



# A NEW DIRECTION

2016  
2017 Annual Report



[WWW.COMMUNITYLIVINGONTARIO.CA](http://WWW.COMMUNITYLIVINGONTARIO.CA)



Businesses and community groups came together in Bancroft on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to paddle a war canoe and support North Hastings Community Integration Association's *A Million Possibilities: Paddle the York River* event.

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Carrie Ann Ford (m) and Cindy Scott (r) accepted the 2016 James Montgomerie Community Award from Community Living Ontario CEO Chris Beesley (l) on behalf of the Huronia Speakers' Bureau.



## Who We Are, Who We Represent

**F**ounded in 1953, Community Living Ontario is a non-profit, provincial confederation that advocates for people who have an intellectual disability to be fully included in all aspects of community life.

Community Living Ontario is proud to serve and advocate on behalf of more than 12,000 members across the province. Over 100 local Community Living organizations make up Community Living Ontario's membership.



### Mission

Community Living Ontario is a family-based association assisting people who have an intellectual disability and their families to lead the way in advancing inclusion in their own lives and in their communities. As a province-wide confederation, rooted in a strong network of individuals, 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.

### Vision

Community Living Ontario envisions a society where people who have an intellectual disability belong, have equal rights, respect and acceptance, 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.



### Goal

Our goal is for people who have an intellectual disability to live in a state of dignity, share in all elements of living in the community and have the opportunity to participate effectively.



## Message from the CEO and President

For many Ontarians who have an intellectual disability, finding one's place in the community, developing valued social roles, and having a strong sense of belonging remain elusive.

Navigating the complex system of Developmental Services is daunting, and the struggle to identify and obtain appropriate services and supports to enable people to participate effectively in their community is real. Similarly, the challenges faced by Community Living Ontario and its member organizations regarding how best to effectively support people and their families to advance inclusion in their own lives are never-ending.

With the number of difficulties that still exist in accessing the Developmental Services sector and many other community supports and services that people need, it is easy to lose focus and become disheartened. That is why it is critically important to have a roadmap or compass to guide one's actions and energies so that we can maximize our effectiveness and stay the course in the most trying of times.

In 2016, Community Living Ontario engaged with more than 200 stakeholders and partners in various ways to develop our 2017-2022 Strategic Plan. From the data that was collected, themes quickly began to emerge.

In general, everyone who took part in the strategic plan's development wanted Community Living Ontario to engage people and families in innovative ways, to amplify their voices, and to work with our member organizations in building new connections and fostering existing relationships.

We also heard that Community Living Ontario should be at the forefront when it comes to raising awareness and advancing solutions to the challenges facing our stakeholders, through continued advocacy and recommendations to improve government policies that enable all people to live a good life.

In addition, it was suggested that we become proficient in harnessing and sharing information more broadly to achieve more positive outcomes for people, and that we take the knowledge gathered and disseminate it through practical resources and tools.

Community Living Ontario, its Board of Directors, the Council of Community Living Ontario, and staff have been actively working to achieve the priorities outlined in the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan. This year's annual report is organized in a manner that clearly demonstrates the many activities and initiatives that are already being undertaken, and how they relate to the strategic plan and our new course of action.

**In closing, we wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone who shared their ideas as to how Community Living Ontario could better assist people supported, their families and our member organizations. Your insights helped to determine the direction our organization will take over the next five years.**

**The entire team at Community Living Ontario is committed to achieving the goals associated with each of the priorities outlined in the strategic plan. In doing so, we will achieve our mission and continue to Inspire Possibilities!**

Sincerely,



Council of  
Community Living  
Ontario Chair,  
James Taylor.



*Chris Beesley*  
**Chris Beesley**

Chief Executive Officer  
Community Living Ontario



*Hélène Morin - Chain*

**Hélène Morin-Chain**  
President  
Community Living Ontario

## 2017-2022 Strategic Plan

Community Living Ontario has a new roadmap to guide its course of action in supporting people who have an intellectual disability and their families to lead the way in advancing inclusion in their own lives and in their communities.

Over the course of a year, more than 200 stakeholders were consulted through a series of focus groups, surveys and interviews to develop the *2017-2022 Strategic Plan*, including the Council of Community Living Ontario, families and member organizations.



Through this process, themes began to emerge and four clear priorities were adopted by the Board of Directors:

- Strengthen the voices, engagement and influence of people and families;
- Lead the way in raising awareness and advancing solutions to the complexity of challenges facing people, families and member organizations through advocacy and social policy;
- Harness and share knowledge to drive progress and innovation so that people across Ontario live good lives; and
- Transfer knowledge and information into practical resources and tools.

The strategic plan was provided to member organizations in May of 2017. Moving forward, Community Living Ontario will use the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan to guide the work and initiatives undertaken by the organization over the next five years.

A copy of the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan can be obtained by contacting Community Living Ontario or by visiting our website – [www.communitylivingontario.ca/strategic-priorities](http://www.communitylivingontario.ca/strategic-priorities).



## The Council of Community Living Ontario

Council candidates elected or reelected for the 2016-17 term were Mark Anderson, Stella Curtis, Brant Mawdsley, Ashely Stekel, James Taylor, Jackie Watts and Nicky Jones. They were joined by Peter Marresse, Brad Campbell, Brandon Bain, Yvonne Spicer, Craig Harrison and Angèle Jodouin.



## Strategic Priority #1

### Strengthen the voices, engagement and influence of people and families

Ensuring the voices of Ontarians who have an intellectual disability are heard, the 13 representatives of the Council of Community Living Ontario amplify those voices and are an integral advisory body to Community Living Ontario's Board of Directors. The Council continues to bring about positive change by participating in key discussions around advocacy and government policy.

Over the past year, Council representatives have focused their advocacy efforts on the devastating impact of poverty and exclusion. Members submitted pre-budget recommendations to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, provided input as part of the Basic Income Pilot Project consultation, met with various MPPs on the issue of poverty, and took part in a consultation with the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario to provide information, stories and opinions on the barriers people face when accessing health care.

The Council marked its 20th anniversary at Community Living Ontario's 2016 Conference and AGM, a truly significant milestone that speaks to the importance of ensuring the concerns of people who have an intellectual disability resonate with decision-makers.



## Recommendations for surplus land at former Huronia Regional Centre

The Province of Ontario held consultations on what should become of the 175 acres of unused land at the site of the former Huronia Regional Centre in Orillia, which was in operation from 1876 to 2009. The other 85 acres on the site now house an Ontario Provincial Police training facility, a courthouse, and a public health lab. Until recently, it also had an office for the Ontario Disability Support Program.

Over the eight-month period from August of 2016 until April of 2017, a consultant facilitated an engagement process, with input from Community Living Ontario. A total of 690 stakeholder groups and members of the public submitted their ideas for the land through an online survey, email, one-on-one interviews, and during two public meetings in March of 2017.

Yvonne Spicer, Past Chair of the Council of Community Living Ontario, made a deputation on behalf of the 13-member elected body and requested that survivors of Huronia Regional Centre be consulted as to what should be done with the land deemed surplus.

Community Living Ontario Chief Executive Officer Chris Beesley also provided feedback, suggesting the site should never again be a place where people are congregated, segregated, and thereby devalued as human beings. He also stressed that input from survivors of Ontario's institutions should be valued the most, and profits generated from the use of the surplus land (through ticket sales or other means) should somehow benefit former residents.

It was also recommended that a panel of survivors be struck to vet a shortlist of two or three suggested uses that the government would provide to the panel based on the consultation process. The panel's decision would be binding, ensuring the legitimacy of the consultation process and the primacy of survivors' voices.

The consultant's report was released in July of 2017. Broadly speaking, all groups agreed that the land should be inclusive and accessible, open year-round, and recognize the history of institutionalization in Ontario and the accomplishments of people who have an intellectual disability. At the time of this annual report's publication, the Government of Ontario had yet to make any recommendations based on the consultant's report.



For more information on the consultation involving the surplus land at Huronia Regional Centre, visit [www.ontario.ca/huroniaconsultation](http://www.ontario.ca/huroniaconsultation).

## Family Engagement Project

In recognition of the Community Living movement's history and its roots in the shared experience of families, Community Living Ontario is continuing its work of connecting families and has undertaken the Family Engagement Project.

It is with the acknowledgement of this history and the ever-present responsibility we have to enable families to feel supported in achieving the vision they hold for their loved one to have a full and meaningful life that we have chosen to undertake this year-long initiative. The nature of relationships with families in our movement has been integral to the conversations and decisions that have defined Community Living Ontario's organizational priorities and actions, as evidenced by the input families provided during the development of the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan.

Launched in June of 2017, the Family Engagement Project aims to provide more opportunities to strengthen families by connecting them to a broader network of families.

With the capacity to reach 21 member organizations and connect with hundreds of families, the project is keeping the importance of connecting families to one another at the forefront, and enabling greater collaboration with our members to better understand how as organizations they can support the engagement of families.

Lead partners on this project include Brockville and District Association for Community Involvement, Rygiel Supports for Community Living, Community Living Mississauga, and Community Living St. Marys and Area. These partners are working with families and member organizations within four regions mapped out across the province to facilitate ongoing knowledge-sharing gatherings and helpful conversations among families.

As part of this project, a series of engagement opportunities called *Social Value and Inclusion* are being hosted across Ontario for families to advance their own learning and to build capacity for family leadership across the province. Comprised of four weekend gatherings, the series involves families learning about the principles of Social Role Valorization and include a component that gives families an opportunity to analyze services together.

Partners are collaborating on a community of practice that will encompass the knowledge gained through this collaborative group of organizations, as well as the families' experiences and shared learning to advance our understanding of what is required of organizations to work with families in this manner.



**Minister of Community and Social Services Dr. Helena Jaczek provided greetings and remarks during the 2017 Community Living Day at the Legislature.**



**Gurvir, Navprit and Sara Singh created the *PowerofOne* project, an arts-based workshop to promote diversity and inclusion.**

## Spark Change Awareness Campaign

Community Living Ontario and many of its member organizations celebrated the stories of community builders who are making a difference in the lives of people who have an intellectual disability through the Spark Change campaign. Launched in October of 2016, the public awareness campaign showcased diverse and inspirational stories of people from across Ontario who have had a positive impact on the lives of people who have an intellectual disability, much like the people that started the Community Living movement nearly 70 years ago.

The campaign included Luke Anderson and Danny Steeves from StopGap, former Minister of Community and Social Services John Baird, London law firm Cohen Highley, Community Living Toronto's Spinclusion initiative, and community activists Gurvir, Navprit and Sara Singh.

People also had the opportunity to nominate someone who sparked change in their community by visiting the website – [www.SparkChangeToday.com](http://www.SparkChangeToday.com). To date, more than 30 profiles of people and organizations have been posted to the website.



Ahoy Matey! On December 1st, 2017, Colin Sanders will row 4000 kilometres across the Atlantic Ocean aboard Socks II on an adventure called *A Million Possibilities: Solo Ocean Row 2017*.

## A Million Possibilities

In April of 2017, Community Living Ontario unveiled an ambitious awareness and fundraising campaign to benefit Ontarians who have an intellectual disability and their families. With the goal of raising \$1 million over four years in the areas of youth, family, advocacy and urgent priorities, the *A Million Possibilities* campaign is benefiting from a partnership with Colin Sanders to assist us in achieving our goal.

On December 1st of 2017, the Port Hope resident will row across the Atlantic Ocean by himself, from the Canary Islands to Antigua, roughly 4,000 kilometres or one million oar strokes. Colin's oldest son, Jeff, has intellectual and physical disabilities and is supported by Community Living Campbellford/Brighton.

Community Living Ontario worked with several member organizations that have hosted awareness and fundraising initiatives in their communities ahead of Colin's transatlantic journey called *A Million Possibilities: Solo Ocean Row 2017*.

Community Living Essex County held a stationary rowing event with a gym in Essex in June of 2017. People and groups from communities across Essex County were encouraged to collect pledges and either row solo or along with friends, family and co-workers.

Community Living Access and Norfolk Association for Community Living kicked off *A Million Possibilities Norfolk* from the shores of Long Point Beach. Tyler Backus, Jonah Logan and Kodie Peekstok crossed Lake Erie on their paddleboards on July 6th in support of the local fundraising and awareness campaign. The crossing, which began in Ohio, took roughly 11 hours and 80-kilometres before the trio reached Long Point. The paddleboard event was the first in a number of activities hosted by Community Living Access and Norfolk Association for Community Living that are taking place in 2017, which will include rowing competitions between area schools and gyms.

North Hastings Community Integration Association hosted *A Million Possibilities: Paddle the York River* in August, where people, businesses and community groups came together to paddle and row 75,000 strokes. Some participants paddled in a 16-person war canoe through the community of Bancroft, while a local gym also invited members and non-members to stop in and hop on their rowing machine to have their strokes counted in the weeks leading up to the event on the river.

The communities of Campbellford, Brighton, Cobourg, and surrounding areas were encouraged to get active in support of Community Living Campbellford/Brighton's *A Million Possibilities: Solo Ocean Row 2017* event. Over two weeks in August, people took part in various activities including swimming, kayaking, and stand up paddleboarding, and they tracked their physical activity in equivalent oar strokes in support of Colin Sanders' row.

You can get involved with *A Million Possibilities: Solo Ocean Row 2017* by visiting [OneMillionPossibilities.com](http://OneMillionPossibilities.com) and [SoloOceanRow2017.com](http://SoloOceanRow2017.com) to make a donation, to stay informed of the various events happening in communities across the province and to track Colin's progress across the Atlantic Ocean.



## Strategic Priority #2

**Lead the way in raising awareness and advancing solutions to the complexity of challenges facing people, families and member organizations through advocacy and social policy**

### Urgent Action Required

Community Living Ontario released a brief in April of 2017 regarding the Ministry of Community and Social Services' update on the Ontario Ombudsman's report on the Developmental Services sector. Titled *Urgent Action Required*, the brief pointed out that the level of investment that has occurred in the sector in recent years, including the \$810 million provided for in the 2014 Ontario Budget, has failed to significantly reduce the number of people waiting for disability-related services. In fact, the number of people waiting for residential support is higher now than it was before the 2014 investment. Unfortunately, the \$130 million outlined for Developmental Services in 2017 has even more modest targets than the earlier funding, and it is highly likely that waitlists will continue to grow, leaving more families facing crisis.

The most recent waitlist numbers that the Ministry of Community and Social Services has provided to Community Living Ontario indicate that there are 11,000 people waiting for Passport funding and 14,900 waiting for residential supports. The targets for new supports in 2017 as already outlined will have no appreciable impact on the overall unmet need in the sector.

Community Living Ontario also finds that the Ministry of Community and Social Services isn't being entirely forthright in the amount of new residential spaces allocated to people who have an intellectual disability. Of the 819 residential spaces that the ministry reported to have been created between 2014 and 2016, 535 were allocated to young people transitioning from the child welfare system and who were already funded through that system. Community Living Ontario challenges the ministry's contention that it has created new funded services for transitional-aged youth, given that they were already in receipt of government-funded residential supports.

In 2010, Canada ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which obligates the government to provide the supports that a person who has a disability might need to live a full life in the community. The discretionary approach that currently exists, where the government is not legally required to provide funding for Developmental Services, is not working. It is time for government policy and funding to align with legal obligations under the convention and ensure that people have access to the supports and services they require.

In addition, while policy reform and additional funding are required by the Ministry of Community and Social Services in order to significantly improve people's lives, supporting people who have an intellectual disability and their families will require greater cooperation from the community and many branches of government.

### ODSP Gifts and Asset Limits

In pre-budget recommendations for 2016 and 2017, Community Living Ontario called on the government to amend ODSP regulations and remove the \$6,000 limit on voluntary gifts and payments, as well as increase the prescribed asset limit to \$100,000 for a single recipient and \$200,000 if there is a spouse in the benefit unit.

Council of Community Living Ontario Chair James Taylor and Community Living Ontario Board Member Jill Teeple provided recommended changes to ODSP gifts and asset limits as part of their presentation to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs in London in January of 2017.

Subsequently, Community Living Ontario welcomed the government's intention to increase limits as outlined in the 2017 Ontario Budget. Recognizing that people receiving social assistance may also rely on the support of family or friends, the income exemption for cash gifts will be increased from \$6,000 up to \$10,000 per year. In addition, gifts in any amount will not reduce the amount of social assistance people receive if the funds are used to pay for first and last month's rent, the purchase of a principal residence, or to buy a vehicle. These changes took effect in September of 2017. Come January of 2018, the cash and other liquid asset limits will be increased from \$5,000 to \$40,000 for single people and from \$7,500 to \$50,000 for couples.

Community Living Ontario wishes that the government had gone further to align ODSP benefits with those paid by other provinces that have modernized the asset and gifts limits. In 2015, the Government of British Columbia increased the asset limit from \$5,000 to \$100,000 (\$200,000 for a couple) and removed the cap on voluntary gifts and payments. Asset limits of \$100,000 were established in Alberta several years ago.

## Impact of Pay Equity Act on Member Organizations

Community Living Ontario Chief Executive Officer Chris Beesley reiterated the Confederation's ongoing concerns over the negative impact that the Pay Equity Act is having on people who have an intellectual disability and their families in a letter to Minister of Community and Social Services Dr. Helena Jaczek and Minister of Labour Kevin Flynn.

The letter, dated November 10th, 2016, spoke to the continuing challenges faced by many support organizations in the Developmental Services sector in meeting their obligations under the terms of the Act.

It also pointed out that some of Community Living Ontario's member organizations were unable to meet their obligations, while others had done so at great cost to the supports and services provided, including re-mortgaging properties or using fundraising dollars.

Community Living Ontario called on the government to implement three recommendations from the Gender Wage Gap Strategy Steering Committee in order to address the challenges associated with meeting pay equity obligations:

- The government should address barriers to compliance and support employers in ongoing obligations by amending the Pay Equity Act;
- The government should assess the state of proxy pay equity and examine ways to coordinate achievement of pay equity with wage enhancement programs in the broader public sector; and
- The government should consult with relevant workplace parties on how to value work in female-dominant sectors using pay equity or other means.

The letter went on to state that Community Living Ontario supports the recommendation made by the Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs (OASIS) in requesting a moratorium on the obligation to continue to make pay equity payments pending the government's review and adoption of the Gender Wage Gap Committee's recommendations.



## Community Living Day at the Legislature

The message of inclusion and citizenship for all was heard loud and clear at Queen's Park on May 9th, 2017, as nearly 200 people from across the province took part in Community Living Day at the Legislature. Co-hosted by Community Living Toronto and Community Living Ontario, many member organizations that participated in the day took the opportunity to meet with their respective MPPs, delivering our collective message and sharing many success stories that had taken place in their communities.

Community and Social Services Minister Dr. Helena Jaczek and MCSS Critics Lisa Gretzky (NDP) and Randy Pettapiece (PC) provided remarks during the lunch time reception. James Taylor, Chair of the Council of Community Living Ontario, took the opportunity to address those in attendance by discussing the issues faced by many people who live in poverty and the harm it causes people. Community Living Ontario Chief Executive Officer Chris Beesley acknowledged the new investments in supports, as well as the increases in the level of assets a person can hold and the gifts they can receive without affecting their ODSP payments.

A delegation from Community Living Ontario also met with Pettapiece and Gretzky to discuss Passport funding for young adults, the wait list for residential supports and base funding increases for support organizations.

Above: Representatives from Madoc C.O.P.E. Corporation were among nearly 200 people who took part in Community Living Day at the Legislature on May 9th, 2017.

**“The work of our Confederation happens town by town, in communities across the province. Our success relies heavily on the support of every MPP, in every community across Ontario. So, for your ongoing and tireless commitment to the lives of people who have an intellectual disability and their families, we thank you and we look forward to working with you in the coming year.”**

**Chris Beesley**, *Chief Executive Officer, Community Living Ontario*



## Supported Decision-making

After three years of study, the Law Commission of Ontario released its *Final Report on Legal Capacity, Decision-making and Guardianship* in March of 2017. The paper addressed an area of law reform that Community Living Ontario has focused on for more than 30 years, as we have advocated for a legal framework for supported decision-making.

While the report recommended reforms to legal capacity, decision-making and guardianship laws, it stopped short of providing an alternative to guardianship. In Community Living Ontario's analysis it was determined that, if the government was to implement the recommendations of the report, Ontario would remain in non-compliance with provisions in Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and would likely be in contravention of other domestic human rights provisions. Article 12 of the UN Convention requires states to recognize and support people to control decisions about their life.

Too often, people who have an intellectual disability and other vulnerable people are seen as not capable of deciding for themselves and don't get access to the support they need to make those decisions. Community Living Ontario believes there should be other ways to support affected people that would allow them to retain more control over their lives.

At the end of March of 2017, Community Living Ontario focused its annual Policy Forum on the Law Commission of Ontario's report. The day at Ryerson University provided an opportunity for member organizations and allies to consider the recommendations in the report and to prepare for the joint action that will be needed in the coming years to convince government to implement law reform that goes far beyond what is recommended by the Law Commission of Ontario.



Community Living Ontario Director of Policy Gord Kyle (l) and Pooran Law Professional Corporation Principal Brendon Pooran (r) addressed delegates at the annual Policy Forum on March 27th, 2017.

## Youth Engagement

Young people and their adult allies from the Re:Action4Inclusion movement continue to build on the momentum for change in their schools and communities. Seeking to empower youth to take action individually and collectively to make Ontario's schools and communities more inclusive, Re:Action4Inclusion also strives to demonstrate the impact and influence youth can have when it comes to people's perceived social value in relationships, school, work, and community.

Through a generous 2014 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, youth across Ontario have had the opportunity to design, implement, and sustain Community Change Projects in their respective communities. Meant to create platforms for youth to break down the barriers that limit opportunities for young people who have an intellectual disability in developing meaningful relationships with their peers, the projects have helped youth to generate experiences and activities that have changed the narrative on disability and fostered a greater sense of community for all.

Over the last three years, 17 projects have been carried out by youth and their allies that have engaged thousands of their peers by educating them about authentic inclusion and what it means to belong. Students had the vision and their school and community allies empowered that vision by providing the support, guidance, and resources needed to make it a reality. Over that time, Re:Action4Inclusion has also partnered with 41 schools and 19 member organizations.

Approximately 30 youth advocates and adult allies from across the province met in Toronto in July of 2017 to discuss the barriers that youth are facing in their communities. The Summer Institute brought together youth from Re:Action4Inclusion and young people and their allies from the Youth Social Infrastructure Collaborative, R.I.S.E. and 4Rs, as well as representatives from the Durham Youth Council, the Markham Youth Council, and Volunteer Markham.

The intent of the event was to create a space for youth leaders from the Re:Action4Inclusion movement to be in conversation with other youth leaders of social justice movements around inclusion and to learn of each other's work.



Dr. Andrew Campbell delivered the keynote address and spoke of the need to be deliberate and authentic in one's advocacy and inclusion efforts. Participants also explored potential opportunities for future collaboration between movements through a graphically-facilitated mapping session. Through that process, youth participants shared how their lived experience has motivated them to become active in a social justice movement.

Re:Action4Inclusion also launched two new modules of curriculum that are meant to assist youth, teachers, youth-serving organizations and service agencies to facilitate conversations on youth leadership, inclusion and advocacy. Developed in partnership with Lura Consulting and in consultation with youth advisors from the movement, the modules on civic engagement and community building have been widely shared with ambassadors of the movement and organizations across the province.

Students from across Ontario joined one another in a conversation about youth leadership, the barriers to inclusion, and how to create change in society as part of Re:Action4Inclusion's annual conference in Orillia in November of 2016.

Themed *I Have an Idea!*, lived experience proved to be the foundation for discussion at the conference by grounding youth and their allies in the realities of those who live with a disability. A highlight for many attendees was the opening panel discussion, with eight panelists setting the tone for the weekend by articulating the values under which the Re:Action4Inclusion initiative was founded. They broke down the types of barriers that exist and how they impede the basic human rights of people who have a disability. The panel also discussed the concept of natural opportunities for creating connections with others and how this kind of inclusion perpetuates relationships that are based on shared interests, common goals, and mutual respect for the contributions of each person in that relationship.

Ontario's Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth Irwin Elman attended the opening of the conference. He also hosted a listening circle as part of his provincial Listening Tour. Youth made it clear to him that the rigidity of service providers, a lack of confidence and value for the youth voice, and limiting assumptions of what they are capable of are all serious barriers to their success.

Eight members of Re:Action4Inclusion represented the movement and Community Living Ontario at *Shaping the Future 2016 National Convention and International Forum and Global Self-Advocacy Leadership Summit* in Orlando, Florida in October of 2016. Throughout the conference and summit, the delegates from Re:Action4Inclusion were engaged and empowered, learning from the experiences of other advocates from all over the world, including Cambodia, Japan, South Africa, Australia, Germany and the United States. The students and allies from Ontario also shared how they have been supporting advocacy through the Re:Action4Inclusion movement, where young people with and without a disability are working together to create change.

## Inclusive Education Advocacy Initiative

A research project is currently underway to address accommodation issues within Ontario's schools for students who have an intellectual disability and to identify the barriers impeding their access to education.

Launched in February of 2017 by the Inclusive Education Advocacy Initiative, which consists of Community Living Ontario, ARCH Disability Law Centre, Inclusive Education Canada and Brockville and District Association for Community Involvement in partnership with Brock University and Western University, people were asked to participate in *If Inclusion Means Everyone, Why Not ME?*, a survey focused on the experiences of students who have an intellectual disability in our Kindergarten to Grade 12 school system.

Nearly 400 surveys were submitted. The team is analyzing the data collected and examining emerging themes from the results.

The Inclusive Education Advocacy Initiative also continues to work with and support member organizations and partners to enhance the work that is being done in the areas of inclusive education/family mentoring to build inclusive cultures in schools through local demonstration projects.



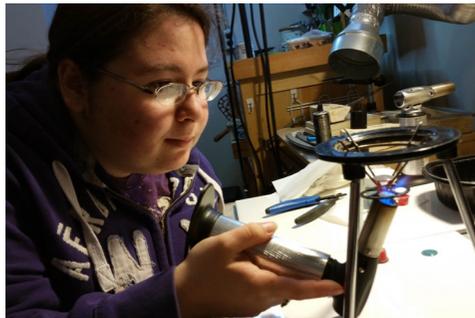
## Student Links

Continuing to have success at initiating the development of social roles for students who are transitioning out of high school, Community Living Ontario's Student Links program and its coordinators work in collaboration with students, family members, community mentors, and service providers to identify local experts in the student's field of interest. In turn, these experts support young people to explore interests such as employment and volunteer roles, educational opportunities, and membership in interest-based clubs, associations, co-ops, councils, sports teams, and civic and political action groups.

Student Links Coordinators facilitate relationships and mentoring in 10 regions across Ontario, three of which are designated to work with Francophone communities. During this fiscal year, the program matched 240 students across the province, in 101 schools and across 28 school boards.

In February of 2017, students, parents, support workers, and managers travelled from their home communities to Richmond Hill to participate in *Discovering the Good Life*, Student Links' annual conference.

'What is the good life?' and 'How does a person attain it?' were the two central questions explored, and the discussions were guided by internationally-acclaimed teachers and speakers Michael Kendrick and Bruce Anderson. Kendrick emphasized the key elements to a good life and provided an array of life-enhancing strategies that support engaged and meaningful roles for young people, while Anderson followed with interactive exercises that he has implemented to uncover the gifts and deep identities of youth.



**Kaitlynn Lappan explored her talent for jewellery making through a Student Links mentorship opportunity.**

Participants also heard inspirational stories from young people like Windsor photographer Omar Shahadah and YouTube sensation Sam Forbes, whose Dancing Barista video went viral and earned him an appearance on the Ellen DeGeneres show.

Student Links also hosted *Good Life* sessions in Welland and Clinton in the spring of 2017. 45 students engaged in the process of developing a vision for themselves, and some potential roles they identified included food critic, military historian, aesthetician, model, and antique clock restorer.



**Ms. Amy Walper Bedard's Grade 5/6 class' video was the top submission in the 2017 *Together, We're Better* contest.**

## Together, We're Better Contest

In celebration of National Inclusive Education Month in February of 2017, Community Living Ontario invited elementary school children and classes from across the province to participate in its annual *Together, We're Better* contest that promotes the benefits of inclusive education.

Students and classes were encouraged to think about inclusion and to start a conversation about how a diverse classroom offered better educational experiences for all students.

Community Living Ontario received an overwhelming number of stories, poems, and videos from young people across Ontario about how their classes were better because students of all abilities were included and learned alongside their peers. It was clear from the voices of youth that we heard from -- inclusion is better!

## Congratulations to the 2017 winners:

### Classroom video

**Top submission** - Grade 5/6, Exeter Elementary School

**Runner-up** - Jardin d'enfants (Kindergarten), École élémentaire catholique du Bon-Berger, Toronto

### Story or poem winners

**1st place** - Nolan Foster, Grade 7, Harry J. Public School

**2nd place** - Jordan White, Grade 7, Harry J. Public School

**3rd Place** - Sydney Dalton, Grade 3, Seaforth Public School

## Shine a Light on Community Living

For the second year in a row, many member organizations participated in the provincial *Shine a Light on Community Living* campaign on May 8th, 2017. Some took part by illuminating their administrative offices with blue and green lighting, while others involved area businesses and community groups.

Well-known structures in London, Sault Ste. Marie, Newmarket, Welland and Fort Erie, as well as Canada's most iconic structure – The CN Tower – were among the sites that were lit in Community Living's colours.

Shine a Light on Community Living was in conjunction with the many events and activities hosted by members as part of Community Living Month to raise awareness around the need for the full participation, inclusion and citizenship of all people who have an intellectual disability.



Welland MPP Cindy Forster (l) and Community Living Welland Pelham's David Middleton (m) and Kerry Thomas (r) took part in the 2017 edition of Community Living Day at the Legislature.



## Strategic Priority #3

**Harness and share knowledge to drive progress and innovation so that people across Ontario live good lives**

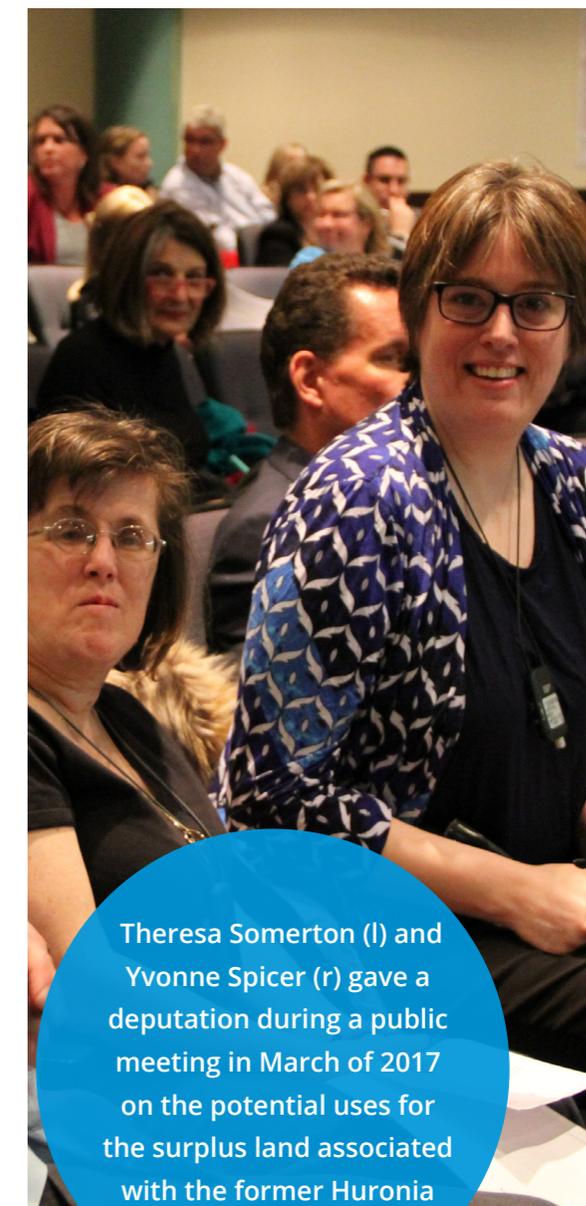
### Complex Needs Working Group

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care recently completed a consultation regarding inclusive home care support for people who have complex support needs due to having an intellectual disability. The aim was to recommend changes to the system in order to provide better support and help ensure that people were not unnecessarily institutionalized in hospitals, long-term care facilities, or other institutional settings.

The consultation resulted from a human rights complaint launched by Audrey and Ian Cole of Lanark County, which was settled in the summer of 2016. Ian had been told that he was at risk of being removed from his home, where he lives independently with a roommate, because he was exceeding the amount of in-home nursing support he was entitled to by one visit per day. In order to get the required support, the government stated that Ian would have needed to go into long-term care.

Believing in his right to receive health care without losing his home, Community Living Ontario, People First of Ontario and the Canadian Association for Community Living proposed to intervene in the human rights case. However, the group agreed to withdraw its intervention once the ministry committed to providing the additional visit for Ian and undertake a consultation process to look at how home care services for people who have an intellectual disability might be improved, including issues around caps in home care supports.

The consultation group, which was co-chaired by representatives from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and Community Living Ontario, completed its report in June of 2017 and it has been sent to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. The findings and recommendations from the consultation process will be released in September of 2017.



Theresa Somerton (l) and Yvonne Spicer (r) gave a deputation during a public meeting in March of 2017 on the potential uses for the surplus land associated with the former Huronia Regional Centre.



Through Ready, Willing & Able, Value Village Manager Lisa Laforest offered Moe meaningful employment at the Windsor store.

## Ready, Willing & Able

A national partnership of the Canadian Association for Community Living, the Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorders Alliance, and their member organizations, Community Living Ontario has been a proud partner of *Ready, Willing & Able*. Funded by the Government of Canada and active in 20 communities across the country, the employment initiative was designed to increase the labour force participation of people who have an intellectual disability or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Over the course of the three-year pilot project, the initiative has met its target of 210 employment outcomes for people who have an intellectual disability in Ontario. Not resting on their laurels, the Ready, Willing & Able team continues to engage new employers with a focus on developing corporate partnerships.

During the pilot period, Ready, Willing & Able developed partnerships with Costco, Sodexo, Value Village, PepsiCo., and Home Depot, to name a few. The employment positions have been as varied as the people who have filled them, ranging from seasonal/part-time roles to permanent part-time/full time positions with opportunities for advancement.

A key aspect of the pilot project's success has been the strong relationships we have had with our member organizations that have put forward great candidates as vacancies have arisen.

Looking ahead, the national team has started work on shaping phase two of Ready, Willing & Able. Along with consultations with our community members and partner organizations to evaluate and strengthen the value of the work undertaken, the Ontario team continues to assist employers to realize the possibilities and benefits associated with inclusive hiring, and have developed new materials to showcase the benefits and processes of inclusive hiring.

## Access for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Health Standard

The Ontario government announced in 2017 the establishment of a standards development group to undertake the design of a health standard to be regulated under the Access for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. Like other standards established under the Act, the health standard will work to remove barriers for accessing health services that currently face people who have a disability in Ontario. Community Living Ontario is a part of the standards development group, which is aiming to recommend a health standard to the government by the end of 2018.



## Strategic Priority #4

### Transfer knowledge and information into practical resources and tools

#### Provincial Executive Directors Coordinating Committee

Key to Community Living Ontario's effectiveness as a confederation are the strong relationships with member organizations and its ability to maintain a good understanding of the local issues that are important to our membership. Representatives of Community Living Ontario routinely attend annual general meetings, milestone anniversaries and other events of importance to our member organizations.

Another aspect of Community Living Ontario's work includes playing a support role with the Provincial Executive Directors Coordinating Committee. This includes participating in monthly teleconferences and regional executive directors meetings throughout the province and assisting with events like the *Beyond Quality Outcomes* conference held in June of 2017. Chief executive officers, executive directors, and senior managers converged on Kingston to explore ways to enhance service effectiveness, implement quality measurement systems, and learn how to build a culture of quality outcomes and good lives for the people they support, throughout all operational practices.

Priorities for the Provincial Executive Directors Coordinating Committee continue to be seeking increases to base budgets, preventing attempts to re-institutionalize Ontarians who have an intellectual disability, and greater collaboration and investment in the Developmental Services sector.

Many member organizations had hoped to see some relief in the 2017 Ontario Budget to offset mounting pressures for services and infrastructure. Aside from a \$180 million investment over three years for workforce stabilization funding, support organizations in the Developmental Services sector have seen little else to address financial constraints many face, including infrastructure costs and pay equity obligations.

As a result, many of Community Living Ontario's organizations have had to become increasingly creative to manage rising costs, while at the same time having more and more demands placed on them with respect to reporting, accountability, and technological needs.

As part of its pre-budget submission, Community Living Ontario joined the call by its partners in the Provincial Network on Developmental Services in recommending that investments be made for support organizations' operating budgets. Specifically, the Provincial Network had called for a 2.5 percent increase in base funding per year, for three years, or \$150 million.

The Provincial Executive Directors Coordinating Committee believes the proposal is a strategy and a formula that needs to be pushed forward, in collaboration with the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

There is clear evidence that the capacity of organizations has seriously eroded over the last nine years. Without significant investments, such as those called for by Community Living Ontario, the Provincial Executive Directors Coordinating Committee, the Provincial Network and other partners, it is unlikely that the Developmental Services sector can carry on much longer without a significant impact on the resilience and capacity of the services provided.



Ashely Stekel (l) and Nicky Jones (r) enjoyed themselves at the 2016 Community Living Ontario Conference and AGM.

#### Community Living Ontario Conference and AGM

People from all parts of the province came together in Richmond Hill for two days of learning, networking and fun as part of Community Living Ontario's 63rd Annual Conference and AGM in September of 2016. The sessions were largely tied to the theme of *Inclusive Communities, Engaged Citizens*.

Chief Executive Officer of *Kids Included Together*, Torrie Dunlap kicked off the conference with the keynote address, and the conference also included remarks from the Minister of Community and Social Services Dr. Helena Jaczek.



Students from across Ontario participated in Student Links' conference *Discovering the Good Life* in February of 2017.

## From Presence to Citizenship Learning Exchange

Community Living Ontario was delighted to play a part in supporting a forum that aimed to assist organizations within the Developmental Services sector that are committed to person-centred approaches and that wish to accelerate their transition.

The *From Presence to Citizenship Learning Exchange* took place in February of 2017 in Toronto and was part of a larger project called *From Presence to Citizenship: Putting Person-Centred Thinking into Practice*. Approximately 300 representatives from various support organizations came together to hear from internationally-acclaimed speakers Dr. Al Condeluci, Dr. David Pitonyak, Bruce Anderson and Dr. Barry Isaacs.

The group of support organizations involved in the initiative includes Community Living Upper Ottawa Valley, Community Living Atikokan, Community Living Algoma, Mills Community Support, Community Living Thunder Bay, Community Living St. Marys and Area, LiveWorkPlay, Community Living Brant, South-East Grey Support Services and Kenora Association for Community Living.

An online community where support organizations can share best practices and success stories among themselves and others was also unveiled during the forum.

## Responding to Reinstitutionalization

The proposed conversion of a Jesuit college in Guelph into a 70-unit apartment building mostly for people who have a disability, and similar projects elsewhere in the province are indicative of a systemic housing crisis in Ontario, where there is a lack of appropriate housing, creative solutions, and vision for people who have an intellectual disability and their families.

Community Living Ontario and the National Task Force on the Right to Live in the Community are actively engaging with the Government of Ontario and its related ministries in seeking a formal response to the housing crisis and have requested that meaningful consultations take place with people who have lived experience, families and member organizations across the province on the importance of thoughtful, intentional and inclusive communities.

## Administrative Justice Support Network

Over the past five years, Community Living Ontario has sponsored the Administrative Justice Support Network to develop resources and a team of mentors to support people who are facing tribunals and other justice mechanisms such as the Human Rights Tribunal.

Our recent work has focused on preparing the Network to spin off into an independent organization that is not reliant on Community Living Ontario alone. We have worked to develop orientation and training materials to help build a renewed network including mentors and community groups committed to supporting families with administrative justice processes. Community Living Ontario is keen to develop a new governance system for the Administrative Justice Support Network to ensure its ongoing success in future years.

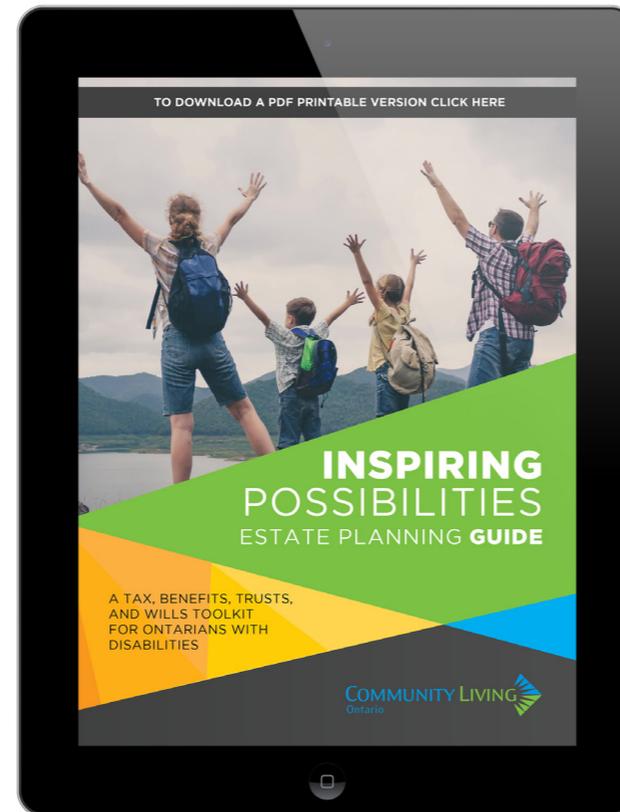
[asjn.communitylivingontario.ca](http://asjn.communitylivingontario.ca)

## Inspiring Possibilities Estate Planning Guide

There is a new, comprehensive resource to assist families and professionals navigate the current patchwork of systems, benefits and planning tools when making estate plans involving people who have a disability.

Community Living Ontario launched the *Inspiring Possibilities Estate Planning Guide: A Tax, Benefits, Trusts, and Wills Toolkit for Ontarians with Disabilities* in September of 2016.

Written by Brendon Pooran and Cheryl Wiles Pooran of PooranLaw Professional Corporation and Tom O'Dwyer of Ability Tax and Trust, the Inspiring Possibilities Estate Planning Guide provides families with accessible and relevant content prior to meeting with their lawyer, financial planner, or accountant.



Topics discussed in the 112-page online resource include Will and Trust planning, the Ontario Disability Support Program, the Disability Tax Credit, and the Registered Disability Savings Plan.

There is no cost to download the guide, which can be accessed by visiting [www.PlanInspiringPossibilities.ca](http://www.PlanInspiringPossibilities.ca). The 2017 edition of the Inspiring Possibilities Estate Planning Guide will be published in the fall and will include a version in French.



The Advisory Committee for the YADD Privacy Project came together in July of 2017 to work on identifying better ways to protect the privacy rights of young people.

## Young Adults with Developmental Disability Privacy Project

Young adults who have an intellectual disability sometimes have complex physical and mental health needs and they must provide personal information to service providers in order to receive support. They also frequently rely on secondary decision-makers to protect their privacy rights.

Community Living Ontario is collaborating with York University on the Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities Privacy Project to identify ways that we can all better protect the privacy rights of young people.



Community Living  
Ontario Board Member,  
Michael Jacques.

Dr. Nazilla Khanlou, Women's Research Chair in Mental Health, is leading the study to gauge how current privacy rights are impacting youth in order to understand how young adults are using existing legislation under the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act.

The project will assess the state of privacy needs for young adults, examine the research, and share the results with its advisory committee and other stakeholders prior to hosting an interactive workshop in the winter of 2018, where feedback will be sought.

Toolkits will then be developed and offered to young adults, families, and support organizations, providing them with step-by-step guidance to simplify the often-confusing rights and legalities related to giving consent to collect and share personal information.

## Dawn Roper and Cay Shedden

**The 2016-17 Annual Report is dedicated to the memories of Dawn Roper and Cay Shedden.**

For more than 30 years, Dawn had been a champion for families' rights, as a parent of a child who had an intellectual disability, a former Board member of Community Living Ontario, and most recently, the project manager of the Administrative Justice Support Network. The program connects parents of children who have a disability with mentors who guide them through the tribunal process for bureaucratic decisions they feel are unjust.

Dawn is remembered as a person who spread love and laughter wherever she went. While not seeking anything in return, she demanded respect and dignity for her daughter and other people who had an intellectual disability and their families.

Cay Shedden began volunteering with Community Living Toronto in 1962, soon after the birth of her son. She, like all of us, believed strongly that people who have an intellectual disability should enjoy the same opportunities and freedoms as other citizens, and sought the creation of community-based programs and supports.

Cay was also involved with Community Living Ontario and the Canadian Association for Community Living. She called for the closure of the Huronia Regional Centre in Orillia and the creation of Project 81, which consisted of a number of group homes and a day program.

She was also the recipient of Community Living Ontario's William G. Davis Outstanding Volunteer Award in 2005, a tribute to people who have demonstrated their extraordinary commitment to the vision of Community Living.

Over the years, Dawn and Cay each made a profound difference in the lives of so many people across the province.



*Dawn Roper*

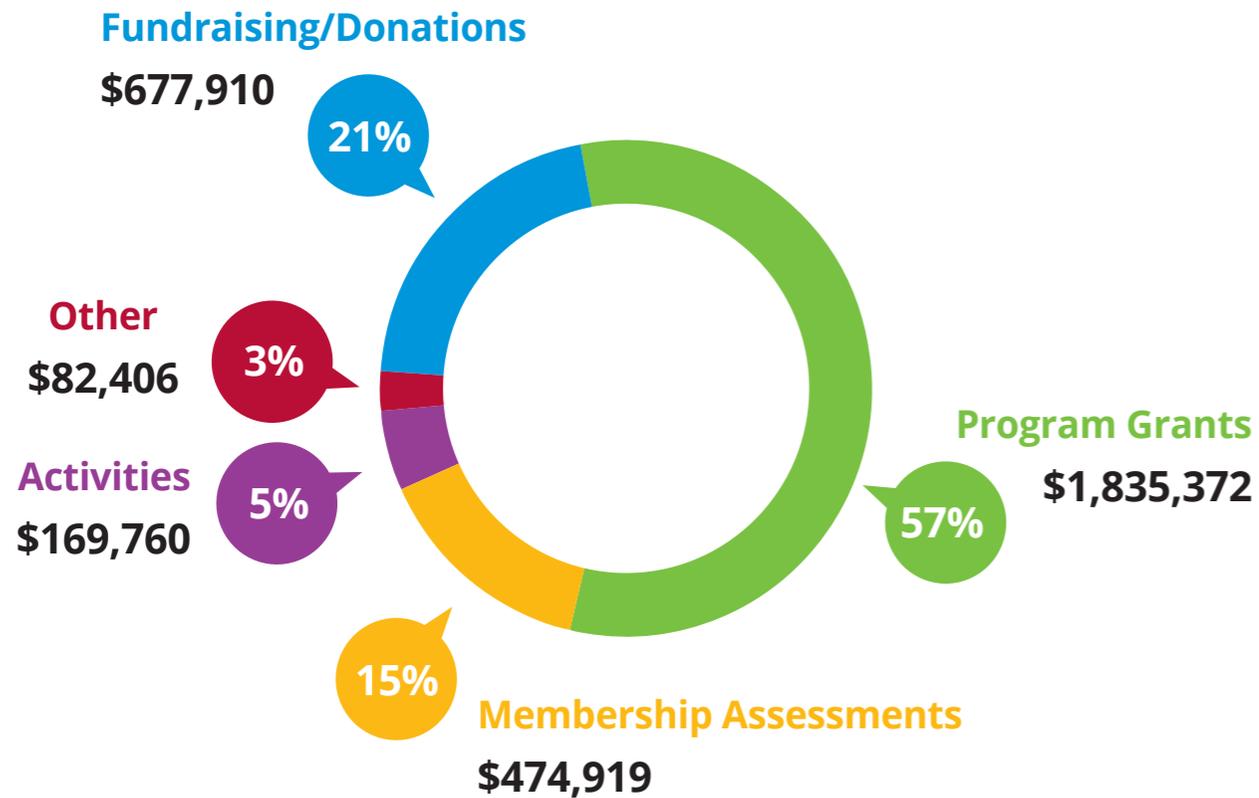


*Cay Shedden*

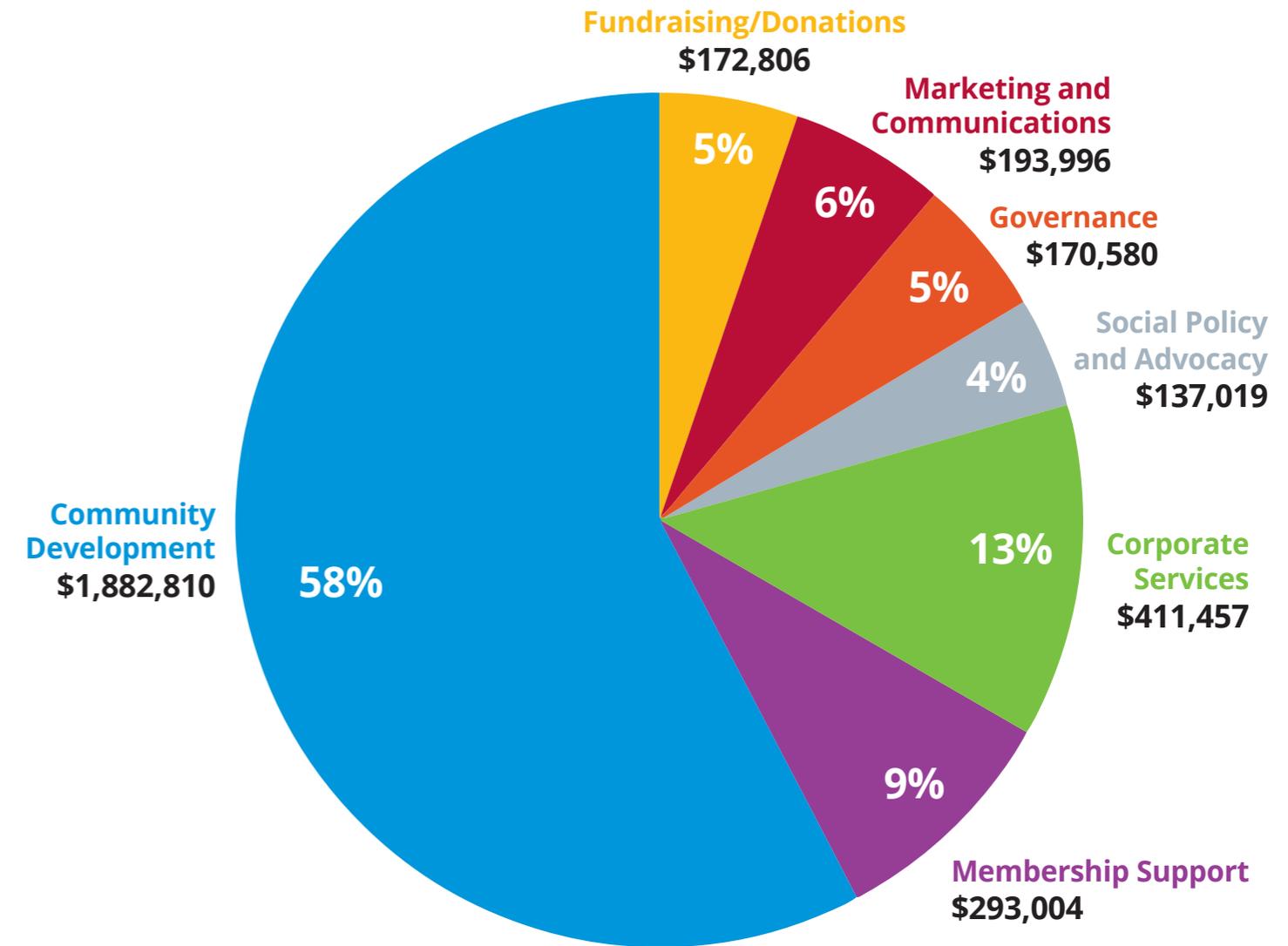
# Financial Summary

Financial results for the 12 months ending March 31, 2017 show net revenue from operations of \$13,000 versus a breakeven budget. Depreciation of \$34,500 brings the results to a deficit of \$21,000. Community Living Ontario continues to maintain a solid financial position with cash and investments totalling \$1.1 million.

## Financial Data Where the Money Came From



## How We Put the Money to Work



## Statement of Financial Position

March 31	2017	2016
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash	\$ 49,640	\$ 150,711
Short-term investments	1,083,837	1,057,879
Accounts receivable	73,302	81,086
Prepaid expenses	38,338	33,210
	1,245,117	1,322,886
<b>Capital assets</b>	152,951	174,935
	<b>\$ 1,398,068</b>	<b>\$ 1,497,821</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 202,652	\$ 343,494
Deferred revenue	235,267	109,849
	437,919	453,343
<b>Net assets</b>		
General fund		
Operating	552,646	551,967
Invested in capital assets	152,951	174,935
Designated funds	254,552	317,576
	960,149	1,044,478
	<b>\$ 1,398,068</b>	<b>\$ 1,497,821</b>

## Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31	2017	2016
<b>Revenue</b>		
Ministry of Community and Social Services	\$ 1,122,261	\$ 1,580,061
Federal grants	583,222	413,788
Ontario Trillium Foundation grant	129,889	139,862
Membership fees	474,919	496,714
Registration fees	169,760	193,378
Donations	677,910	579,581
Investment income	27,825	25,894
Other revenue	54,581	26,360
	<b>\$ 3,240,367</b>	<b>\$ 3,455,638</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Amortization	34,451	\$ 22,321
Bad debt	-	8,948
Bank charges	3,953	5,645
Disbursements for external partners	97,929	100,943
Employee benefits	283,153	264,894
Events catering	80,403	65,003
Fundraising	76,809	11,010
Insurance	6,632	6,911
Loss on disposal of capital assets	-	4,414
Office and general	217,649	276,020
Professional fees	30,832	47,795
Project expenses	439,446	299,342
Purchased services	122,695	557,757
Rent	77,161	130,110
Staff training	34,754	15,714
Telephone	50,484	43,424
Travel	129,583	145,835
Wages	1,575,738	1,471,288
	<b>\$ 3,261,672</b>	<b>\$ 3,477,374</b>
<b>Deficiency of revenue over expenses before the undernoted</b>	(21,305)	(21,736)
<b>Designated fund - net revenue (deficiency)</b>	(63,024)	(24,322)
<b>Deficiency of revenue over expenses for the year</b>	<b>\$ (84,329)</b>	<b>\$ (46,058)</b>



## Acknowledgements

### Community Living Ontario Board of Directors, 2016-2017

Hélène Morin-Chain, President, Director-at-Large  
 Roy O'Leary, Past President  
 Jim McNamara, Vice President, Director-at-Large  
 Dan Wagner, Treasurer, Director-at-Large  
 Ralph Savage, Director-at-Large  
 Salwa Khouzam, Director-at-Large  
 Jill Teeple, Director-at-Large  
 Theresa Somerton, Director-at-Large  
 Stephen Andrews, Director-at-Large  
 Jack Gillan, Director-at-Large  
 Betty Stone, Director-at-Large  
 Michael Jacques, Director-at-Large  
 Sara Singh, Director-at-Large  
 Patricia Morris, PEDG Appointed Director  
 Claude Sauvé, Council Appointed Director  
 Chris Beesley, Secretary

### The Council of Community Living Ontario, 2016-2017

James Taylor, Chair  
 Yvonne Spicer, Past Chair  
 Brandon Bain  
 Brad Campbell  
 Stella Curtis  
 Craig Harrison  
 Peter Maresse  
 Ashley Stekel  
 Nikki Jones  
 Brant Mawdsley  
 Mark Anderson  
 Jackie Watts  
 Angèle Jodouin

### Community Living Ontario – 2017 Award Recipients

CACL Inclusive Education Award - Ontario  
**Avon Maitland District School Board**

James Montgomerie Honour Award  
**Yvonne Spicer**

James Montgomerie Community Award  
**Community Living Upper Ottawa Valley**

Overall Newsletter Award  
**Community Living Access Support Services**

Newsletter Award – Individual Article  
**Community Living Owen Sound and District**

Orville Endicott Social Justice Award  
**Audrey Cole**

Social Media Award  
**Community Living Upper Ottawa Valley**



## Contact Us

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 Toll-free: (Ontario) 1-800-278-8025  
 Fax: (416) 447-8974

### Stay Connected

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 [info@communitylivingontario.ca](mailto:info@communitylivingontario.ca)  
 @CLOntario  
 @CLOntario  
 [facebook.com/communitylivingontario](https://facebook.com/communitylivingontario)



### The Anne Stafford *Light Up the Future* Bursary Recipients

Barb Peyton, Oshawa  
 Kyle Morleau, Huntsville  
 Kate Gregg, Peterborough  
 Margaretha Friesen, Amherstburg

Jason Moore, Tecumseh  
 Kyle Girardin, Tecumseh  
 Cindy Kwasrycia, Belle River  
 Jennifer Nielsen, Welland





*A Million Possibilities Norfolk kicked off on July 6th, 2017 at Long Point Beach, when Tyler Backus, Jonah Logan and Kodie Peekstok paddleboarded across Lake Erie in support of Community Living Access Support Services and Norfolk Association for Community Living's campaign.*

## Be Part of Our Vision of Inspiring Possibilities

When our donors partner with Community Living Ontario, they make meaningful gains in the lives of people who have an intellectual disability and their families. Donate to Community Living Ontario through our website at [www.communitylivingontario.ca](http://www.communitylivingontario.ca). Donations or planned gifts can also be arranged by contacting Heather Evans, Manager of Strategic Partnerships and Fund Development, at (416) 447-4348, ext. 229. Charitable Registration No. 119248524RR0001