp Phone (867) 920-8029

Facilitates the court appointment of a family member, friend or the Public Guardian to make decisions for people who are unable to. Contact the office for a list of public guardian regional representatives.

Office of the Public Trustee, GNWT Dept. of Justice - www.justice.gov.nt.ca/PublicTrustee/publictrustee.htm

Phone: (867) 873-7464 or 1-866-535-0423

Handles financial affairs of a person deemed incapable by a doctor under the Mental Health Act, or by the Supreme Court under the Guardianship and Trusteeship Act.



Mary's Story

“I live in Dorset Apartments. It makes me feel good to have my own place and it has allowed me to make friends with my neighbours. I help them out when they need it. Neighbours and friends help each other. I like to be able to invite people over for tea. I couldn't do that if I didn't have my own place. That would be impossible. It's important in the North Slavey culture to be able to invite people into our homes and offer them our hospitality. It makes me feel good to do things for other people. In return, people are nice to you back. That's what being part of the community is all about.”



National Resources

Access to Entertainment - www.access2.ca

The Access 2 Entertainment card allows persons with a disability to receive either free admission or a significant discount for their support person at member movie theatres across Canada.

CICA Network - www.communityinclusion.ca

Community Inclusion is about making more people aware of the benefits of including all people in community; about helping families and persons with disabilities speak for themselves.

Canada Benefits - www.canadabenefits.gc.ca

Answers questions and provides a personalized list of benefits for which you may be eligible.

Canadian Association for Community Living - www.cacl.ca

A Canada-wide association of family members and others working for the benefit of persons of all ages who have an intellectual disability.

Disability Travel Card - www.easterseals.ca

The Easter Seals and March of Dimes National Council offer reduced fare tickets allowing persons with permanent disabilities to travel with an attendant on the lines of participating Motor Coach Companies and Via Rail at reduced rates.

Disability Weblinks - www.disabilityweblinks.ca

Programs, services and contacts across Canada. Undertaken by Canada's Federal, Provincial and Territorial Governments.

Office for Disability Issues - www.sdc.ca

The Office for Disability Issues (ODI) is the focal point within the Government of Canada for key partners working to promote the full participation of Canadians with disabilities.

People First - www.peoplefirstofcanada.ca

Exists to support people who have been labelled to speak for themselves and to help each other, and to help make sure that what people who have been labelled have to say is heard.

Persons With Disabilities Online - www.pwd-online.ca

A site where persons with disabilities, their family members, caregivers and service providers can access a full range of information on disability-related programs and services in Canada.

Roehrer Institute - www.roehrer.ca

Its mission is to generate knowledge, information and skills to secure the inclusion, citizenship, human rights and equality of people with intellectual and other disabilities.

Vocational and Rehabilitation Research Institute (VRRRI) - www.vrri.org

VRRRI is a non-profit, research and service agency offering employment, community living, education and recreation services.

Lorraine's Story

"I feel at home in my community. People are nice and they help me out. That's why I moved here... to get help so I can be independent and strong. I get lots of help here. Just because I need help doesn't mean I can't help myself though. My favourite part of being a member of this community is knowing that I have rights and that I can make my own decisions. Almost everybody I meet in my city, I can call a friend. Everybody likes me. It makes me feel that there's lots of love in this world."





Yellowknife Association for Community Living

4912 - 53rd Street,
P.O. Box 981,
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N7

Phone: (867) 873-3749

Fax: (867) 920-2348

E-mail: info@ykacl.ca

Website: www.ykacl.ca

EmployABILITY - Phone: (867) 873-3560 E-mail: employability@ykacl.ca

Family Project - Phone: (867)766-4294 E-mail: inclusion@ykacl.ca

Literacy Outreach Centre - Phone: (867) 920-3016 E-mail: programs@ykacl.ca

Living and Learning with FASD Project - Phone: (867) 873-9069 E-mail: fasd@ykacl.ca

Respite Service - Phone: (867)766-4295 E-mail: respite@ykacl.ca

Skills Training and Inclusion - Phone: (867) 873-2218 E-mail: summercafe@ykacl.ca

Supported Independent Living/Residence - Phone: (867) 9873-9061 E-mail: sil@ykacl.ca

Guided by the statement of beliefs, our Board of Directors creates the mission and monitors how well the Association is working in its achievement. The board establishes goals and actions through strategic planning. At the monthly meetings board members provide insight and direction to the Executive Director of the Association, review the progress of programs, explore advocacy opportunities, and plan for the future.

If you are interested in volunteering for our Board, assisting with fundraising, participating on one of our committees or helping out with community inclusion activities, please contact us and let us know how you'd like to help.