

**For Immediate Release  
December 3, 2015**

**Greater Accessibility and Inclusion Needed for People with an Intellectual Disability  
Community Living Ontario Marks International Day of Persons with a Disability**

**Toronto, ON** – Community Living Ontario is calling on Ontarians to join the organization in advocating on behalf of people with an intellectual disability and their families across the province. Representatives from Community Living Ontario participated in the United Nations' International Day of Persons with a Disability at Queen's Park earlier today, marking the occasion with other organizations dedicated to the full inclusion of all people in society.

"As a parent of a young man living with an intellectual disability who is able in so many ways, I have had and continue to fight to have him partake in the same opportunities as his brothers: a quality education in a fully inclusive system, suitable employment geared to his abilities, long lasting friendships, and a place of his own - these should all be available without any need to justify why," said Hélène Morin-Chain, President of Community Living Ontario.

"I feel that it is time that we see and refer to all our neighbours and co-citizens as '*people first*' and forget the differences that make us see them as less of a person."

Morin-Chain's comments were echoed by Brad Campbell, a Simcoe resident and member of the Council of Community Living Ontario, an advisory body to the organization's Board of Directors on issues of importance to people with an intellectual disability.

"We need to change society's attitude towards people with an intellectual disability. The lack of equality and full inclusion prevents people from leading an inclusive life."

Like Morin-Chain, Campbell sees competitive employment, education without segregation and basic human rights as crucial to active civic engagement for people with an intellectual disability.

This year's International Day of Persons with a Disability is also highlighting the urgency for towns and cities to be more accessible and inclusive of all people, regardless of their needs, as

**(continued next page)**

**Media Release – December 3, 2015  
Community Living Ontario  
Page 2**

well as to provide improved data collection on disability and facilitate greater inclusion of persons with invisible disabilities in society.

According the Government of Ontario, 1.85 million people in the province have a disability, and many continue to face societal stereotypes as well as barriers and live below the poverty line.

-30-

*Community Living Ontario is a non-profit, province-wide confederation, which advocates for, promotes and facilitates the full participation, inclusion and citizenship of people who have an intellectual disability. We are a progressive leader in the Developmental Services Sector representing more than 12,000 individuals, families, over 100 member organizations and community partners.*

For additional information, please contact:

Ron Laroche  
Director, Communications, Marketing and Fund Development  
Community Living Ontario  
Phone: 416-447-4348, ext. 223  
Cell: 416-707-4907  
Email: rlaroche@communitylivingontario.ca