

Inspiring Possibilities

2010-2011 **Annual Report**

Message from Deborah Rollier, President and Keith Powell, Executive Director

The 2010–2011 fiscal year has been one of big issues, big challenges and big changes for Community Living Ontario, and for the developmental services sector in Ontario. It is no surprise that the year has been extremely demanding and that, as a result, it has flown by. It feels like only yesterday we gathered together in Richmond Hill, yet here it is, time to reflect on the year and the achievements and challenges we have faced.

Yes, this has been a year of change, and it has been a year when the need for change and our members' desire for change, have been at the front of the agenda for Community Living Ontario. Challenging financial circumstances have directly contributed to the urgency and the scope of the challenges that emerged during the year. Changing patterns of member engagement at the local and provincial levels of the federation urgently require our collective attention and action as we complete this year and plan for the next. While we speak about our provincial association, we know that local member associations face a range of challenges and issues that, similarly, entail unprecedented levels of risk and a readiness to adapt to new realities and to undertake profound change.

We at Community Living Ontario feel confident about our ability to work with our membership in addressing key issues affecting the federation, the developmental services sector and the people and families supported by local associations. As a provincial federation we must, and will, work together. In fact, the changes that are needed can only be made by members working together. And we will work together, guided by the values that drive our vision and our work. Together we have the capacity to meet these challenges, despite the financial restrictions that Community Living Ontario faces—there's much to do, with very limited resources.

One of the benefits of being a member in an association is that everyone has a voice—everyone can participate and contribute to the changes we plan to make. It is collectively that we are Community Living Ontario, and it is collectively that we will need to act to make real progress on the very complex issues that confront us now.

Community Living Ontario is committed to restoring financial stability to the provincial association. The advocacy, social policy, membership, community development and communications work are simply far too important to not be! We are also committed to the evolution of new and more effective ways in which federation members and Community Living supporters can give direction to and be engaged in the work of this association. We are very clear that action is needed on these fronts in the next year.

We are making progress. Inroads have been made in key areas such as supported decision-making and championing of rights of people to not have unionized workers picket in front of their homes. We are proud to work in partnership with the newly formed Respect our Homes Coalition and People First Ontario on these fronts. We look forward to building our relationships with them in the future. And we appreciate the excellent collaboration with the Provincial Executive Director's Coordinating Committee on a number of critical issues.

During the past year, Community Living Ontario lost two cherished friends—our dear president, Karen Gledhill passed away in July and we marked the passing of Jim Turner in December 2010. Both were true champions, working tirelessly on behalf of Community Living and for the vision of a community that welcomes and includes all people. They both kept the bar high—challenging, cajoling and inspiring others to create positive change. They are sorely missed, but their legacy lives on as we continue our efforts to build a fully inclusive society.

In closing, we would like to express our most sincere appreciation and thanks to the board of directors and to the members and supporters of the association, including people who receive support. We'd also like to thank family members for their support and volunteerism over the past year, as well as the boards of directors, executive directors and staff of local associations for the essential roles they play within the federation. Finally we would like to sincerely thank the staff of Community Living Ontario for their perseverance and diligence during this past year, and also for the direction and expertise they unreservedly provide. We couldn't do the work we do without the collective efforts and solidarity of all.



Deborah Rollier
President
Community Living Ontario



Keith Powell
Executive Director
Community Living Ontario

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2010-11 Board of Directors

Deborah Rollier, President, Southwest
Karen Gledhill, Past President, West 2 (Deceased)
Douglas Cooper, Vice-President, Director-at-Large
Roy O'Leary, Treasurer
Noreene Adam, Les Vallées
Salvatore Amenta, Central-York
Garry Cooke, Central-Durham
Debbie Eames, West 3
Donna Gage, Director-at-Large
George Henry, West 2
Hélène Morin-Chain, Algonquin
Helene Pauly Murray, Central-Toronto
Jill Pernsky, North 1- Sunset Region
Theresa Somerton, Lakeshore
Marjorie (Bobbi) Stephen, Director-at-Large
Rick Strutt, Director-at-Large
Annice Tilley, North 3
Pauline Vranesich, North 2
Vacant, Central-West
Vacant, North 4

The Council of Community Living Ontario, 2010-11

Melissa Abrams, Chairperson, West 2
Claude Sauvé, Vice-Chairperson, Les Vallées
Josette St. Pierre, Treasurer, Sunset Region
Barb Peyton, Secretary, Central-Durham
Mark Anderson, Southwest
David Covey, North 3
Stella Curtis, Algonquin
Dawn Hamilton, North 2
Craig Harrison, West 3
Steven Leavitt, Lakeshore
Peter Maresse, Central-Toronto
Ethan Matheson, North 4
Jo-Anne Sharpe, Central-York
Yvonne Spicer, Central-West

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Community Development

The majority of the funding for this department is derived from two sources: a grant for the Community Inclusion Initiative (CII) from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) through the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) and from annualized funding from the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) for the Passport Mentoring Initiative.

Passport Mentoring Initiative

Passport Mentoring Initiative expanded its reach across Ontario this year. We have increased capacity and are now providing opportunities for students, aged 14–21, to broaden their networks and experiences. We are now located in nine parts of the province: Central East, Central West, Eastern, Hamilton/Niagara, North Eastern, Northern, South East, South West and Toronto. Plans are in the works to expand even further in 2012.

As part of the process of preparing young people for post-secondary life, the second annual Commence Conference was held in February 2011. Almost 100 people attended sessions designed to help youth think about the options available to them, including post-secondary education and employment.

More information about the Passport Mentoring Initiative can be found on their Facebook page and the Community Living Ontario website.

Community Inclusion Initiative

The Community Inclusion Initiative was launched in 1997, representing a coordinated national effort to advance the citizenship, participation, and inclusion of people who have an intellectual disability. The current funding cycle ends March 2012 and we are hopeful that funding will be renewed as there have been many great achievements in the three strategic areas:

1. Youth Engagement:

Re:Action4Inclusion started three years ago as a conference, bringing together 100 youth to think about inclusion as a social justice issue. The youth grabbed onto the ideas, and there was an immediate and urgent desire to take it much further. An advisory body was formed, and plans to figure out ways to spread the message took off.

The youth made connections with local associations and secondary school principals who were inspired by the energy of the students and their eagerness to make a difference in their own schools. As a result, students from the advisory group hosted and took part in school assemblies featuring social activist, Norman Kunc. In just seven months, more than 7,000 students in 16 schools across Ontario will have been reached with the message of inclusion.

The third Re:Action4Inclusion Conference was held in March 2011 at the YMCA Geneva Park, with 135 students representing 65 different schools. Many thanks to the local associations who sponsored youth in their community to attend and continued to support them when they returned. These young people were inspired and ready to make change happen in their community. They stay connected beyond the conference through the Re:Action4Inclusion Facebook page discussing their ideas like never before.

Stories about the conference can be found in the archives on the Community Living Ontario website at: www.communitylivingontario.ca/news-events.

2. Inclusive Education:

As students are seeing new value in each other and beginning to question why they are separate from each other, it is also important to build capacity in parents and in schools.

We held a webinar series in January through March to help families understand the special education system, their rights and the rights of their children. More than 500 people participated. We also partnered with CACL to host a webinar for school administrators. Both webinars have been posted on Community Living Ontario's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/comlivon.

3. Family Engagement:

Many families—especially families not connected to a local association, or those looking for something other than the traditional service sector—desire to broaden their networks and connect with other parents. In March, 12 families from across the province came together for the first of a series of weekend retreats. Our sincere thanks and appreciation is extended to the volunteers and partner associations on the planning committee.

Advocacy and Social Policy

Working to End the Picketing at the Homes of People

Developing strategies to stop the picketing of people's homes during a labour dispute continued to have a significant focus over the past year. A Task Force which included People First Ontario, the Council of Community Living Ontario, board members, executive directors and staff was formed and a strategy developed.

Actions included:

- support for the creation of the Respect Our Homes Coalition and actions of the Council
- presentations to self-advocacy groups and at self-advocacy conferences
- active and independent involvement of faith communities who see this as a human rights and social justice issue
- active support, including the circulation of petitions for a private members bill which would legislate against picketing in front of people's homes
- a news conference held in October, in support of the private members bill, Bill 83
- letter-writing campaigns to MPPs asking for their support of the Bill
- incorporation of social media to raise awareness and encourage conversations about the issue of picketing

Human Rights Complaint

Community Living Ontario supported a woman in Tillsonburg to lodge a human rights complaint against OPSEU after picketing took place in her community in 2007. Although the union argued vigorously, the Tribunal accepted the woman's complaint and it moved forward. The union also argued that the woman didn't have the capacity to give consent to her friend who was representing her. The Tribunal disagreed and ruled in favour of the complainant. In the meantime, the sister of a man whose home was picketed in Lanark County in 2009 lodged a complaint against CUPE. Eventually, the Tribunal agreed to join the two complaints. At the moment, we are awaiting a ruling as to whether the sister can represent her brother.

This has been a tremendously slow process, but it is also exciting because the rulings of the Tribunal reinforce the concept of supported decision-making for which Community Living Ontario has advocated for many years. The right to have a voice and to direct one's own life is a fundamental human right. Recognition of this and the creation of mechanisms that to ensure those rights will entrench people's citizenship in our society.

Enhancing Protections for Adults who are Vulnerable to Abuse and Neglect

We have secured a commitment from MCSS to coordinate discussions with government and community stakeholders to explore/develop policy mechanisms that will enhance protection. There are far too many people who have died because of the hurtful and life-threatening actions of others. We will continue to work with government and other community partners to ensure future tragedies are avoided.

Bill 77 - The Social Inclusion Act

The implementation of new regulations to the Social Inclusion Act played an important role in guiding the delivery of community-based supports and services this year. Community Living Ontario analyzed and responded to the proposed regulations, and we were pleased to see significant changes to the final regulations consistent with our recommendations. Over the coming year, we will monitor the Quality Assurance Measures (QAM) and the creation of the application entities (regional contact points) to ensure they are implemented appropriately and remain consistent with the recommendations we submitted to the Ministry.

Legal Capacity and Supported Decision Making

Community Living Ontario continues to promote the need for a formal policy mechanism for Ontario that would recognize the legal capacity of people who have an intellectual disability and provide supported decision-making where necessary. This is a key change, identified by our members as a means of supporting the personal autonomy of each person, while opening doors to greater community engagement. We are pleased that MCSS has come to understand the importance of this issue, and have begun to consider strategies for implementing needed changes. Working with the Canadian Association for Community Living, we will continue to support the initiatives that have been started by government.

Membership Services

We made a significant effort over the past year to have a presence at the regional executive directors' meetings. This was not only to keep executive directors informed about what is happening at Community Living Ontario, but also to represent their views back to Community Living Ontario. Our relationships with executive directors are just as vital as relationships with boards, families and people who receive support. We are committed to building on this connection and are especially appreciative of the leadership and support provided by the Provincial Executive Directors' Coordinating Committee.

We also gave considerable support to regional board directors in organizing regional meetings. This met with limited success—some regions remain without a regional director, resulting in no meetings. Some regions have indicated they are not interested in meeting,

while in others, regional meetings are greeted with great enthusiasm. This indicates that the structure of the provincial association is not meeting the needs of the membership. It will require a review for and by the membership of Community Living Ontario to consider new governance models. The Wellbeing Committee will begin this process over the coming year.

One of the key roles of this provincial association is to represent the views of member associations at various provincial and government tables. This past year required a focused and considerable effort to participate in and support various groups which are taking on issues related to labour and human resources. We are charting new territory, particularly with regard to labour issues as potential changes may have a significant impact on people receiving supports. We will continue to make this a top priority over the coming year.

Communications and Marketing

Over the last year, Community Living Ontario's online communications strategy included a robust social media strategy. With nearly 1,700 'fans', our Facebook page is in the top 30 per cent of the world's most successful Facebook sites. Politicians and journalists are among the nearly 1,100 people following us on Twitter. Online media strategies are providing cost-effective ways for us to reach new influencers, advocates, supporters, families, donors and more. It's also a way for others to raise awareness about and increase credibility of the work we do.

Here's a great example of this: when journalist Steve Paikin spoke at our 12th annual Communications Workshop in February, he tweeted to his 14,342 followers "Abt to speak to community living ont's 12th annual communic wkshps in orillia. We'd be lost without these folks." Having someone of Steve Paikin's credibility and influence tweet about us was a phenomenal opportunity for Community Living.

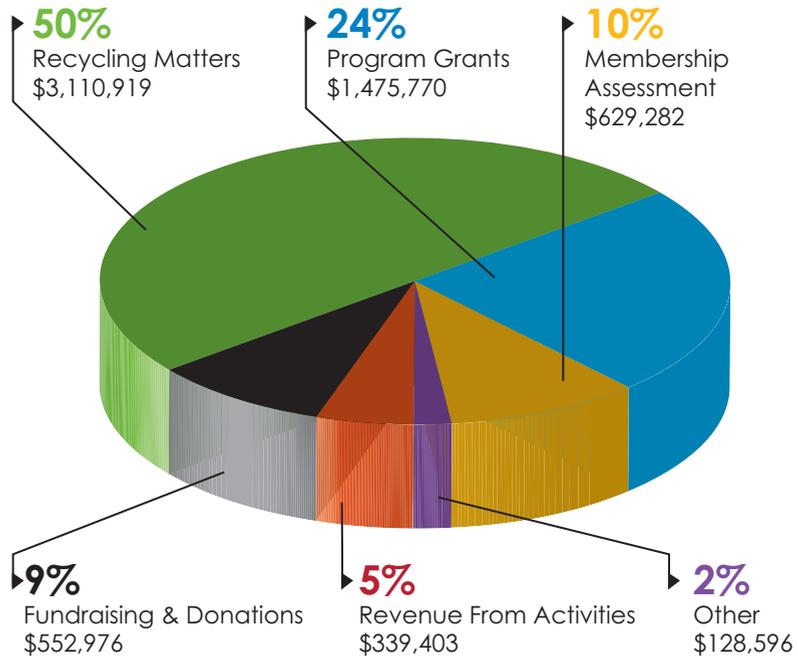
In this technological age, we must stay in the game as it provides the opportunity to connect with broader, newer and younger audiences—people with whom we may never have connected with before. Community Living Ontario's YouTube channel is another perfect example of how we have been developing ways to do this.

Media and The 'R' Word

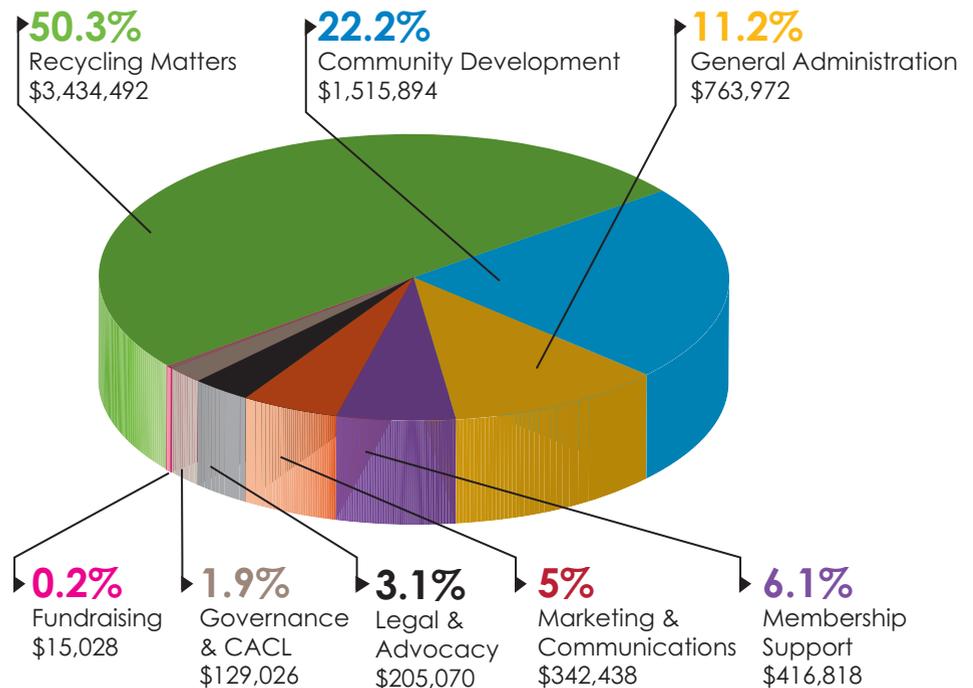
We continue to be dismayed by the disrespect and lack of sensitivity demonstrated by the media in its use of language. Community Living Ontario lodged a complaint with the Ontario Press Council regarding a column in the Ottawa Sun and awaits their response. It was wonderful to see the federation rail against the use of the 'R' word in this and other circumstances. It's time for Ontario's own "Ban the R Word" Campaign.

Finances - Revenue and Expenses

Where the money came from
\$6,236,946



How we put the money to work
\$6,822,738



Financial statements are available on request and can be downloaded from our website.

** Several external influences impacted the operations of Recycling Matters over the last year. Community Living Ontario has taken steps to address the issues.

Award Recipients

Citizenship Award

Mayor Mike Bradley

CACL Inclusive Education Award - Ontario

Jim Hansen

James Montgomerie Honour Award

Melissa Abrams

James Montgomerie Community Award

Respect Tour – 2010

Community Living Chatham-Kent

Media Award

Kathy Botham

EMC Kemptville

"Inclusive Education: That's Great!"

Newsletter Recognition Award - Overall

Community Living Peterborough

Newsletter Recognition Award – Single Article

Plainfield Community Homes for "Respect and Dignity:

Till Death Do Us Part"

By Chris Semark and Jim Mortlock

Website Award

Community Living Peterborough

William G. Davis Award

Jim Turner

2011 Anne Stafford "Light Up the Future"

Bursary Recipients

James Al-Haj

Bradley Chadwick

Christopher Petit

Jordan Downing

Natalie Boucher

Curtis Penfold

Henri Curtis

Scott Storm

Ashleagh Grass

Anthony Caron

Shanna Smeltzer

Laura Viscardis

Ryan Barnaby

Shawn West

Brianne Drouillard

Jeremy Hart

Kim Pascoe

James Cole

Ben Prins

Pam Seedhouse

Jane Wellard

Tim Snider

Jessica Krawchuk

Nathalia Drkulec

Brampton

Windsor

Thunder Bay

Barrie

Angus

Utopia

Sturgeon Falls

Peterborough

Bowmanville

Chatham

Wallaceburg

Peterborough

Oshawa

Simcoe

Tecumseh

Leamington

Campbellford

Peterborough

Peterborough

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Campbellford

Barrie

Newmarket

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