

September, 2019

## Community Living Ontario, CEO Report

The following are some of the areas with which I've been involved since our last board meeting of May 31<sup>st</sup>/June 1<sup>st</sup>. I've indicated to which strategic priority each piece of work relates so that you can easily connect it to the strategic plan of Community Living Ontario.

While the summer months are typically slower than the rest of the year, I managed to find a few things to occupy my time. Immediately after our last Board meeting, I boarded a plane to Boston, where I was able to take a week-long course in Personal Moral Coherence. The course is rooted in Social Role Valorization (SRV) theory and is an in-depth examination of the injustices of society, the de-valuing of certain groups of people and our own moral culpability and responsibility in dealing with these realities – heavy stuff!

### Local Associations Visited: (Priority 1)

CL York South, CL Kingston, CL Sarnia, CL Quinte West, CL Prince Edward, Christian Horizons.

### Collaboration: (Priorities 1 & 3)

I continue as a member of the Advisory Board for the University of Toronto's Pathways to Belonging project. We recently highlighted this project in our Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> edition of Update Friday.

In June, I attended the Canadian Association for Community Living's ED/CEO meetings in Toronto. Topics included Ready, Willing and Able, Ph. 2, re-branding and strategic planning.

In August, I attended the unveiling of a commemorative statue at the former Huronia Regional Centre's cemetery. The statue and its placement took a lot of work by the *Remember Every Name* group. We were pleased to be able to utilize John Baird's influence to get the government's go-ahead in erecting the statue on-site.

I continue meeting weekly with Heather Evans, the Managing Director of our Foundation, to oversee her work in recruiting a Board of Directors, pursuing funding opportunities and expanding our Strategic Partners program.

Recently, I've met with two family network groups: Oak Park Family Group and the Muskoka Family Network, to discuss ways we might cooperate and support each other's efforts.

**Advocacy (Priority 2):**

I've been able to speak with and meet our new Minister of Children's, Community and Social Services, Todd Smith several times, including at our office on September 9<sup>th</sup>, where he recorded his video greeting for our conference.

I've also been able to meet twice, with Ashley Harnden, his Director of Stakeholder Relations. Suffice to say, the new Minister and his staff appear to be eager to listen to our perspective on the issues. While this is positive, we have yet to see anything substantive since he took over. I've been able to attend two affordable/accessible housing meetings: one in Thornhill and the other in Toronto. It's interesting to see the many varied opinions on what constitutes good quality, safe, affordable, accessible housing from the perspective of families, support organizations, Developmental Services Ontario and the City of Toronto.

I recently hired a new Labour Market Facilitator to join Jackie Moore as we gear up for Phase 2 of our Ready, Willing and Able (RWA) employment work. Siobhan Costelloe will be leaving her current role as one of our Student Links Coordinators in Ottawa, to join our team in Toronto towards the end of September. The RWA team will continue reporting to me until further notice.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Beesley, CEO