

Standing Together

and Working for Our Common Goal:
Citizenship for All

2011 – 2012 Annual Report

Our Goal

“That all persons live in a state of dignity, share in all elements of living in the community, and have the opportunity to participate effectively.”

Our Vision

Community Living Ontario envisions a society where everyone belongs, has equality, respect and acceptance. This gives people a sense of self-worth and opportunities for growth. The gifts, uniqueness and innate value of each individual are celebrated, supported and acknowledged as essential to the completeness of the whole community.

Our Mission

Community Living Ontario is a province-wide federation, rooted in a strong network of individuals who have an intellectual disability, families, friends, member organizations and community partners. It will be guided by, adhere to and strive to achieve its Goal and Vision in all its actions. Community Living Ontario advocates for, promotes and facilitates the full participation, inclusion and citizenship of people who have an intellectual disability. To facilitate this mission, Community Living Ontario will:

- ★ Develop positions and promote positive change in public policy;
- ★ Provide expertise, resources, information and education;
- ★ Create and respond to opportunities for networking, actively supporting and partnering with those who share our vision;
- ★ Build public awareness; and,
- ★ Develop, nurture and support community leadership, capacity and innovation.

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2011-2012 Community Living Ontario Board of Directors

Deborah Rollier, President, Southwest
Rick Strutt, Vice-President, Director-at-Large
Roy O’Leary, Treasurer, Director-at-Large
Salvatore Amenta, Central-York
Garry Cooke, Central-Durham
Donna Gage, Director-at-Large
George Henry, West 2
Hélène Morin-Chain, Algonquin
Hélène Paulyn Murray, Central-Toronto
Jill Pernsky, North 1 – Sunset Region
Theresa Somerton, Lakeshore
Marjorie (Bobbi) Stephen, Director-at-Large
Annice Tilley, North 3
Pauline Vranesich, North 2
Alex Webster, Director-at-Large
Vacant, Central-West
Vacant, Les Vallées
Vacant, North 4
Vacant, West 3

The Council of Community Living Ontario 2011-2012

Barb Peyton, Chairperson, Central-Durham
Mark Anderson, Vice Chair, Southwest
Emily Beauchamp, Treasurer, West 2
Stella Curtis, Secretary, Algonquin
Brandon Bain, Sunset Region
Francoise Denis, North 3
Ron Fenwick, West 3
Dawn Hamilton, North 2
Steven Leavitt, Lakeshore
Peter Marrese, Central-Toronto
Ethan Matheson, North 4
Claude Sauvé, Les Vallées
Yvonne Spicer, Central-West
Jackie Watts, Central-York

A message from Our President



The vision of an inclusive society requires that we, as a federation of people organized locally and provincially, continue to work on multiple fronts. The people of central concern to us still need quality education and opportunities to live, love, work, and spend personal time in an accepting and supportive community. The choice of means co-evolves with the continually changing environment. Working together as a federation of local associations with a provincial arm, we will be able to bring about those outcomes that we collectively seek.

Community Living Ontario exists to promote the interests of people who have an intellectual disability and to facilitate the efforts of the concerned community. The organization is a vehicle in service of that cause. We cherish the heritage handed down to us by the parents' movement for community living. At the same time, it is clear that the vehicle that brought us this far toward our ultimate goal is not the model that can take us the rest of the way there.

The Board intends to fulfill commitments made to the members at last year's annual general meeting (AGM) including ongoing program delivery and the conduct of an operational review. Following the AGM 2011 the Board established our strategic objectives based on your input and developed a plan of work. The operational review is designed to determine whether our resources and structure are appropriate for the work laid out for the organization. In response to the local associations that prompted and offered financial support for the operational review, a decision was made to expand the scope of the review and lengthen the time period in which the work is to take place.

In February Keith Powell resigned as executive director and will be permanently replaced when the Board's decision can be informed by the forthcoming operational review. In the interim, Alan McWhorter will fill that role. Alan recently retired as executive director of Community Living Kingston, and he has extensive previous experience with Community Living associations.

Recycling Matters ceased to generate the revenue it had over the past decade, and that compelled operational adjustments. Many of the assets of that operation including personnel were transferred to another charity that is positioned to employ them for a good and honourable purpose.

This year has been challenging in many ways, and your Board and staff have responded effectively and efficiently to those challenges. We entered fiscal 2013 with a full agenda and a balanced budget. Having lost a major fund-raising activity, some re-setting of priorities has been necessary. We look forward to a lean, but productive year ahead.



Deborah Rollier
President

A message from the Interim Executive Director



This organization is a tool kit crafted by people to do a job. The job is to bring about conditions in society whereby people who have an intellectual disability can live in dignity, take part in society, and be enabled to do so effectively. Once, that meant building schools. Later it meant building supportive social services. In the future it will drive us to do new things to enable the community to include people in more meaningful ways.

Our federation, with its complex representational structure evolved in a world of physical mail, dial phones, and time consuming travel for the rare opportunity to meet and talk with like-minded people. People used to join voluntary associations to have that contact. Members looked to the central arm of this federation to speak to audiences beyond local reach: the provincial government, the media, and the public at large. They also looked to it to facilitate sharing ideas among the far-flung constituents of the Association.

In the 21st century people communicate instantly, continuously, and globally for remarkably little expense. Organizations must work collaboratively, through partnerships and alliances in a complex operational environment. Our antiquated tools are not keeping pace in this digital age. Many people, especially those with a passion to do something, just don't have the time.

Sixty years of hard work using the old tool kit got us public education for all children, entitlement to the disability allowance for adults, and a wide range of developmental services that are permissive (not an entitlement), and the dismantling of Ontario's asylum-style institutions. These are only a sample of the many major achievements earned by hard work and relentless advocacy. Thousands of involved, committed people made those things happen by their organized efforts. This is our legacy.

The future looks different from the past, and everybody knows it is time to overhaul the old tool kit. The Board has hired me to look after the shop while they get on with the business that cannot be set aside any longer. That business is the federation reinventing itself. It will require a collaborative effort by people from every part of the province. It is long over due, and it may take time. If carried out successfully, it will result in modern tools to complete the job in the 21st century.

I am pleased to have a small part in this democratic, messy and sometimes raucous process of moving our cause forward in a time of change.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan McWhorter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Alan McWhorter
Interim Executive Director



Overview of 2012 Actions

In June 2011 at the 58th AGM, the board of directors committed to identifying Community Living Ontario's strategic priorities. In September the strategic priorities document was distributed to the membership and a five year work plan was circulated in December. Subsequent consultations were held at a number of regional meetings and executive director group meetings to discuss the plan and receive further comments.

The **3** priorities are:

1 Lead a comprehensive advocacy initiative for reducing poverty, powerlessness and exclusion in the lives of people who have an intellectual disability.

2 Strengthen the Community Living Ontario Federation.

3 Increase the voice of people who have an intellectual disability.

These priorities and the work plan have focused and guided the work of the association. To deliver on our commitment to be transparent and accountable, we are pleased to report on the activities of the association.

Progressive Social Policy to End Poverty, Powerlessness and Exclusion

Community Living Ontario is committed to maintaining our long tradition of developing positions on progressive social policy and advocating for social change that addresses issues of poverty, powerlessness and exclusion. As such, Community Living undertook the following actions this past year:

- ★ Held three forums with members, including a web forum, and worked with community partners to gather input into our responses to both of the public consultations of the provincial government's Social Assistance Review (SAR) Commission which is developing recommendations on the reform of social assistance in Ontario. The Council of Community Living also prepared a submission for the SAR Commission.
- ★ Successfully advocated for a coroner's inquest into the shooting death of Doug Minty by police and have supported the gathering of information for the inquest.
- ★ Worked with Community Living partners across the country to develop a model policy for the delivery of individualized funding.
- ★ Worked with Community Living partners across the country to develop model legislation for supported decision making.



Standing Together, Supporting Each Other

Community Living Ontario will, at all times, stand with and support people who have an intellectual disability, their families and our local Associations as we work together to achieve our shared goal of social inclusion. As such, Community Living undertook the following actions this past year:

- ★ Continued to support the efforts of people bringing a class action against the government for abuse that occurred in institutions.
- ★ Continued to support individuals bringing human rights complaints related to picketing at their home during strikes.
- ★ Partnered, for the 3rd consecutive year, with RDSP Ontario to provide workshops throughout the province regarding the Registered Disability Saving Plan (RDSP).
- ★ Worked with the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) to successfully press the federal government for policy change regarding issue of who can open an RDSP.
- ★ Piloted the first Family Leadership Series which was attended by twenty (20) families. Over the four (4) weekends, families were provided with an opportunity to meet other families, celebrate their success, learn from each others experiences, deepen their understanding on the changing perspective of disability and the role a family can play in translating their vision of a good life for their family member into action. They then returned to their community to encourage the development of other family networks.
- ★ Partnered with CACL in holding a Family Values and Vision weekend the purpose of which was to look at the values families and the federation hold, the vision of the future we want to collectively create and review our history to critically look at where we started, what we have created and where we find ourselves today.
- ★ Partnered with five (5) local associations to deliver five Good Life and Family Visioning workshops in Mississauga, Sarnia, Campbellford, Durham North and Oshawa.
- ★ Focused initiatives to advance the inclusive education agenda continued to be a priority and as such, Community Living Ontario:
 - hosted five workshops on inclusive education for families, advocates and educators in association with local agencies in Brockville, Toronto, Welland, Kingston, and with Western University in London.
 - presented the 2nd annual webinar series on inclusive education which included seven (7) webcasts for families and educators on various topics such as Holding a Vision for Inclusion, Research into Inclusive Education Practices and How to Navigate the System. The series is accessible on Community Living Ontario's YouTube channel.
 - partnered with Brock University's Faculty of Education on a research project called, "The Delivery of Education Services in Ontario".
- ★ Increased accessibility to information by developing a plain language version of Community Living Ontario's strategic priorities document and the work plan.
- ★ Furthered advocacy efforts of The Council by:
 - being a watchdog on a number of media related items.
 - monitoring and responding to issues related to violence against people who have an intellectual disability such as the use of shock therapy, restraints and blocker pads.
 - writing to MPPs to request government to waive the \$35 fee for photo ID cards.

Taking Action, Sharing Knowledge, Raising Our Voices

Community Living Ontario has taken action in the past year, and will continue to take action, to provide ways for members of local Associations, their employees, and other allies and supporters to engage and work together to share our collective knowledge and best practices and enhance our united voices. As such, Community Living undertook the following actions this past year:

- ★ Coordinated an advocacy strategy for members throughout the year leading up to the 2011 provincial election. Among other things the members were provided:
 - key messaging and resource materials to assist them to effectively advocate during the 2011 provincial election;
 - conference workshops focused on dealing with political advocacy strategies;
 - insights from a political strategist delivered via webinar
 - resources to assist in hosting of local all candidates meetings;
 - resources and key messaging for meetings with new and returning MPPs following the election.
- ★ Worked cooperatively with partner groups in the Provincial Network on Developmental Services to develop consistent messages to government leading up to and following the spring provincial budget.
- ★ Launched the Administrative Justice Support Network initiative which provides information to assist people in their participation in various statutory reviews and on making appeals before key tribunals including the Social Benefits Tribunal, the Special Education Tribunal, the Landlord Tenant Board, The Health Services Appeal and Review Board, and several others.
- ★ Involved youth in shaping and delivering messages at various events across the province to increase young people's understanding of their role in the acceptance and inclusion of all people. They did this by:
 - Presentations to over 3,400 students in secondary schools located in Kemptville, Almonte, Gananoque, Sharbot Lake, Kingston, Whitby and Welland.
 - Engaging 100 students at the 4th annual Re: Action4Inclusion Conference where they more deeply explored inclusion and their role in making it happen in their school community.
 - Providing tools and thought-provoking speakers at the 3rd annual Commence Conference where the 150 students, advocates and educators were challenged to re-think post-secondary pursuits.
- ★ Engaged 257 new students in the Passport Mentoring Initiative, offering youth the opportunity to explore ideas and possibilities for their future after leaving secondary school.

Taking Action, Sharing Knowledge, **Raising Our Voices**

- ★ Partnered with local community living associations to connect with families and increase the agencies capacity to support people. This included:
 - Aging Families Project with Brockville & District Association for Community Involvement
 - Young Parents and Education – Community Living Parry Sound
 - Independent Facilitation Training – South East Grey Support Services
- ★ Included the voice of member associations in setting the future agenda for Community Living Ontario. The Essential Issues Forum at the 2011 conference provided that very opportunity and the feedback was clear: the provincial association needs to adapt to new realities of a changing world and that it needs to find new ways to position itself as leaders of change in engaging members and supporters in the work of the federation.

Award **Recipients**

2012 Anne Stafford **“Light Up the Future”** Bursary Recipients

Marie Bacon, Tecumseh

Stephanie Basden, Belle River

Anthony Caron, Chatham

Tyler Dozois, Belle River

Brianne Drouillard, Tecumseh

Lisa Endo, Maidstone

Brigitte Gagnon, Tecumseh

Megan Glover, Warkworth

Lori Gordon, Campbellford

Jennifer Grol, Campbellford

Johnathan Hanley, Port Perry

Sally Hillis, Peterborough

Susan Lafleur, Essex

Lauri Laforet, Essex

Matthew MacNeil, Tillsonburg

Dennis MacVicar, Essex

Tom McDowell, Campbellford

Nate McFarlane, Peterborough

Brett Morrison, Angus

Corey Mulholland, Tillsonburg

Elodie Pelletier, Barrie

Vanessa Rihbany, Tecumseh

Robert Sherwin, Norwood

Geneve Weekes, Campbellford

Jane Wellard, Campbellford

Jessica Wheeler, Barrie

CACL Inclusive Education Award Ontario Recipient

Deirdre Smith

James Montgomerie Honour Award

Theresa Somerton

James Montgomerie Community Award

Mills Community Support
Corporation

Media Award

David Gutnick
CBC Radio,
“The Gristle in the Stew”

Newsletter Recognition Award Overall

Community Living Wallaceburg

Newsletter Recognition Award Single Article

Community Living Wallaceburg for
“Wallaceburg Man Turns House into
Home” by David Katzman

Website Award

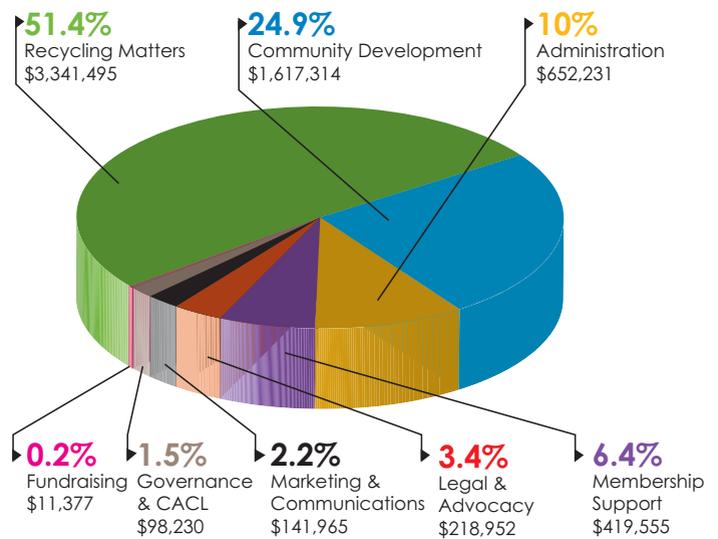
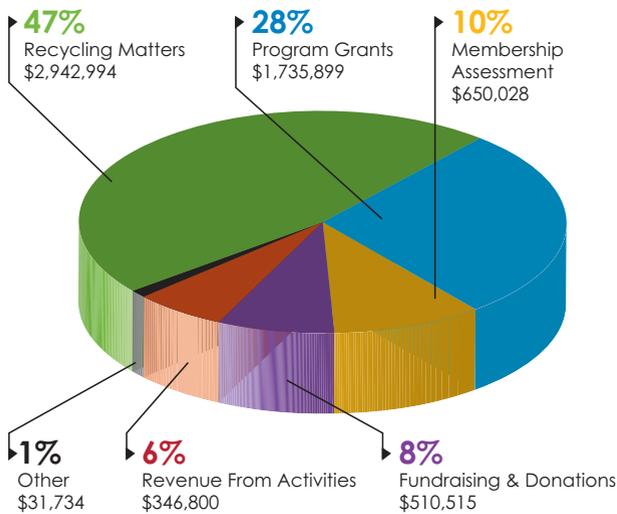
Community Living Peterborough

Finances

Revenue and Expenses

Where the Money
Came From
\$6,217,970

How We Put the Money
to Work
\$6,501,119





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