

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Resilience

Strength

Commitment

COMMUNITY LIVING
Ontario



2020-21
Annual Report



OUR 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.



OUR 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 person are celebrated, supported and acknowledged as essential to the completeness of the whole community.



Contents

4 **About Us**

5 **Opening Remarks**

6 **Our Impact**
in 2020/21

8 **Applying Strategy**

10 **Our Initiatives**
at a Glance

12 **Key Achievements**

14 **Our Advocacy**

15 **Financials**

18 **Acknowledgements**



About Us

WHO WE ARE

Community Living Ontario is a non-profit provincial association that has been advocating for people who have an intellectual disability and their families for over 65 years.



We proudly work alongside over **100 local agencies** and advocate on behalf of more than 80,000 people across Ontario.



We are an active member of Inclusion Canada, (formerly the Canadian Association for Community Living) and regularly communicate with equivalent provincial and territorial associations.



We also have influence at the global level thanks to our affiliation with Inclusion International.

WHAT WE DO

We promote positive change through public policy and advocacy. We provide expertise and resources to decision-makers, educators, local members, families and self-advocates. We create public awareness and networking opportunities. We nurture community leadership, capacity and innovation.

Opening Remarks

In these pandemic times, a year seems like an eternity in many ways. If you have spent this past year isolated and disconnected from loved ones, it has been an eternity. If you are a direct support staff person, it has been an eternity. If you are the leader of one of our local member associations, it has been an eternity.

Families and support organizations have kept people largely safe from the worst ravages of COVID-19, but still, people have died. And at what cost have we kept people safe? The scars of fear, isolation, burnout, and loneliness will be felt for many years to come.

As we move towards a post-pandemic world, we will need to re-imagine what “normal times” looks like. Moving from surviving to thriving will take time. Perhaps society got a glimpse of what many people who have intellectual disabilities face every day: uncertainty, lack of control, and loneliness.

We must learn from this experience. It cannot have been for nothing. Lessons must be learned. Perhaps empathy earned through the pandemic will help chart a new course towards authentic inclusion, belonging and contribution for those who have an intellectual disability.

For those of us who see the glass as perpetually half full, this is our hope. We at Community Living Ontario will continue to educate, advocate, facilitate and communicate, with people who have intellectual disabilities, their families and allies.

This annual report is proof that our work together continued this past year in so many ways and in so many places. We are tired, yet we must be tireless. We may be discouraged, but we must continue to encourage each other now, more than ever.

As always, we thank each of you for your contributions and support.

We are still in this together.



Jill Teeple

President, Board of Directors



Chris Beesley

Chief Executive Officer

Our Impact in 2020/21

Community Living Ontario:

Works alongside

100+

local agencies
and advocates
on behalf of over

80,000

people across Ontario

Ready, Willing and Able Labour Market Facilitators at Community Living Ontario have achieved:

43

employment/post-secondary
outcomes from
August 2019 – April 2021

Engagement with

120

employers from
August 2019 – April 2021

Outreach to

464

employers from
August 2019 – April 2021

Our annual conference attracted:

472

delegates

19

sponsors



Digital footprint:

25,000+
per month

We support an average of:

200
families annually

Student Links:

Worked with
230
students

Engaged and supported
185
mentor relationships
with students

Ontario Youth United:

Engaged with over
1,300
youth

Applying Strategy

Strategic Priorities 2017–2022

1

Strengthening voices, engagement and influence of people and families.

SPOTLIGHT

The Council of Community Living Ontario

The Council of Community Living Ontario consists of 12 self-advocates from across the province that work together with Community Living Ontario's Board of Directors to find solutions and share information, opinions, knowledge, and experience on important issues such as poverty, safe and affordable housing, human rights, and barriers to quality health care. Just in the past year, Council has hosted a presentation at our annual Conference on how to advocate effectively, participated in an event for the International Day of Persons with a Disability, presented two webinars on self-advocacy groups, and advocated against congregate living developments.

2

Lead the way in raising awareness and advancing solutions to the complexity of challenges facing people, families and members.

SPOTLIGHT

Community of Practice

Community Living Ontario, in collaboration with the Provincial Executive Director's Coordinating Committee, and People Minded Business, have been hosting a series of Community of Practice sessions. Participants from all over the province come together to share experiences and work together to generate creative solutions to a common challenge, which in this case is currently the reimagining of day supports. We envision that the focus of the Community of Practice will change in keeping with areas in which the sector is striving to create positive change.

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

SPOTLIGHT

Policy Forum + Community Living Month

In 2021, Community Living Ontario decided to take a bold new approach to our annual Policy Forum by combining it with the celebratory impact of Community Living Month. Community Living Month gave those in our movement the opportunity to share their best success stories and brightest moments, with a new theme each week. These themes corresponded to our Policy Forum sessions, which were spread out over the course of the month: “Preparing for Reform”, “Real Housing for People”, “Amplifying Voice and Choice” and “Building Qualified Support Teams”. This year’s Policy Forum offered a prime opportunity to engage with the provincial government’s ongoing work on reform of the developmental services sector and acknowledge how far we have come.

4 Transfer knowledge and information into practical resources and tools.

SPOTLIGHT

A Legal Guide to Engaging Support Workers for People with Disabilities

With support from The Law Foundation of Ontario, Community Living Ontario created a manual for people who are considering engaging private Support Workers, or who have already done so, to help them to meet their obligations, avoid conflict and resolve issues as they arise. Support Workers can provide vital supports that enhance opportunities for inclusion, provide relief to caregivers and improve well-being for people with disabilities and their families. This guide provides background on the law that governs the relationship between families/people supported and their Support Workers, and explores some of the key questions that people with disabilities and their families ask about working with a private Support Worker.

Our Initiatives at a Glance



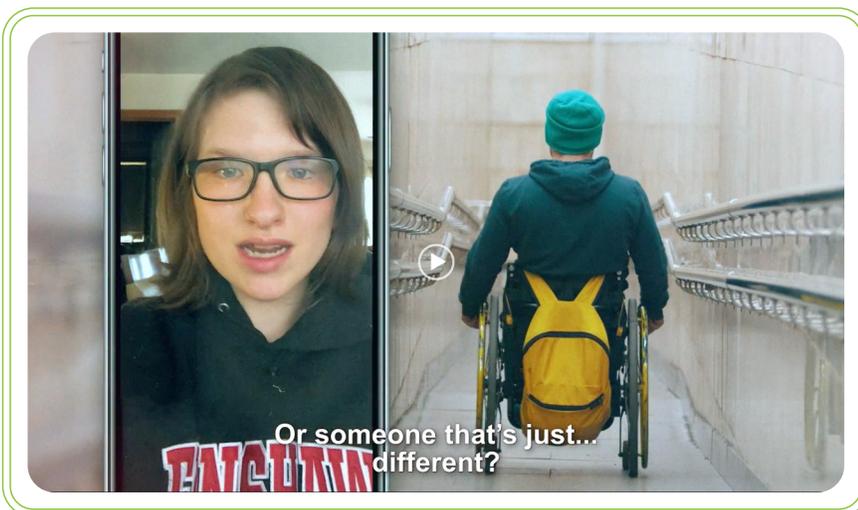
➤ Advocacy, Education and Awareness

We work alongside people who have intellectual disabilities and their families as well as government to shape public policy that is practical and progressive. We bring a collective voice to the developmental services sector. Community Living Ontario advocates for the full inclusion of people who have intellectual disabilities in all communities.

➤ Youth Engagement



The goal is to ensure that youth who have an intellectual disability aren't left behind and are authentically included. **Re:Action4Inclusion** is a province-wide youth-focused social justice movement. It connects youth with and without a disability regularly, to support them to find their voice and create change within their high school and community.



> Student Links Mentoring



Funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, **Student Links** is an opportunity

for students (ages 14 to 21) who have an intellectual disability to explore ideas for their future after high school. It matches students and mentors who share a common passion or interest. The goal is to enhance their capacity to make informed decisions about their future prior to leaving school and to support the natural development of relationships and connections to their community.



> Family Engagement

Recognizing that families played an essential role in sparking the Community Living movement, we continue to create opportunities for them to connect and drive the movement forward. We offer a variety of ways both regionally and provincially to empower family leadership and support families in connecting with one another to share ideas and experiences on building a better future for their loved ones.

> Employment

READY
WILLING
& ABLE

Ready, Willing & Able transforms and increases labour force participation of people who have an intellectual disability and those on the autism spectrum. It advances economic productivity and social inclusion. It is a national strategic partnership between Inclusion Canada (formerly the Canadian Association for Community Living), the Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorder Alliance and other provincial bodies including Community Living Ontario. This is the most successful program of its kind in Canada.



Key Achievements

➤ Ontario Youth United

A new youth engagement project called “Ontario Youth United” was launched as part of Community Living Ontario’s ongoing Re:Action4Inclusion initiative. It received support from the Ministry of Canadian Heritage as part of the Canadian government’s Youth Take Charge Program, designed to strengthen young people’s ties to Canada through engagement. This youth initiative involved a wide range of activities and engaged over 1,300 youth online. There were a series of workshops, masterclasses, change projects, resources and guidebooks all created to help support young people who have an intellectual disability to actively participate as citizens in their communities. One workshop called “Siblings with a Cause” resulted in a series of recommendations for empowering the advocacy of young siblings in Ontario and was presented to the Minister of Community, Children and Social Services. Their report can be seen [here](#).

➤ Truths of Institutionalization: Past & Present

In partnership with Inclusion Canada and People First of Canada, Community Living Ontario has developed “The Truths of Institutionalization: Past and Present”, a digital interactive curriculum for youth. The curriculum draws attention to the experience of institutionalization and the historical consequences of segregation that continue to affect people who have an intellectual disability in Canada today. It combines historical evidence, survivor and family insights, and critical thinking. This online learning resource includes six modules as well as guidebooks for educators and youth, raising awareness about survivors’ and families’ experience with institutionalization. While the content is geared towards a grade 10 classroom audience, it is relevant to learners of all ages. To learn more about this project please visit [here](#).



In November, 2019, over 100 youth with and without a disability came together in London, Ontario to promote true inclusion.

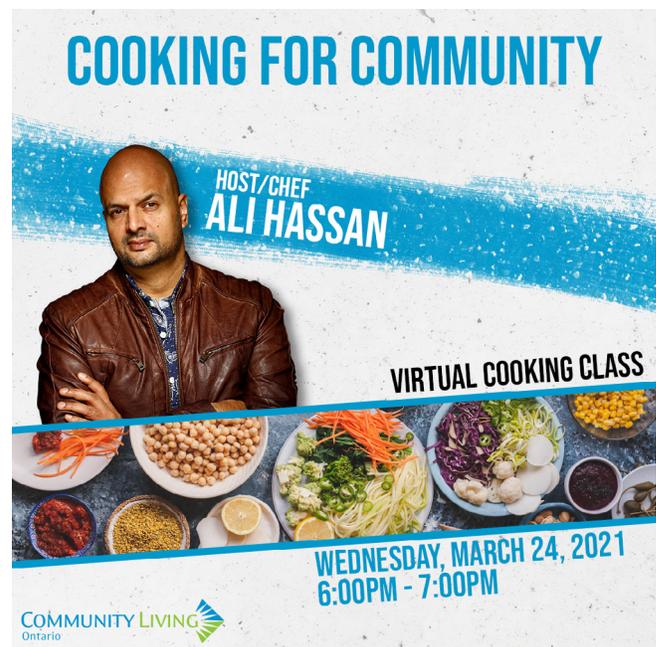
➤ **Building a Full Life + A Home of One's Own in the Community**

Community Living Ontario has long advocated for provincial government policy and programming that supports people to live as independently as possible in their communities. *Building a Full Life + A Home of One's Own in the Community* offers a review of international research showing conclusively that this approach leads to improved quality of life among people who have a developmental disability. *Building a Full Life* also puts forward recommendations for policy change related to individualized funding, day supports, and greater independence in housing.

➤ **Community Living Ontario Foundation**

The Foundation continues to build relationships with corporate partners, private foundations and individual donors. The Strategic Partnership Program has grown to include 13 organizations, and we have co-hosted over 30 partner webinars and reached over 5,600 people. The Foundation raised money through a variety of initiatives including the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon Charity Challenge, a successful grant application with The Law Foundation of Ontario, our annual appeal and a virtual cooking class fundraiser with host/chef Ali Hassan. Notwithstanding the challenging economic environment this past year, these efforts have been instrumental in securing a number of major individual and corporate donations.

We thank you for your generosity!



Our Advocacy

➤ Our Advocacy

Advocacy happens in many ways, in many places, and thanks to the partnership of many people and organizations. Here are a few examples of our advocacy work over the past year.

➤ Long-Term Care IS Not a Solution for Younger Adults with Disabilities

Unfortunately, people with disabilities are often placed in long-term care facilities because disability-related supports and home care services are inadequate. An estimated 2,200 people who have a developmental disability live in a LTC facility – a completely inappropriate form of housing. In 2020, Community Living Ontario worked with Seniors for Social Action Ontario to spur action on this problem, and will continue this work in the coming year.

➤ Influencing Developmental Service Reform in Ontario

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services developed a new reform plan for developmental services in Ontario in 2020, and Community Living Ontario was “at the table” in several ways. In addition to proposing policy changes in *Building a Full Life + A Home of One’s Own in the Community*, our CEO Chris Beesley was also a member of both the Developmental Services Reform Reference Group and the Minister’s Table, a group of ten key sector leaders. We look forward to further engagement in 2021.

➤ Protecting People During the COVID-19 Pandemic

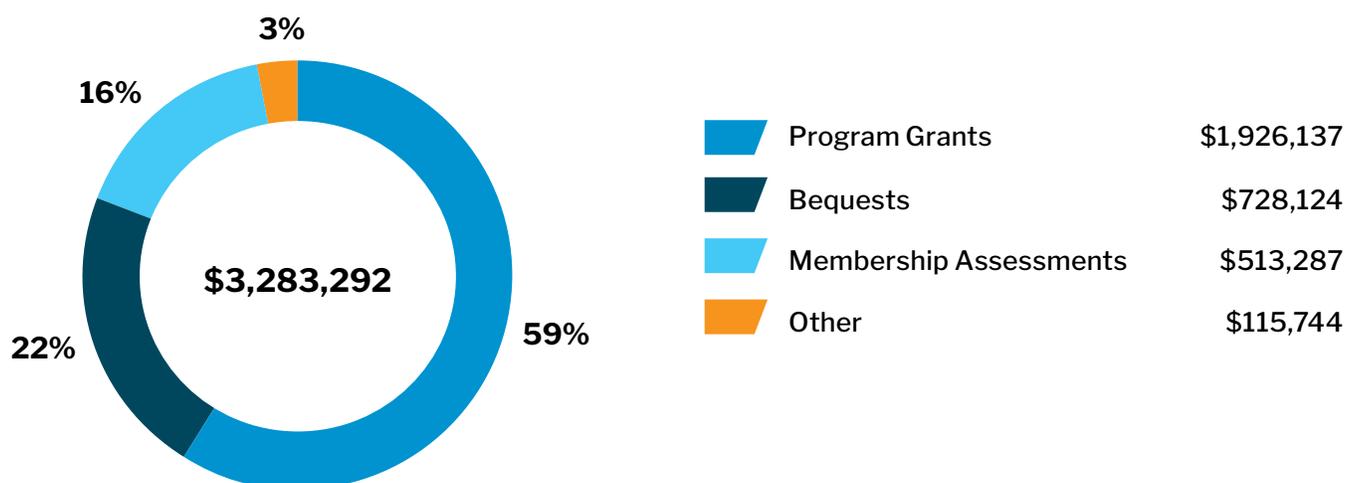
We were shocked and saddened to learn of a made-in-Ontario triage protocol that would have deprioritized people who have a developmental disability for hospital care in the event of a COVID-related surge. We worked with partners across the province to oppose the use of this protocol, and brought much-needed attention to the barriers to quality health care faced by people across the province.

➤ Medical Assistance in Dying/Bill C-7

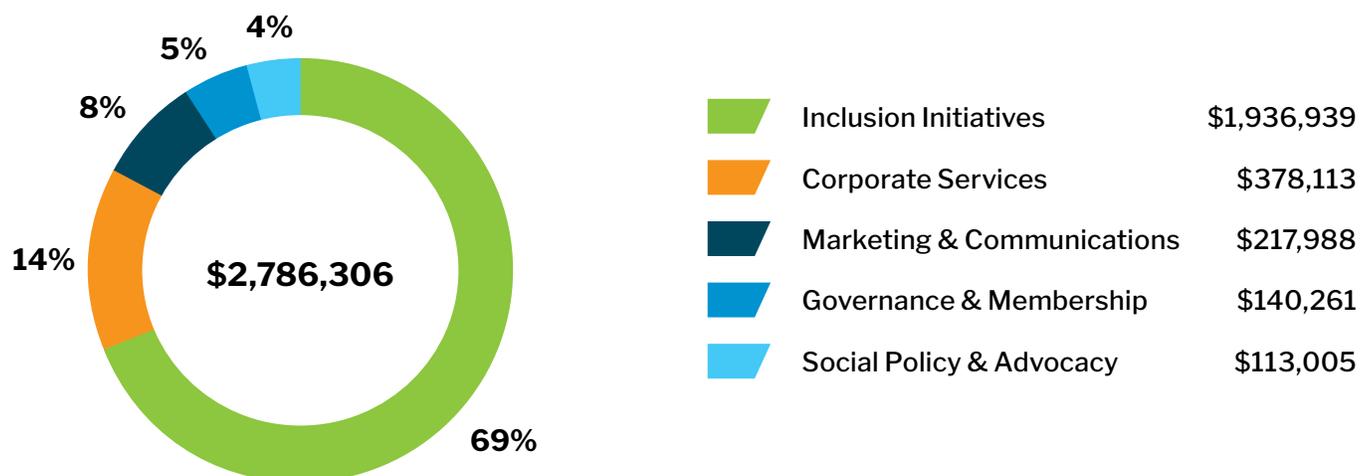
While Bill C-7 was unfortunately passed in March 2021 and will increase the vulnerability of people with disabilities, we were buoyed by the groundswell of opposition to this legislation. In partnership with Inclusion Canada, Community Living Ontario lobbied Ontario MPs and Senators, and spurred nearly 350 people to write to their parliamentarians in opposition to the bill.

Financial Summary

Where the Money Came From



How We Put the Money to Work



Statement of

Financial Position

MARCH 31

ASSETS	2021	2020
Current		
Cash	\$608,455	\$36,845
Short-term investments	\$975,111	\$475,926
Accounts receivable	\$95,673	\$53,732
Prepaid expenses	\$54,522	\$122,524
	\$1,733,761	\$689,027
Investments	\$260,914	\$674,299
Due from related party	\$105,513	\$88,704
Capital assets	\$106,377	\$98,579
	\$2,206,565	\$1,550,609

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2021	2020
Current		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$211,938	\$179,402
Deferred Revenue	\$283,337	\$156,903
	\$495,275	\$336,305
Net Assets		
General Fund		
Operating	1,463,052	\$956,869
Invested in Capital Assets	106,377	\$98,579
Designated Funds	141,861	\$158,856
	1,711,290	\$1,214,304
	\$2,206,565	\$1,550,609

Statement of

Operations

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

REVENUE	2021	2020
Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services	\$1,112,877	\$1,117,618
Federal Grants	\$755,295	\$642,760
Membership Fees	\$513,287	\$500,108
Registration Fees	\$29,944	\$172,423
Donations	\$728,124	\$670,052
Investment Income	\$85,800	\$9,324
Other Revenue	\$57,965	\$31,900
	\$3,283,292	\$3,144,185
EXPENSES	2021	2020
Amortization	\$25,805	\$20,701
Bank Charges	\$6,667	\$3,935
Disbursements for external partners	\$97,922	\$103,422
Employee benefits	\$260,584	\$232,834
Events catering	—	\$71,511
Insurance	\$7,508	\$7,282
Office and general	\$187,623	\$213,525
Professional fees	\$61,390	\$27,324
Project expenses	\$372,020	\$468,359
Purchased services	\$58,657	\$99,115
Rent	\$115,600	\$121,421
Staff Training	\$8,280	\$23,716
Telephone	\$46,167	\$28,910
Travel	\$10,797	\$115,263
Wages	\$1,510,291	\$1,370,098
	\$2,769,311	\$2,907,416
Excess of revenue over expenses before the undernoted	\$513,981	\$236,769
Designated fund – net revenue (deficiency)	\$-16,995	\$14,798
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	\$496,986	\$251,567

Acknowledgements

2020/21



Board of Directors

Jill Teeple, *President*
Michael Jacques, *Vice-President*
Melissa Young, *Treasurer*
Chris Beesley, *Secretary*
Keira Lum, *Director-at-Large*
Brittany Manu, *Director-at-Large*
Heather Campbell, *Director-at-Large*
Leanne Wheatstone, *Director-at-Large*
David Hill, *Director-at-Large*
Jennie Chanda, *Director-at-Large*
Marcel St-Jean, *Director-at-Large*
Stinder Lyall, *Director-at-Large*
Doug Cooper, *Director-at-Large*
Maurice Voisin, *PEDG appointed*
Director-at-Large
Yvonne Spicer, *Council appointed*
Director-at-Large

Council of Community Living Ontario

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James Taylor, *Vice-President*
Mark Anderson, *Past President*
Raina Flexhaug, *Secretary*
Theresa Somerton, *Treasurer*
Crystal Wales
Gordon Trowsdale
Jessica Forsyth
Nicole Flynn
Jordan Pretchuk
Scott Schihl
Stella Curtis
Yvonne Spicer
Meaghan Mitchell, *Council*
Engagement Coordinator
Keith Dee, *Council Advisor*

Community Living Ontario Foundation Board of Directors

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David Sudbury
Kevin Spafford
Doug Cooper
Jim Cressos
Carrie Holden
Jennifer Wilkie
Louis Kan
Chris Beesley
Leela D'Cruz
Ramon Yarde
Emma Leith

Anne Stafford Bursary Recipients 2020/21



Ali Francis, *McDougall*
Angus Ng, *Belleville*
Ashley Mitchell, *Chatham*
Barret Hall, *Ingleside*
Calum Fox, *Burlington*
Daniel Buttera, *Ottawa*
David Robbins, *Kingston*
Eric Martens, *Drayton*
Fredrick Dixon, *Ottawa*
Jennifer Fedora-Perrotta, *Campbellville*
Joel Ashton-Fogle, *Toronto*
Josh Bajpai, *Ottawa*
Joshua Bell, *Ajax*
Joy Peeling, *Bloomfield*
Justin McKenna, *Russell*

Kayla Taaffe, *Oshawa*
Launa Mallish, *Cornwall*
Madison Shaw, *Orleans*
Manar Swidan, *Toronto*
Nicholas Lauriola, *King City*
Nicholas Stewart, *Whitby*
Rachel Hirtz, *Trenton*
Roan Missaghi, *Richmond Hill*
Tyler Richardson, *Etobicoke*
Ryan Duncan, *Waterloo*
Sandra Regalo, *London*
Timothy Grant, *Burlington*
Travis Layzell, *Bancroft*
William Hackett, *Prescott*



Strategic Partners

*Health Benefits
Community Services
Benefits Trust*

*Promotional Products
and Brands
Sigma Promotions*

*Commercial & Directors Insurance
McDougall Insurance & Financial*

*Supplies for Personal Needs
MedProDirect*

*Wearable Technology
Awake Labs*

*Law Firm
PooranLaw*

*Pharmaceuticals
Seamless Care Pharmacy*

*Home & Auto Insurance
Economical Insurance*

*Professional Development Training
SafeGuards Training*

*Strategy and Innovation
People Minded Business*

*Employee Management Software Solution
ComVida Software*

*Accessible Vehicles
Humberview Mobility*

*Person-Centred Case Management & Outcomes Software Solution
NucleusLabs Information Technologies (Canada) Ltd.*

Be part of the Community Living movement

You can help and support Community Living Ontario and its Foundation change the lives of people who have an intellectual disability and their families. Donate online, directly through our website, or call Heather Evans, Director of Marketing, Communications and Foundation at **416-447-4348 ext. 229** to discuss potential opportunities.

STAY CONNECTED



 Sign-up for our e-newsletter *Update Friday*

 T: 416-447-4348 or Toll Free (ON) 1-800-278-8025

 E: info@communitylivingontario.ca

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