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The Magazine of Disability Alliance BC

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inside

featured articles

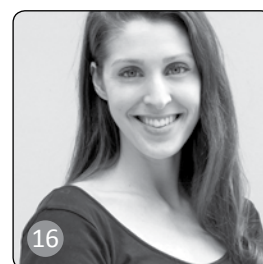
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editorial

| by Jane Dyson

The Whole is Greater than the Sum of its Parts

In this issue of Transition, you will hear from some of the groups DABC works closely with. Working in partnership with other community organizations and agencies means that we can help more people with disabilities to access programs and services. We can accomplish so much more if we work together than if we work in isolation.

BC's not-for-profit sector is large and diverse. Some disability organizations are bigger than DABC, others are smaller. We have different mandates and take different positions on issues.

We may focus on systemic advocacy or direct services, mounting legal challenges, or on a combination of both, but we really all have one thing in common. The purpose of our work—our very existence—is to help people with disabilities live better, more dignified and independent lives.

Some of DABC's community partnerships are formalized arrange-

We may focus on systemic advocacy or direct services, mounting legal challenges, or on a combination of both, but we really all have one thing in common. The purpose of our work—our very existence—is to help people with disabilities live better, more dignified and independent lives.

ments, such as our Access RDSP Program. The three organizations in this partnership—DABC, Plan Institute, and the BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS)—provide a range of complementary services to achieve a common goal: increase the number of British Columbians who have a Registered Disability Savings Plan.

Our other partnerships are more fluid, such as our relationship with the Community Legal Assistance Society (CLAS) and Inclusion BC. We learn from each other through workshops and meetings, and through sharing ideas on how to best assist clients to navigate access to programs and services.

Over the years, we have partnered with Inclusion BC, CLAS, Canadian Mental Health (BC Division), and SPARC BC to speak out about BC's

inadequate provincial disability assistance rates. We have also worked closely with these groups to highlight our concerns about regulations and policy governing provincial disability programs by participating on government/stakeholder committees such as the Supporting Increased Participation (SIP) table.

DABC also participates on the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, a group comprised of a broad range of not-for-profit agencies, faith-based organizations, unions and coalitions working together to convince the province to implement a poverty reduction plan.

The Right Fit Pilot Project is a partnership we began in February 2017. This project brings together not-for-profit partners (Individualized Funding Resource Centre) and participants from other sectors including BC Housing, the Ministry

of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Vancouver Coastal Health, Fraser Health, and the City of Vancouver to work together to help wheelchair-users obtain accessible housing.

Our goal is to change the way wheelchair accessible housing is provided so that people with disabilities can access appropriate housing as quickly and efficiently as possible. The Right Fit would not be possible without all of these partners working together towards a common goal.

Through our Advocacy Access Program, we provide referrals to other organizations that provide assistance with services that we do not help with. This includes referrals to the wonderful Quest Food Exchange that provides food and other items to people experiencing food security challenges.

We have also worked closely for years with Access Pro Bono to facilitate free legal clinics at DABC for people living on low incomes.

We provide capacity-building workshops on provincial and federal disability (CPP-D), and the RDSP to other organizations across BC so that they can assist more people.

And whenever there is a significant change to provincial or federally provided supports for people with disabilities, we provide community updates to hundreds of groups across BC so that they remain cur-

But, even in a competitive funding environment, we support each other by agreeing to act as references for each other's grant applications, by writing support letters, or by providing in-kind support on projects.

rent on regulations or policies that may impact their clients.

It is true that not-for-profits frequently find themselves competing for a finite pool of funding opportunities. Indeed, it is a constant struggle to access funding for our new ideas and projects, and for our more established programs.

But, even in a competitive funding environment, we support each other by agreeing to act as references for each other's grant applications, by writing support letters, or by providing in-kind support on projects.

Our community as a whole is certainly greater than the sum of its parts. DABC is so grateful to all our community partners for everything they help us with. We look forward to many more years working together.

JANE DYSON IS DABC'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. 

ABOUT TRANSITION

Editorial Statement

The views and opinions expressed within the pages of Transition are not necessarily those held by the total membership or Board of Directors. The material presented is meant to be thought-provoking and to promote dialogue.

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Partners Against Poverty

How a powerful new community alliance for disability rights came together to fight poverty. | BY FAITH BODNAR

Faith Bodnar delivering signed petitions to “Raise the rates, leave our bus pass alone” to the legislature

In 2012, the Canadian Survey on Disability found that more than one in seven British Columbians with disabilities lived in poverty, while one in three British Columbians with intellectual disabilities lived in poverty.

The report was consistent with growing concerns about the depth of poverty experienced by people with disabilities. It was time for action.

In 2012, Inclusion BC joined Disability Alliance BC (DABC), the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA-BC), Social Planning and Research Council (SPARC) and the Community Legal Assistance Society (CLAS) to launch a powerful new report, *Overdue: The Case of Increasing the Persons with Disability (PWD) Benefit in BC* (<https://tinyurl.com/ycupwvkh>).

The report described the growing crisis of poverty, as BC’s cost of living continued to rise while provincial PWD rates remained virtually frozen. It urged government to increase PWD rates to \$1,200/month, with future indexing to inflation and a new shelter assistance program.

The BC government responded to this unprecedented partnership by establishing a new advisory body, the Supporting Increased Participation (SIP) group. DABC, Inclusion BC and other disability advocates on

the SIP group worked with government to design meaningful policy changes that improved income stability for people with disabilities, including significantly higher income and asset limits for people receiving PWD benefits.

New partners, such as the BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS), were invited to broaden the range of community voices.

As the partnerships strengthened, other initiatives emerged, including the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) Action Group, the Minister’s Council on Employment and Accessibility and a government-wide commitment to remove barriers facing people with disabilities under BC’s Accessibility 2024 initiative (<https://tinyurl.com/y7qus3nz>).

PWD rates remained frozen however and, when a \$77 increase to PWD rates in 2016 was largely “clawed back” by new bus pass fees, Inclusion BC launched a petition (<https://tinyurl.com/j4beh3h>) and joined a broader coalition of anti-poverty and disability advocates who took to the streets in protest.

Despite initial resistance, the BC Liberal government eventually raised PWD rates by \$50/month and the newly elected NDP government raised it again by \$100. This fall, the new government also announced a new \$52/month transportation supplement.

Driving change is never easy, especially when many are happy with the status quo. Building political will for change requires broad public understanding and support. When many speak up together, voices are more likely to be heard.

When our message reflects broader community values, we're more likely to find support. And when we offer political leaders strong incentives for change (and disincentives for inaction), we are more likely to achieve results.

Community alliances are effective for mustering the political will to drive change. But such partnerships are not easy to forge or maintain due to different operating styles, mandates and priorities. To overcome differences, partners need to invest time, effort and patience, while parking egos and accepting compromise, in order to build a

strong sense of common purpose, trust and mutual respect.

It's important to understand and welcome the capacity of others to do the things that we can't do and to know when to lead and when to stand back and support others. Working with partners like DABC and BCANDS means we don't have to be experts in everything. We can rely on their areas of expertise and focus our own resources where they can be most effective.

Much work remains to achieve income security for British Columbians with disabilities, and Inclusion BC is committed to working in partnership with others on the long road ahead.

There needs to be intentionality in building these relationships, and trust, not just with the other organizations but with the individuals within them. Our goal is to work seamlessly with our partners, and to continue building common ground and a sense of shared purpose in advancing issues like income security, inclusion and disability rights.

FAITH BODNAR IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF INCLUSION BC. INCLUSION BC IS A PROVINCIAL FEDERATION WORKING WITH PARTNERS TO BUILD COMMUNITY AND TO ENHANCE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND THEIR FAMILIES. T



Working with partners like DABC and BCANDS means we don't have to be experts in everything. We can rely on their areas of expertise and focus our own resources where they can be most effective.

DABC's Annual Gala

DABC's October 4th Fall Fling gala at Vancouver's Italian Cultural Centre was our best yet!

We are thrilled that more people than ever came out to support our work and have some fun.

As you can see from these photos, a very good time was had by all, helped along by our exceptional hosts CBC's **Stephen Quinn** and entertainer **David C. Jones**.

And a big thank you to our musical guests, **Teapot in the Tuba**.

Thank you to all of our fabulous sponsors, and to all our volunteers and staff who worked so hard to make our Fall Fling possible.

We were honoured to welcome back many old friends and host some new ones including **TransLink CEO Kevin Desmond** and his team, and **ICBC's Kath Parslow** and her colleagues.

Thank you also to **Vancouver City Councillors Andrea Reimer** and

Raymond Louie, who come out to support us every year.


Thank you to everyone who bought a table for our event, there are too many to mention, but special thanks goes to **Ruth Marzetti** and our friends at **BC Association For Individualized Technology and Supports For People With Disabilities**, **Paul Gauthier** and the **Individualized Funding Resource Centre** team, **Tim Ames** and the fabulous **Plan Institute** team and **Linda McGowan** and **MVT**.

And it was lovely to welcome **Bill Tieleman** and his wife **Shirley Ross**, and **Ben Doyle** from the **Trial Lawyers Association**.

Congratulations to our **Employee of the Year Award** winner **James Cooper** from **Mr. Mikes Steakhouse Casual** and to our **Employer of the Year Award** winner **First West Credit Union (Langley)**. We were so pleased to meet you and give you these very well deserved awards.

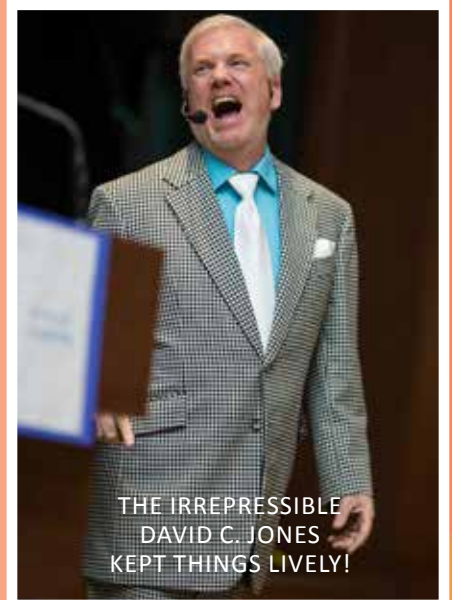
And congratulations to our **Air Canada raffle ticket** winner **Lyndsey** from **Sodexo**!

It was a fabulous night and, yes, we're already working on next year's gala.

Fall Fling 2018 will be on September 27th at the Italian Cultural Centre. We'll be bringing back some of our old favourites—yes, the much-loved quiz game—and trying out some new ideas. See you there! 



STEPHEN QUINN WAS OUR ELEGANT, WRY HOST FOR THE EVENING



THE IRREPRESSIBLE DAVID C. JONES KEPT THINGS LIVELY!

Thank you to our photographers Saloome Motavas and Eric Saczuk.

motavas.photography@gmail.com





A Community Partnership in Action

| BY EVELYN HUNTJENS

Access RDSP is a great example of the power of community partnership. With the support of the Vancouver Foundation, Access RDSP was launched in 2016 and a new provincial initiative was created between the BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS), Disability Alliance BC (DABC) and Plan Institute.

This initiative began because fewer British Columbians than expected were opening Registered Disability Savings Plans (RDSPs).

There are still almost 45,000 people with disabilities who have the Disability Tax Credit and may qualify for an RDSP, but are not signed up. Access RDSP was designed to reach this population.

We are doing this by providing one-on-one support to navigate the requirements to receive the RDSP. Our goal is to one day see every eligible individual in BC and the rest of Canada hold an RDSP.

Vancouver Foundation shifted resources to our organizations

that work directly with people with disabilities when they helped create the Access RDSP program. This allowed us to share resources and participate in joint activities. We're seeing stronger communities develop through this partnership as we create greater connections, networks and more trust with the populations we are reaching.

By relying more on organizations that actually work with the community, the Vancouver Foundation is able to help hard-to-reach people in our communities. By partnering with our three organizations, the Foundation can capitalize on our strengths and together we can achieve the goals we could not achieve independently.

Access RDSP is a coalition of partners that complement each other and provide a diverse environment. We work remotely and locally within our communities to support individuals and their families to be successful in opening an RDSP.

We have developed a meaningful relationship with each other.

Access RDSP has developed a shared understanding of the gaps that exist with the requirements to


There are still almost 45,000 people with disabilities who have the Disability Tax Credit and may qualify for a RDSP, but are not signed up.

open an RDSP. We are better able to understand the systems we are working in and the barriers that we need to help our client's overcome.

"Access RDSP is a unique partnership that is making real change for people with disabilities in BC," said Norah Flaherty, chair of the RDSP Action Group. The RDSP Action Group is a provincial advisory committee that includes community leaders who want to increase awareness and uptake of the RDSP program.

Community partnerships like Access RDSP strengthen the social, mental and physical health of our community. This collaboration is a locally-generated, community-wide process that has allowed us to increase our clients' success in receiving an RDSP and support their families and communities.

EVELYN HUNTJENS IS AN RDSP NAVIGATOR WITH THE BC ABORIGINAL NETWORK ON DISABILITY SOCIETY.

PLEASE SEE PAGE 21 FOR ALL ACCESS RDSP PARTNERS' CONTACT INFORMATION. 

Tax Filing

Our Tax AID DABC program provides workshops on: simple income tax filing issues for people with disabilities, common tax filing credits, options for dealing with tax debt, options for filing your income taxes, strategies for communicating with Canada Revenue Agency, and other programs that can be accessed through income tax filing.

Disability Benefits

DABC advocates provide workshops on provincial disability benefits: Persons with Disabilities (PWD) and Persons with Persistent and Multiple Barriers (PPMB), as well as federal disability benefits, Canada Pension Plan-Disability (CPP-D). The workshops include information about financial and medical eligibility criteria and the supplementary supports that are attached to PWD and PPMB. Each workshop can be tailored to the needs of the organization or group.

RDSP/DTC

Access RDSP advocates provide workshops on: the eligibility criteria for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC), strategies for communicating with your doctor, options if your DTC application is denied, and eligibility criteria for the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP). Other topics include: tips for communicating with your bank, information about Canada Disability Savings grants and bonds, best practices for maximizing RDSP benefits, and accessing the Endowment 150 grant.

Emergency Planning and Preparedness


DABC offers workshops to businesses, provincial and local governments, and community organizations on how to create emergency plans that include people with disabilities and seniors. These workshops may be provided at no cost, when funding is available.

CMIST and the Functional Needs Framework

CMIST stands for the following needs: Communication, Medical, Functional Independence, Supervision and Support, and Transportation. This approach to emergency planning and response offers a different way to consider the range of needs of the people in your local community.

The Duty to Accommodate is part of the BC Human Rights Code. You will learn what the law says about providing public services in a way that is accessible to all citizens and how to implement solutions to address accessibility.

The CMIST workshop can make your emergency planning and response more comprehensive and inclusive.

We provide half and full-day workshops (half-day workshops are offered only in Metro Vancouver). Through presentation, table top exercises and group discussions, you will gain an understanding of how disabilities impact a person's ability to respond in emergencies, and you will take away planning and response solutions you can implement to meet those needs. 



INVITE DABC TO HOST A WORKSHOP

DABC provides workshops across BC to share information on: provincial and federal disability benefits, the Registered Disability Savings Plan, Disability Tax Credit, income tax filing, and emergency preparedness.

Most of our workshops are provided free of charge, however, we ask that a minimum of ten participants be confirmed for workshops outside of Metro Vancouver.

For more information or to request a workshop, please go to: disabilityalliancebc.org/programs/workshops. Or contact Val at DABC at 604-875-0188, feedback@disabilityalliancebc.org.

The Year Behind and the Year Ahead

As 2017 closes, I would like to take this opportunity to look back at where we've come from and where we could be in 2018.

This has been an exciting year for Disability Alliance BC (DABC). We've made significant progress in some areas. I never thought we would see the changes to the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) benefit that have taken place.

We have, in coalition with like-minded organizations, successfully advocated for improvements to PWD.



The rates are still below the poverty line, but there has been movement after 10 years! People who rely on PWD have seen their options increase and, for those able to work, they can earn up to \$12,000 a year before benefits will be impacted.

We have also been able to help many people through our TAX AID Program and individual advocacy.

We had another successful fundraiser and will host another "Fall Fling" next year on September 27. We updated our bylaws to reflect the new Societies Act. We continued our work with the George Pearson Centre redevelopment, so it can be a model for inclusion for other institutions and organizations.

We worked to create a truly accessible and useable mass transit system in Vancouver, and supported advocates in other cities with their transit issues.

We are making a difference in the lives of people living with disabilities.

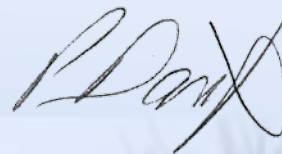
I know in the New Year there will be increased expectations and rightly so. The new \$52/month transportation supplement for people receiving PWD will be implemented in January. It's a good way to start the year.

Also, the federal accessibility legislation will be tabled in the spring and we will be part of that process. We will be part of the provincial poverty reduction consultation and advisory committee. We will continue our advocacy work and be prepared for whatever comes our way!

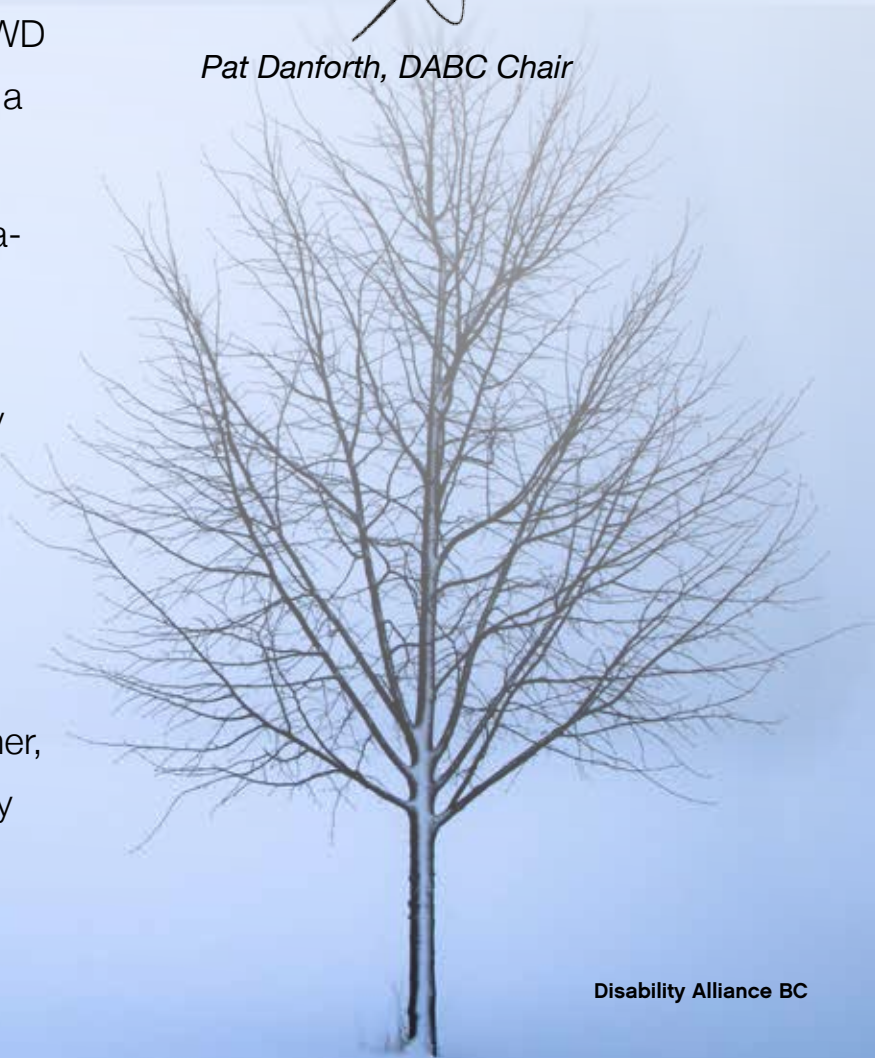
We continue to learn from each other, and our staff and volunteers are key to what we do.

On behalf of the board, I wish you all the best of the season! To all our staff and volunteers, thanks for your hard work and dedication.

Also, a special thanks goes to our Executive Director, Jane Dyson, for her leadership and vision for our organization.



Pat Danforth, DABC Chair



Sharing Visions of Leadership

In September, DABC had a unique opportunity to meet with delegates from Shanxi Disabled Persons' Federation in Shanxi province, China. We talked with Yang Lin, Li Shuwei and Zhu Feng about the work of our organizations and some of the challenges we both face in serving people with disabilities.

Shanxi province is in Western China. It has been the capital of many dynasties and may be best known as the area where the life-sized terracotta figures were excavated. It has 30 million people, with around 7% having a disability.

Jane Dyson started the meeting with some statistics on the numbers of people with disabilities in BC and Canada, descriptions of core provincial and federal programs, and community organizations in BC.

BC's Home Share model for people with developmental disabilities was a new concept to the delegation. Mr. Zhu Feng was curious about the

training home share families receive and the other community supports available to people with developmental disabilities.

One of Zhu Feng's main interests was employment and which agencies were responsible for rehabilitation and assistive devices. His organization works primarily in training, employment and rehabilitation. Their mandate is to represent people with disabilities and monitor how well government is serving them.

Jane asked about the supports available to people with disabilities who wish to work. Mr. Zhu Feng described the different types of income supports: low income support, disability support and employment programs to teach employable skills. There is also some funding for organizations that hire people with disabilities.

There is a national law that 1.5% of the workforce must be people with

There is a national law that 1.5% of the workforce must be people with disabilities. There is a penalty of increased workplace insurance, if this number isn't met.

disabilities. There is a penalty of increased workplace insurance, if this number isn't met.

Lillian Wong, one of DABC's advocates, asked if these jobs are standard jobs or "token" positions. Mr. Zhu Feng said the jobs are designed around what the person can do and the person receives the same employment benefits as other employees.

In China, disability is divided into six groups: physical, speech and hearing disabilities, visual impairments, mental disability, developmental disability and severe disability which is defined as multiple disabilities.

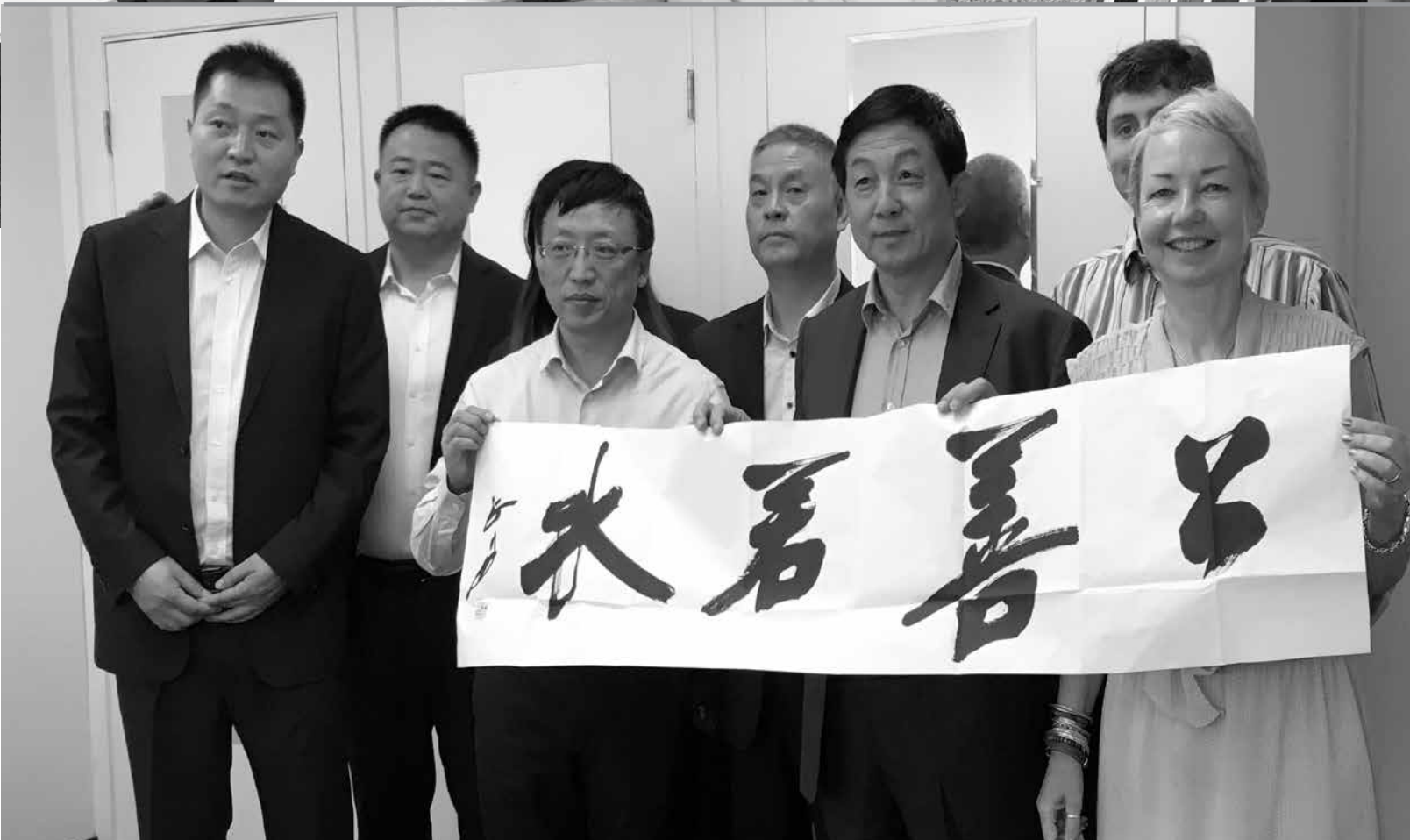
Some disability supports are quite new in China, for example, assistance animals. There are some instances where city bylaws conflict with the national laws around accommodation. But there is now a guide dog training centre and access is starting to harmonize.

After the meeting, the delegation presented Jane with a calligraphy banner and beautiful handmade bookmarks. **T**

The beautiful calligraphy banner presented to DABC is a quote by Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu about the power of good leadership. It can be translated in these ways:

"Good action is carried out naturally like water flowing from the bottom of the heart, without any expectation of pride or reward."

"The wise leader is like water that cleanses and refreshes all creatures without distinction and without judgement. Water freely and fearlessly goes deep beneath the surface of things. The leader speaks simply and honestly and intervenes in order to shed light and create harmony."



Collaboration Over Competition

| BY STEPHANIE DEBISSCHOP



At Plan Institute, we would be hard-pressed to find a single initiative we have embarked on that was not steeped in partnership, and that is something we are proud of.

When looking to create impact, we often start by asking ourselves, “What is our goal? What are we trying to achieve?” The key is to make sure to always ask, “Who else is also trying to achieve these same goals?” When we do, we quickly come to a place where we realize that collaboration holds far more power than competition. In the world of funding scarcity, the abundance of collaboration is a richness of resource that we would be remiss to overlook.

Before we partnered with Disability Alliance BC and BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society on our current Access RDSP project, we tried to go it alone.

We had been in discussion with our long-standing partners at the Vancouver Foundation to fund a project regarding increasing uptake of the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) and an RDSP incentive program called the Endowment 150 grant which they had been administering for several years.

After submitting a solo proposal to the Vancouver Foundation, we found ourselves stalled; our initial proposal did not get the traction we had expected. After a few months,

and several candid conversations, it became clear what was missing—collaboration.

The key to our proposal was meaningful partnership with like-minded organizations who were also keen to engage in this complex work. And so, a partnership was born. Our three organizations, with incredible support from the Vancouver Foundation, came together to begin work on RDSP awareness, removing barriers to access, and increasing uptake.

Since we began just over a year ago, we have helped 221 individuals open or begin the process of opening an RDSP; assisted 469 individuals prepare, apply for or receive the Disability Tax Credit (DTC); hosted 59 RDSP and DTC information ses-

sions for 1,665 people; distributed 510 Endowment 150 grants to jumpstart RDSP savings; and made 7,991 contacts regarding the RDSP and DTC. None of this would have been possible alone.

Our inability to go it alone should never be seen as a weakness, but rather as recognition of where our voice is strongest which is alongside other voices. We need to acknowledge our own strengths and weaknesses, and identify strengths in others.

The ability to see the strength in another organization, team or individual is a gift of immense value. It allows us to see the unique potential that exists within our community, and positions where we are able to receive such gifts. These gifts are powerful. They have the power to change the community and facilitate true collaboration that values the contribution of all members of the team.

No one ever said partnership was easy. It can be complex, messy and riddled with competing priorities.


It can also be incredibly rewarding. In the end, it's important to come back to that shared goal that brought us all together; for us, it's the belief that we all have the right to lead a good life with a meaningful place in our diverse community. It's important for us to contribute

towards creating a place where everyone has an opportunity to be a part of that community. This could never be done alone.

Our journey is filled with potential partners, allies (both known and unknown), friends, challengers, adversaries, and collaborators. Our limitations should be seen not based solely on our own capacity, but rather the combined capacity of our communal efforts. Our real challenge is being open to those who may be interested in joining us on our journey, and to seek true, authentic collaboration, rather than tokenistic partnership.

The idea that our next greatest accomplishment as a community could be right around the corner is invigorating, and we firmly believe that such an opportunity can only exist through placing the value of collaboration over competition.

STEPHANIE DEBISSCHOP IS DIRECTOR OF THE PLAN INSTITUTE.

PLEASE SEE PAGE 21 FOR ALL ACCESS RDSP PARTNERS' CONTACT INFORMATION. 

Our inability to go it alone should never be seen as a weakness, but rather as recognition of where our voice is strongest which is alongside other voices.

Access RDSP's First Year | BY JUSTINE LITTLE

How I learned to stop worrying and love the Registered Disability Savings Plan.

Over the last year, Access RDSP advocates at DABC have provided workshops and one-on-one support to British Columbians applying for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) who intend to open a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP).

We are excited to share our successes and challenges from the first year of the program.

In our first year, Access RDSP has:

- Helped 130 clients open an RDSP and is currently working with an additional 91 clients who are in the process of opening an RDSP.
- Provided support to over 1,450 British Columbians interested in the DTC and the RDSP.
- Helped over 450 people apply for the DTC.
- Reached over 1,600 people through 59 RDSP and DTC workshops and information booths across BC.

Together, the Access RDSP team provides support to clients from a variety of diverse backgrounds who live throughout BC. Plan Institute advisors provide excellent and free support in opening an RDSP and BCANDS offers Indigenous people navigation to apply for the DTC and RDSP.

Working with clients to apply for the DTC, in order to become eligible to start their RDSP, has been the largest focus of Access RDSP advocates at DABC.

Clients have provided lots of feedback to our advocates that the service is helpful and supportive, and many people are excited to find out that it is also free of charge.

What we have learned from our clients is that the largest barrier to applying for the DTC is lack of knowledge about the program.

Clients find out about the service from different sources including the DABC website, print materials, their doctors or someone in their community.

Part of our role as advocates is to share information with clients and their health professionals about the

Clients have provided lots of feedback to our advocates that the service is helpful and supportive, and many people are excited to find out that it is also free of charge.

DTC. Unfortunately, there are many misconceptions about the DTC which create unnecessary barriers to the RDSP.

We have attended two medical conferences to share information with physicians and to learn more about the challenges the application process holds for health professionals and how we can support them.

Advocates here are working to create a guide for doctors and nurse practitioners to assist them in helping their patients with the application.

During the past year, we have travelled throughout BC to bring workshops to community partners. We have travelled extensively within Greater Vancouver and to communities including Campbell River, Courtenay, Trail, Castlegar and Vanderhoof.


The groups that we have partnered with include: the John Howard Society, Camosun College, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, The

Cerebral Palsy Association of BC, Jim Pattison Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre, Nanaimo Brain Injury Society, People in Pain Network, The Pacific Immigrant Resources Society, the Parkinson's Society of Canada and the Kootenay Credit Union and the Nechako Valley Community Services Society.

We are so grateful to these organizations for their commitment to help promote the long-term financial security of people with disabilities.

We are very happy with the successes of our first year in the program and look forward to many more successful years of Access RDSP.

JUSTINE LITTLE IS THE RDSP/DTC COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR.

PLEASE SEE PAGE 21 FOR ALL ACCESS RDSP PARTNERS' CONTACT INFORMATION. 



DABC's RDSP Team

Sam Turcott

Advocacy Access, Program Director



Lillian Wong

Advocate



Salina Dewar

Tax Program, Advocate



Justine Little

RDSP/DTC Community Outreach Coordinator



We couldn't get there without you.

Program and Project Funders

- ♥ BC Rehabilitation Foundation
- ♥ City of Vancouver
- ♥ Council of Canadians with Disabilities
- ♥ Department of Justice Canada, Victim's Fund
- ♥ Law Foundation of British Columbia
- ♥ Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General — Emergency Management BC
- ♥ Province of British Columbia
- ♥ Vancouver Coastal Health
- ♥ Vancouver Foundation

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of BC.



Dedicated Supporters and Friends

- ♥ BC Association for Individualized Technology and Supports for People with Disabilities
- ♥ BC Government and Services Employees Union
- ♥ BC Housing, HAFI Program
- ♥ BC Hydro Employees Community Services Fund
- ♥ BC Teachers Federation
- ♥ CUPE Metropolitan Vancouver District Council
- ♥ Davies Home Health Care
- ♥ Health Services of BC
- ♥ Home Medical Equipment Dealers Association of BC (MMEDA)
- ♥ Hospital Employees Union, People with Disabilities Committee
- ♥ Inclusion BC
- ♥ Island Mediquip Home Medical Equipment Specialists
- ♥ Klein Lawyers LLP
- ♥ Murphy Battista LLP
- ♥ Notary Foundation of BC
- ♥ RBC Foundation
- ♥ Sodexo
- ♥ TELUS Employees Charitable Giving Program
- ♥ Trial Lawyers Association of BC
- ♥ United Way of the Lower Mainland
- ♥ Vancity
- ♥ Vancity Credit Union Fairview Community Branch
- ♥ Vancouver Taxi Association

And many generous donors like you!

Access RDSP

Change your tomorrow today



Disability Alliance BC, Plan Institute and BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society in a new partnership.

Information and Support on the **Registered Disability Savings Plan**



CONTACT OUR PARTNERS



BC ABORIGINAL NETWORK ON DISABILITY SOCIETY

For Indigenous people with disabilities, contact BCANDS and we can help you with the RDSP process. We can assist with the DTC application, filing taxes, and opening the RDSP account. Phone: (250) 381-7303 ext. 204 | Toll Free: 1-888-815 -5511 (TTY Accessible) | rdsp1@bcands.bc.ca



DISABILITY ALLIANCE BC

To access DABC's RDSP and DTC services, or to request one of our workshops, please contact us at: Local: 604-872-1278 | Toll Free: 1-800-663-1278 | rdsp@disabilityalliancebc.org



PLAN INSTITUTE

We can provide you with information on the RDSP, future planning, and the Endowment 150 (free \$150 for BC residents).

- Call our disability planning hotline at 1-844-311-7526
- Take the RDSP tutorial or apply for Endowment 150 at www.rdsp.com
- RDSP info sessions and other future planning workshops at planinstitute.ca



Collaboration=Protection of Your Rights | by Aleem Bharmal

We have a long-standing relationship with DABC, an organization which, like CLAS, has for many years dedicated itself to addressing social justice issues through advocacy for people with disabilities throughout the province.

To fulfill our mandate, we work closely with other advocacy organizations such as Disability Alliance BC (DABC).

We have a long-standing relationship with DABC, an organization which, like CLAS, has for many years dedicated itself to addressing social justice issues through advocacy for people with disabilities throughout the province.

For example, CLAS receives many calls from people in the community throughout BC who require one-on-one assistance with the provincial Person with Disabilities (PWD) application process or require further legal advocacy while engaging the PWD appeal process. Since CLAS does not provide this information and assistance, we refer callers to DABC.

Likewise, DABC reciprocates by providing us referrals that fall within our mandate. In addition, CLAS and DABC continue to work together through legal education information

sessions and workshops to maintain the high standards of advocacy essential to protecting the rights of people with disabilities.

In the past, CLAS and DABC have also collaborated to: produce guidebooks and present webinars on Social Security Tribunal appeals; put on training sessions for claimants appealing CPP disability benefits; and assist clients who need to apply for judicial review of CPP disability decisions.

People with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by poverty and many are homeless or at risk of being homeless.

Without the services provided by groups such as CLAS and DABC, many would not have the socio-economic means to obtain the information and expertise essential to knowing and protecting their rights. Many would be denied provincial disability benefits and other critical subsidized services, despite their eligibility.

The Community Legal Assistance Society (CLAS) is a not-for-profit, charitable, legal organization incorporated in 1971. We respect the dignity of all in our community and work towards positive social change by providing legal assistance and advancing the law to address the critical needs of those who are disadvantaged or face discrimination.

We pursue this mandate through advocacy, test case litigation, law reform and public legal education. In addition, we provide a wide range of legal services to people with low income, disabilities or who are otherwise disadvantaged or have been victims of discrimination.

This would have devastating consequences that social justice organizations are all too familiar with, as the relationship between an individual's deteriorating economic situation and worsening disability conditions can be a vicious cycle.

The collaborative relationship between CLAS and DABC fosters a productive and cohesive approach

Without the services provided by groups such as CLAS and DABC, many would not have the socio-economic means to obtain the information and expertise essential to knowing and protecting their rights.

in assisting members of the community who require advocacy, information or other legal advice and services. It is an invaluable and empowering means of ensuring that the rights of persons with disabilities are protected.

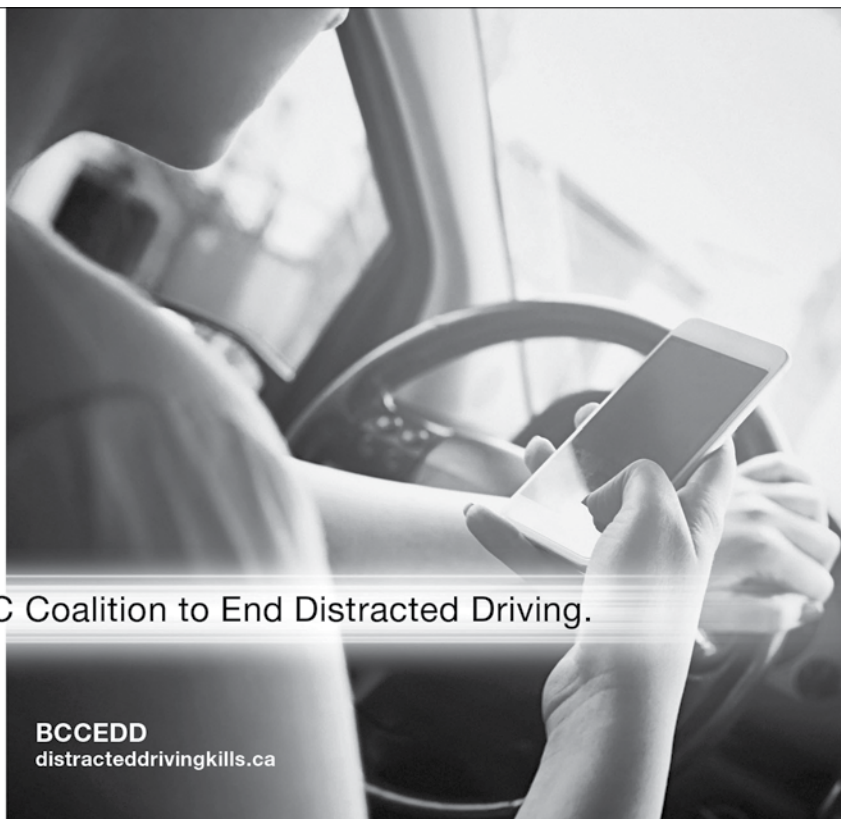
ALEEM BHARMAL IS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY LEGAL ASSISTANCE SOCIETY. 

**TRIAL
LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION
of BC**

dabc
disability alliance bc

Proud supporters of the BC Coalition to End Distracted Driving.

BCCEDD
distracteddrivingkills.ca





Planned Giving

You've always been there for others. It's part of who you are. Now, you can continue to give beyond your lifetime.

The DABC has a Planned Giving program. Planned Giving is the opportunity to think ahead about causes or organizations that you may want to financially support beyond your lifetime.

You can take the time now to gather information and leave instructions in your Will.

By planning ahead, you can research charities, or have someone research charities for you, that fit your values. You won't feel rushed or pressured to make a decision and you can ensure that your money is spent in the way you want.

Benefits

There are many benefits to Planned Giving. By writing down your wishes, you will have increased peace of mind and control over your finances.

Through Planned Giving, you can provide a significant future donation without reducing your income today.

A gift in your Will to a registered Canadian charity is tax-deductible. And, your Planned Gift helps DABC to be here in the future for those who need us.

Tax Savings


You can realize significant tax savings with Planned Giving. For example, stocks, bonds and mutual funds that you may have in a Trust can be transferred in your will to a charity and a tax receipt will be issued.

A bequest from your estate of cash or RRSPs will reduce the taxes that your estate will be required to pay.

Other ways of donating give twofold value: by naming the DABC as the beneficiary in a life insurance policy, you do not incur any costs now and a tax receipt is issued when the estate is settled.

To Learn More

Our donors are important to us and we'll work with you to be recognized in the way that you'd prefer.

If you would like more information about Planned Giving, please contact Justina at the DABC at jloh@disabilityalliancebc.org or 604-875-0188. She will send you DABC Planned Giving information to review with your financial planner or lawyer, family and friends. 

New Videos and Resources for Victims of Crime

BY KAREN MARTIN

In 2017, DABC embarked on the **How I Need to Know Project**. This 18-month project builds on our violence prevention work for people with disabilities.

How I Need to Know is a series of videos and help sheets for people with disabilities who are victims of crime, including people with cognitive and communication disabilities. There will also be a series of sign language videos for the Deaf community. These resources will be available to victim-serving organizations, support workers and people with disabilities.

The videos and help sheets (available in English and French) guide individuals through what happens when they're a victim of a crime. The six videos and their accompanying help sheets include:

- How to Report a Crime When You Have a Communication Disability
- How to Report a Crime to Police
- What to do if You Have Been Sexually Assaulted
- Being a Witness and Testifying in Court
- How to Write Your Victim Impact Statement
- What Happens When You Go to Court

There are also a series of Sign Language videos entitled **What Happens When You Report Being a Victim of a Crime**.

The plain language videos are animated with a warm style to help people through what may be very stressful situations.

The videos and help sheets are now complete.

Early in 2018, we'll begin working with our violence prevention and victim support services partners to disseminate the resources. We will also be offering webinars.

Watch DABC social media for updates and the official project announcement.

KAREN MARTIN IS COORDINATOR OF ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION TRAINING AT DABC. 

A Disability Alliance BC Project



we are all
connected

Generously funded by the
Department of Justice Victim's Fund



Department of Justice
Canada

Ministère de la Justice
Canada





Support DABC

ABOUT US

Our mission is to support people, with all disabilities, to live with dignity, independence and as equal and full participants in the community. We champion issues impacting the lives of people with disabilities through our direct services, community partnerships, advocacy, research and publications.

FRONT LINE SERVICES

Our Advocacy Access Program provides one-on-one assistance with provincial and federal (Canada Pension Plan Disability) income supports and other benefits. Our Tax AID DABC program helps PWD and PPMB recipients to file their income taxes year-round.

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Our projects respond to community need and increase people's ability to participate and contribute.

MAKING PARTNERSHIPS

We keep connected with a large network of community organizations across BC and regularly provide them with updates about issues of importance to the disability community.

FREE PUBLICATIONS

We publish a range of capacity-building self-help guides and advocate resources, in reader-friendly language. Resources are provided free of charge, either by mail or from our website.

BECOME A DABC MEMBER

Numbers matter. The more members we have, the stronger our voice in the community.

Please become a Disability Alliance BC (DABC) member today. You can be a voting member or a non-voting member, and we welcome both individuals and groups.

I accept your invitation to join the DABC and enclose my membership fee of \$15 (individuals) and \$25 (groups).

I am also including a tax-deductible donation of \$_____. (Donations over \$10 are tax deductible).

Please return your payment/donation with this form to:
DABC, 204-456 W. Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5Y 1R3.

You can also become a member or donate online at:
<http://www.disabilityalliancebc.org/about-dabc/become-a-member>.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVALUABLE SUPPORT

Please check the applicable boxes:

☐ New membership or ☐ Renewal

☐ Voting Member or ☐ Non-voting Member

Voting members are people with disabilities and self-help groups where at least 50% of members have a disability.

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City/Prov _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

KEEP IN TOUCH!



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<http://tinyurl.com/jbqdm2u>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company-beta/4863769/>



Sign up for our Enews at disabilityalliancebc.org

Visit our website often to see our work on behalf of the disability community, and to connect with us through social media.

We hope to see you there.



A Disability Alliance BC project generously funded by

vancouver
foundation



Accessible Housing Project

Disability Alliance BC has launched the first phase of a pilot partnership to help providers of affordable, accessible rental housing better match suitable vacancies with wheelchair users in Metro Vancouver.

DABC teamed up with key partners to address these challenges with a three-year pilot project called **The Right Fit (RFPP)**. The Project will test new approaches to support wheelchair users, providers of affordable and accessible housing, and agencies that provide supports for independent living in Metro Vancouver.

The project is generously funded by the **Vancouver Foundation** and the **BC Rehab Foundation**.

Project Eligibility

Phase 1 RFPP participants must be:


- Eligible for subsidized housing under BC Housing's qualifying criteria (see <http://tinyurl.com/y9a67nua>);
- Power or manual wheelchair users who need fully wheelchair-accessible housing and personal supports (i.e. indoor wheelchair users);
- Currently living in Vancouver Coastal Health Region or Fraser Health Region and seeking housing within Metro Vancouver;
- Aged 19-64; and
- Receiving provincial PWD (Persons With Disabilities) benefits.
- Phase 1 will accept only applicants who have applied for wheelchair accessible, subsidized housing through The Housing Registry for housing within the Metro Vancouver Regional District.

Contacts for More Information or to Apply

Paul Gauthier, Executive Director and Navigator,
Individualized Funding Resource Centre.

Email: RightFit@IFRCSociety.org | Phone: 604-777-7576

The DABC Right Fit Pilot Project web page:

<http://disabilityalliancebc.org/program/the-right-fit-pilot-project/> 



Did you know?

**At our WorkBC Centres
we help people with disabilities
find work that works for them.**

We can:

- assess your strengths, needs & interests
- arrange and support you at job interviews
- cover transportation and dependant care costs
- fund self-employment training
- provide assistive equipment and technology
- provide specialized assessments
- arrange workplace access or modifications
- provide communication / hearing devices, interpreting / captioning, and other services as needed

Visit your local

WorkBC Employment
Services Centre

Centre de services à l'emploi

vancouverworkbc.ca

ADVERTISE WITH DABC

Share information about your business or organization with our growing network. It's a way to invest not only in your business, but in the dignity and independence of people who live with a disability. Advertising revenue helps support DABC services and programs.

TRANSITION MAGAZINE

We have a wide range of ad sizes to choose from, on either black ink or colour pages, with prices for budgets large and small (see details on opposite page).

You can design the ad or we'll do it for you at a reasonable cost. And, you can book one ad or a series. The more you book, the more you save.

We also offer a 35% discount for not-for-profit organizations.

E-NEWS ADVERTISING

We are also now offering ad space in our monthly e-news, *Our Voice*.

- Reach our growing list of 2,500+ subscribers with options from monthly to one-time ads.
- Choose from three ad types to fit your needs and budget.

INFORMATION

For information on advertising with DABC, please contact Ann at 604-875-0188 or annvrlakcomm@gmail.com.



Join Our Visionaries Circle

Jane Dyson, DABC Executive Director

Help DABC to promote the dignity and independence of people with disabilities.

Be part of our Visionaries Circle with monthly giving—the best kind of support you can offer. Even a small amount goes a long way and provides a more stable funding base we can count on to plan and provide our programs and services.

Joining is easy. You choose how.

- You can set up monthly donations in seconds at www.CanadaHelps.org by searching for “Disability Alliance BC.”
- Or, set up a monthly credit card donation by contacting Terry at 604-875-0188.

Thank you for your support!

Thank you for your support!

A final thank you to everyone who supported our 2017 Fall Fling, especially our amazing event sponsors.

Presenting



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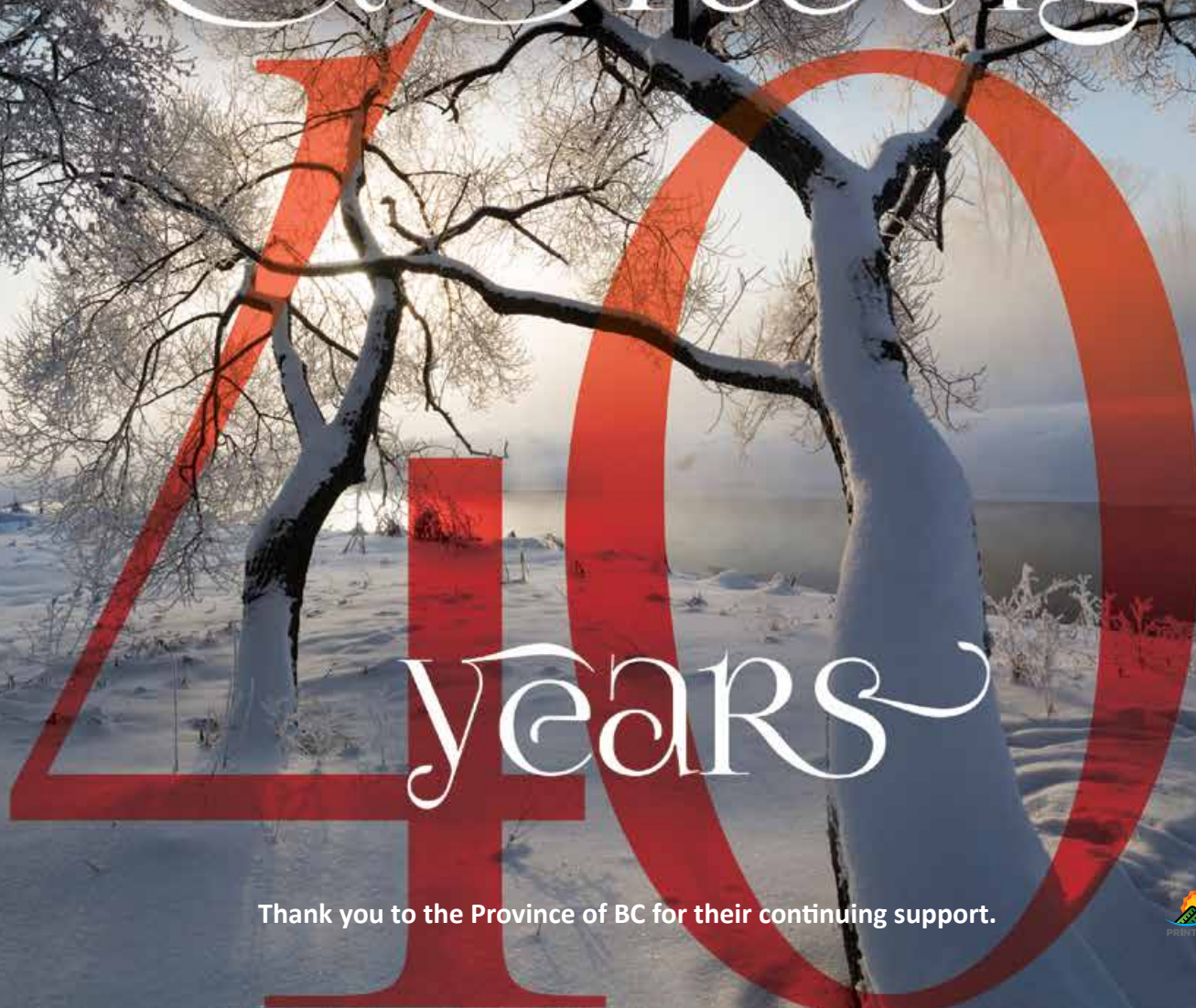


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years

Thank you to the Province of BC for their continuing support.

