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MICHAEL JACQUES NAMED NEW BOARD PRESIDENT OF COMMUNITY LIVING ONTARIO—THE YOUNGEST AND FIRST TO HAVE AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

TORONTO, ON, October 13, 2021—The Community Living Ontario (CLO) Board of Directors have voted in author and self-advocate **Michael Jacques** as the new President of the Board. This makes him the youngest-ever CLO Board President, and the first to have an intellectual disability and autism.

"I've gone my whole life hoping there would be people like me, in positions like this. I'm proud of who I am and honoured for this opportunity," says Jacques.

Jacques is a passionate advocate, educator, public speaker and author who has used his platform to promote belonging and inclusion. He began his journey with CLO through the organization's Re:Action4Inclusion initiative over 10 years ago and has been involved in the movement ever since.

Jacques has been a CLO Board member for six years and a major donor through the sales of his book: *Can't Read, Can't Write, Here's My Book*. The book details his life and experiences growing up with an intellectual disability and autism, providing his unique perspective on topics such as learning, inclusion, advocacy, independence and the power of perseverance. He is also the co-author of children's book / *Belong: Can I Play?*, which came out last year.

You can learn more about Jacques and his work by visiting his website, www.heresmybook.com.

Community Living Ontario is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people who have an intellectual disability and their families advocate for meaningful inclusion in their lives and communities.

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