



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION
FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR
L'INTÉGRATION COMMUNAUTAIRE

Diversity includes. On se ressemble.

CACL STRATEGIC PLANNING FEDERATION ENGAGEMENT PACKAGE

MAY 2020

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The following Appendixes are distributed as a separate attachment to this document:

- Appendix A: CACL Strategic Plan 2016-2020
- Appendix B: CACL 2019 Annual Report

CONTEXT

The Canadian Association of Community Living is embarking on the creation of a new strategic plan. As part of this plan, CACL is engaging its provincial-territorial members to hear what is happening across Canada in the lives of people with intellectual disabilities, their families, and their communities.

This is the most ambitious approach to strategic planning CACL has taken to date. Complicating matters is the COVID-19 pandemic.

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, CACL is committed to engaging members and stakeholders in a thoughtful, safe, and inclusive manner - as it is important to hear what is happening in the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and their families, and to take time to vision about the future we are creating as a federation.

Information collected during the engagement process will be used to create a national dialogue about inclusion in Canada and inform the new CACL strategic plan.

The intent of this package is to help you prepare for the engagement and to give you the opportunity to engage your Boards and members, people with lived experience, and communities.

Overall, the strategic plan that is created will help set the direction for federation and establish the priorities for the CACL national office.

Of note, it is not the intent that these directions and priorities will prescribe work for CACL's provincial-territorial members, but instead will create a common vision that CACL can support from a national level.

This package will contain:

- Information about Engagements and Questions to be discussed
- Background Information about CACL
- Vision, Mission, Values, and Principles from the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan
- Definition of Inclusion

ENGAGEMENTS

CACL is committed to undertaking online meetings with all provincial-territorial members. Details for meeting are as follows:

- 2 hours (maximum) meeting
- Hosted on zoom, with connecting links provided by CACL
- Targeting May 2020 – End of June 2020

- Maximum 25 participants on zoom
- Facilitated by an external consultant provided by CACL, with CACL leadership present

Questions to be discussed at the meeting:

1. What is important to people with intellectual disabilities and their families in the pursuit of an inclusive life?
2. What is your vision for an inclusive life for people with intellectual disabilities and their families 5 years from now?
3. What can CACL and the Federation do to support this vision?
4. What should be CACL's top 5 priorities be in next 5 years?
5. What are the strengths upon which we can build and address these priorities?

Many provincial-territorial members expressed a desire to prepare in advance, and the importance of ensuring the voices of people with intellectual disabilities and their families are heard. In your preparations for the engagement, please share these questions with your Board or members, people with lived experience, and communities. Any information gathered by provincial-territorial members in advance can be shared during the engagement session or sent to CACL leadership (President and Executive Vice-President).

The remainder of this document contains information about CACL to help address any questions that may arise in your preparations.

ABOUT CACL

The Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) is a national federation of 13 provincial-territorial associations and over 300 local associations working to advance the full inclusion and human rights of people with an intellectual disability and their families.

CACL leads the way in building an inclusive Canada for people with an intellectual disability and their families by *strengthening families, defending rights, and transforming communities* into places where everyone belongs.

OUR WORK

CACL's national organizations include the CACL Foundation, the Institute for Research and Development on Inclusion and Society (IRIS), and Inclusive Education Canada (IEC).

As part of an international federation, CACL is a member of Inclusion Inter-Americana and Inclusion International.

CACL has been a leader in advancing inclusion and human rights for people with an intellectual disability and their families – through deinstitutionalization, inclusive education, building inclusive communities, family support initiatives, access to employment, many legal cases to advance our cause, and leadership development.

Our current priority areas of work include:

- Income Security
- Safeguards in Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)
- Employment
- Legal Capacity
- Support to Families
- Safe & Inclusive Communities
- Inclusive Education
- CACL & Federation Strengthening

From CACL's 2016-2020 Strategic Plan:

VISION

An inclusive Canada in which people with an intellectual disability and their families are valued equally and able to participate fully in all aspects of society.

MISSION

The Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) is a family-based association assisting people with intellectual disabilities and their families to lead the way in advancing inclusion in their own lives and in their communities. We do this in Canada and around the world by sharing information, fostering leadership for inclusion, engaging community leaders and policy makers, seeding innovation and supporting research. We are dedicated to attaining full participation in community life, ending exclusion and discrimination on the basis of intellectual disability, promoting respect for diversity and advancing human rights to ensure equality for all Canadians.

VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

The work of CACL is guided by the following values and principles:

Values

Respect Dignity Equality Self-determination Moral Courage

Human Rights Diversity Justice Mutual Responsibility Inclusion

Principles

- All members of the human family are full persons. Our human essence cannot be reduced to words, labels, categories, definitions or genetic patterns. Every person is unique. No one can be replaced or copied. All persons are ineffable.
- All persons are entitled to respect. Respect requires recognition of and concern for the dignity of every person. Dignity is fragile. It must be protected from all harm.
- All persons have inherent dignity. Dignity belongs to us just because we exist. It is not something we earn or receive.
- All persons have inalienable dignity. Dignity cannot rightfully be ignored, diminished or taken away. All persons have equal dignity. Dignity does not depend upon physical, intellectual or other characteristics. Neither does it depend upon the opinions that other people have about these characteristics.
- All persons have inherent and equal worth. Our value as persons is neither earned nor accumulated. It is unrelated to health status or any genetic or other personal characteristic.
- All persons have inherent capacity for growth and expression. Every person has the right to be nourished physically, intellectually, socially, emotionally and spiritually.
- All persons are entitled to equal access and opportunity. Equality demands protection from all forms of discrimination or harm, and access to the supports necessary to enable equal participation.

DEFINITION OF INCLUSION

As we embark on these consultations, it is important that we have a clear definition of inclusion. The following definition was adopted by the CACL Board in December 2019.

Think about the lives of most Canadians. Life starts with family, growing up at home, being loved and wanted, going to playschool, childcare and/or kindergarten and school, having and making friends throughout the journey, having friends and family who support you and your dreams, developing a career identity, participating in community activities, being a teenager, developing a positive sense of self over time, having dreams, playing sports, possibly involved in music/dance/art, going to college/university, traveling, falling in love, getting a job, pursuing a career, perhaps owning a business, finding a soulmate, a home of your own, having friends over for dinner, looking after your parents, growing older and continuing to contribute at every step of the way. It is assumed and expected that you will grow, relate, adapt, contribute and be included in the fullness of community life amidst your family, friends, and colleagues.

Inclusion happens when the lives of children and adults with an intellectual disability unfold no differently; immersed together with their peers without a disability in the same pathways and experience of life common to us all.

