

# COURAGE AND COLLABORATION

ANNUAL REPORT



# INSPIRING >>> >>> POSSIBILITIES

COMMUNITY LIVING  
Ontario 



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# About Us

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## Who We Are

Community Living Ontario is a non-profit provincial association that has been advocating with people who have an intellectual disability and their families for almost 70 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 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

Community Living Ontario promotes 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 while nurturing community leadership, capacity and innovation.



## OUR MISSION

Community Living Ontario advocates with people who have an intellectual disability, their families, and member organizations to create inclusive communities across Ontario.

We envision an Ontario where everyone **belongs**, is **valued**, and has the **freedom** to live the life they choose.

## OUR VISION

## OUR VALUES



### Innovation

We embrace new ideas and ways of doing our work by investing in learning and continuous improvement.

### Leadership

We lead by example and are seen as leaders in social inclusion.

### Integrity

We always strive to do the right thing.

### Respect

We welcome and encourage input from those with lived experiences, their families, and member organizations in the work we do.

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

We believe in diverse communities where everyone is fully represented and belongs.

# Opening Remarks

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With the effects of the pandemic still being felt, this past year has continued to challenge us in so many ways. On behalf of Community Living Ontario, we want to thank you all for maintaining your courage and spirit of collaboration throughout these trying times. People with lived experience, our Board, staff, and local associations are what makes us strong.

For our part, CLO's commitment to walking the path of inclusion with people, families, and our local associations is unwavering. We remain dedicated to realizing our vision of an Ontario where everyone belongs, is valued, and has the freedom to live the life they choose.

In fact, we've taken our efforts to greater heights than ever before. As we adapt to ever-shifting conditions, we are embracing the challenge to rethink how we do things and implement more inclusive approaches to our work. We're reaching larger and more diverse audiences, focusing on improving the accessibility of our events and resources, and developing flexibility to match our strength.

As we look toward the future, we recognize that there are still many more challenges that lie ahead. But we are also inspired by the many opportunities we have to collaborate, educate, and influence. Together, we will ensure that people who have an intellectual disability and their families are valued and given the opportunity to participate in all aspects of life in their communities.

Thank you for your interest, participation, and contributions to our collective mission in support of our collective vision and success.

Sincerely,



Chris Beesley  
*Chief Executive Officer*



Michael Jacques  
*President, Board of Directors*





# Our Impact

## Community Living Ontario

Works alongside

**100+**

local associations and advocates on behalf of over

**80,000**

people across Ontario

## Digital Footprint

**27,000+**

per month

## Ready, Willing and Able Labour Market Facilitators at Community Living Ontario Have Achieved:

**57**

employment/post-secondary outcomes from April 2021 – March 2022

## Engagement with

**181**

employers from April 2021 – March 2022

## Outreach to

**386**

employers from April 2021 – March 2022

## Our Annual Conference Attracted

**512**  
delegates

**20**  
sponsors

## Connected Virtually

With

**800+ families**

in the province of Ontario

## Student Links

Worked with

**192 students**

while also supporting students from the previous fiscal year

Engaged and supported

**152 mentor**

relationships while supporting ongoing relationships established in the previous fiscal year

## We Engaged With More Than

**750 youth** across **Canada** through virtual events this past year



# Applying Strategy

1

Strengthen voices, engagement and influence of people and families.

## SPOTLIGHT

### Council Meeting with Minister Fullerton

On Tuesday, April 5, 2022, members of the Council of Community Living Ontario met with the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, Dr. Merrilee Fullerton. [At the meeting](#), Council members brought forward their concerns, as well as those that had previously been shared with them by fellow self-advocates at an [open forum webinar](#).

By sharing the insights and lived experiences of self-advocates with the Minister, members of Council enabled the voices of people who have a disability to be heard. Continuing this type of advocacy will encourage more discussion and hopefully help close the communication gap between people who have a disability and the government.

2

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

## SPOTLIGHT

### DISRUPT! Virtual Educational Workshop Series

On February 15th, 2022, Community Living Ontario's youth initiative Re:Action4Inclusion launched the DISRUPT! educational workshop series. Each workshop was designed to share ideas for how to create a more inclusive Canada.

The first workshop was "[Black Is a Colour](#)", which explored the duality of the Black experience in Canada—hypervisibility/invisibility. Speakers Brittany Manu, Eon Sinclair, and Alison McLean shared their insights on how to address systemic racism, which was followed by a panel discussion led by members of Re:Action4Inclusion's Youth Advisory Committee.

Other topics covered in this series included "Authentic Inclusion & Awareness" and "YOUTH ACTivism 101".

# 3

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

## SPOTLIGHT

### Communications Network

In 2021, Community Living Ontario re-ignited our province-wide communications network for all agency staff interested in learning more about communications.

The network is focused on:

- Knowledge exchange—normalizing disability, the importance of story sharing, building community and capacity
- Supporting agencies—tips, templates, guidelines/best practices, tutorials, digital and creative tools, etc.
- Helping spread the word about ongoing activities throughout the sector

# 4

**Transfer knowledge and information into practical resources and tools.**

## SPOTLIGHT

### Community Living Month Hub

Each May, we celebrate Community Living Month, a time for Community Living Ontario and our 100+ local associations to come together to celebrate our movement and promote the inclusion of people who have an intellectual disability and their families.

As part of our most recent celebration, we launched a new [Community Living Month resource hub](#). The hub provided letter templates, social posts and more details on all our campaigns and events, including:

- Shine a Light on Community Living
- [Blue and green photo campaign + montage](#)
- #CLInspiringPossibilities social media campaign
- Community Living Month webinar series
- #ITookABreak22 Event
- Member organization events

# Our Work at a Glance



## Advocacy, Education and Awareness

Community Living Ontario develops policy solutions and advocates for changes that increase the community participation, inclusion and belonging of people who have an intellectual disability. We work alongside people who have intellectual disabilities, their families, local associations, and governments to shape public policy that is practical and progressive. We bring a collective voice to the developmental services sector and advocate for the full inclusion of people who have intellectual disabilities in all communities.

See our [\*Building a Full Life + a Home of One's Own in the Community\*](#) report, and [\*Direct Funding for Developmental Services in Ontario: A Path Forward\*](#) for examples of this work.

## Family Engagement

While our efforts to connect with families through our family leadership work were challenged by the pandemic, we continued to create opportunities for them to connect and drive the movement forward. We empower and support families both regionally and provincially to build relationships and share insights on how to create a better future for their loved ones. In addition to connecting directly with families, we were also able to support the efforts of local associations and their own family engagement initiatives.



## Youth Engagement

Community Living Ontario's [\*Re:Action4Inclusion\*](#) initiative is a province-wide youth-focused social justice movement that aims to ensure that youth who have an intellectual disability aren't left behind and are authentically included. This year the movement reached an estimated 750 youth with and without a disability, supporting 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.

## Employment

Ready, Willing & Able (RWA) advances economic productivity and social inclusion by increasing labour force participation of people who have an intellectual disability and those on the autism spectrum. It is a national strategic partnership between Inclusion Canada, the Autism Alliance of Canada, and provincial bodies including Community Living Ontario. Earlier this year, the 2022 Federal Budget made a 3-year, \$20 million financial commitment to RWA, which will enable RWA to expand its work with employers and community agencies.



## Council

The Council of Community Living Ontario consists of 12 self-advocates from across the province who 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. In the past year alone, Council has hosted a webinar on tokenism and an open forum for self-advocates, met with Minister Merrilee Fullerton, released a statement on long-term care, and more.

## Community Living Ontario Foundation

The Foundation continues to build relationships with corporate partners, private foundations and individual donors. The Strategic Partnership Program features 13 organizations, and the Foundation raised money through initiatives like the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon Charity Challenge, our annual appeal, and a virtual concert, "Songs in the Key of Community". 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!

*CLO and the CLO Foundation would like to recognize the following major gifts secured throughout this past fiscal year:*

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Brian and Susan Thomas Foundation - \$7,150  
AMAPCEO - \$5,000  
All State - \$4,000  
Ontario Charities Lottery Group - \$3,100  
The Bank of Nova Scotia - \$2,000

# Key Achievements

## ✔ Truths of Institutionalization: Past and Present

Truths of Institutionalization: Past and Present is a digital curriculum developed and launched by Community Living Ontario in partnership with Inclusion Canada and People First of Canada. It aims to engage young Canadians to raise awareness, promote respect, and explore the evolution of institutions and human rights for people with intellectual disabilities in Canada.

The curriculum contains six modules as well as guidebooks for educators and workbooks for youth. These resources provide opportunities to listen to the testimonies of survivors, study evidence-based research, and explore the power of citizenship and social movements.

In the fall term of 2021, educators from Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) became the first to pilot this curriculum. We hope these efforts will help end the use of institutional practices and models now and in the future.

## ✔ Siblings: Citizens with a Cause

On June 10th, 2021, a group of sibling advocates from Re:Action4Inclusion called Siblings: Citizens with a Cause presented a series of recommendations to Minister Todd Smith, his chief of staff, and the Provincial Network on Developmental Services. The recommendations were prepared by siblings from across Ontario and align with Canada's Federal Youth Policy. They give direction about what siblings need as advocates for their loved ones who have a disability. Specifically, the recommendations speak to the types of supports and resources siblings need to ensure their well-being and to plan for the future with confidence.

Siblings: Citizens with a Cause have continued to promote and support sibling advocacy, including creating a guidebook for youth advocates and, since February 2022, hosting a series of monthly virtual meet-ups where youth advocates of siblings who have a disability can talk to each other about the joys, challenges, and responsibilities of being a sibling.





### Leading for Inclusion Youth Speaker Series:

In October 2021, we launched the Leading for Inclusion Youth Speaker Series. The Youth Advisory Committee – led social media campaign raises awareness of the importance of youth leadership in empowering voices and making our schools and communities more inclusive spaces. The series has provided a platform for youth to learn from one another and suggest ideas that can transform communities. Each speaker has unique experiences and stories that promote social justice, hope, and compassion. The goal of this campaign is to make all community spaces safe and inclusive for everyone.

### Direct Funding for Developmental Services in Ontario: A Path Forward eBook

The Government of Ontario’s new strategy for developmental services, “Journey to Belonging: Choice and Inclusion”, includes a commitment to allow people to receive funding directly and manage their own supports. It is crucial that this change be implemented in a way that actually works for people and families.

Our eBook, *Direct Funding for Developmental Services in Ontario: A Path Forward*, contains five Policy Snapshots published by Community Living Ontario in the past year. Each snapshot offers direction and guidance on how we can finally make direct funding a reality in our province.

### People You Should Know Newsletter

In 2022, we released *People You Should Know*, a collection of stories highlighting some of the amazing youth and mentors in our communities. Each story depicts the value of inclusion and people discovering their calling. The newsletter helps showcase some of the valuable work of our Student Links initiative and how Student Links coordinators, mentors, students, and their families can work together to create long-term community connections that benefit everyone involved.

### Community of Practice

Community Living Ontario, in collaboration with the Provincial Executive Director’s Coordinating Committee and People Minded Business, have continued to host a series of Community of Practice sessions. An average of 100 participants from all over the province come together each month to share experiences and work together to generate creative solutions to common challenges. The focus of these sessions is guided by the participants and where in our sector they would like to see positive change happen.

# Opposition to People Being Placed in Long-term Care

Ontario's system of long-term care has been brought to the forefront since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and our own advocacy has brought light to major problems in the system. Here are a few examples of how we have advocated for alternative solutions to long-term care institutions.

## Essays on Aging in Place:

Community Living Ontario, in partnership with Seniors for Social Action Ontario, compiled a series of essays about why allowing people to live and age in their own homes and communities is a much better solution than institutionalization for people of all ages and abilities. The booklet contains a compelling foreword by former Chief Commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, Catherine Frazee.

## Council's Position Statement on Long-Term Care:

In a recent position statement, the Council of Community Living Ontario outlined a number of issues and concerns regarding the placement of people who have an intellectual disability in long-term care facilities. They are demanding that their voices be heard and that people who have an intellectual disability be given real freedom and options when it comes to where they choose to live.

## Alliance on Aging and Disability

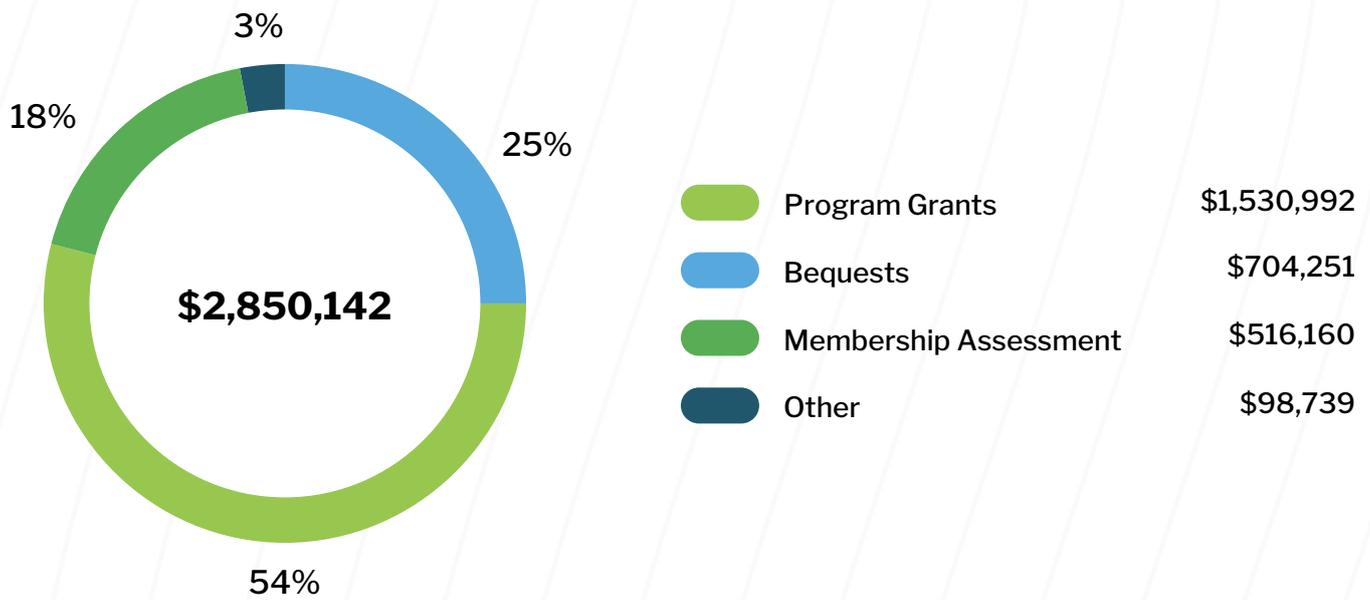
The Alliance on Aging and Disability is a new coalition of disability organizations that was initiated by Community Living Ontario. Its focus is on keeping people with disabilities out of long-term care facilities. In advance of the 2022 Ontario Provincial election, the Alliance published a fact sheet and a number of public communications with clear recommendations for political parties and election candidates. It called for:

- Significant investments in small-scale, community-based models of long-term care that enable people to be supported to age in homes of their choice.
- An end to admissions of young people with disabilities in long-term care facilities.
- Changes that will assist people with disabilities and their allies to have more choice and control over the supports they need.

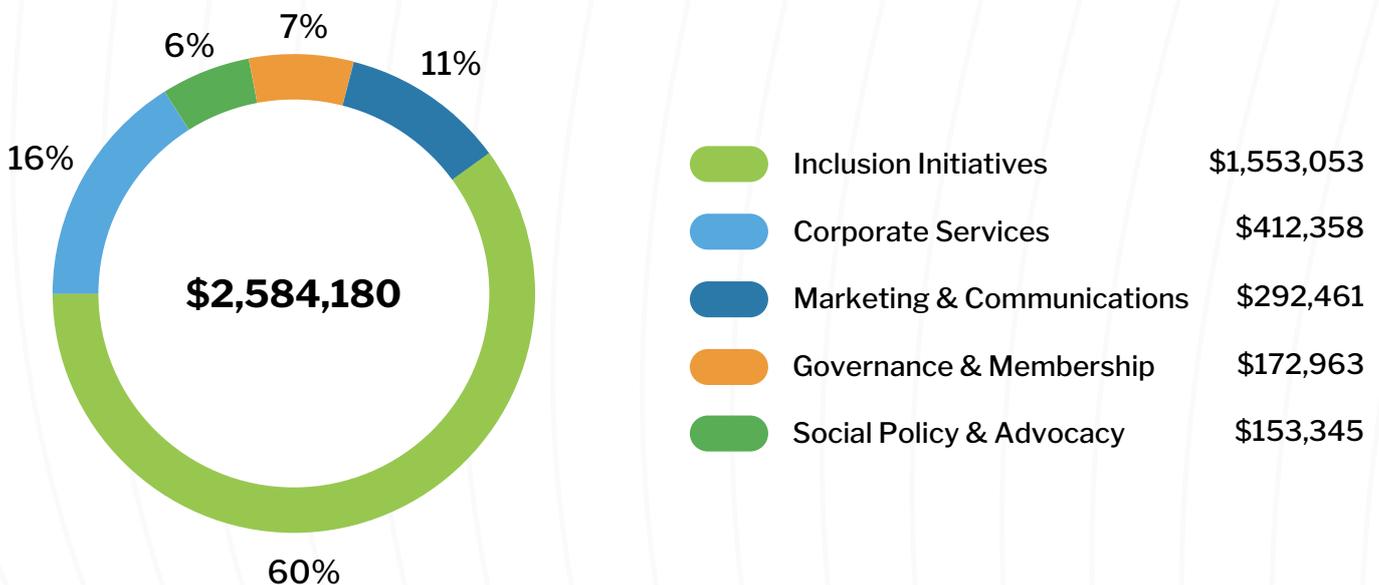


# Financial Summary

## Where The Money Came From



## How We Put the Money To Work





Statement Of

# Financial Position

MARCH 31

ASSETS	2022	2021
<b>Current</b>		
Cash	\$1,117,924	\$608,455
Short-term Investments	\$1,264,808	\$975,111
Accounts Receivable	\$69,148	\$95,673
Prepaid Expenses	\$28,902	\$54,522
	<b>\$2,480,782</b>	\$1,733,761
Investments	\$27,575	\$260,914
Due from Related Party	\$77,162	\$105,513
Capital Assets	\$105,287	\$106,377
	<b>\$2,690,806</b>	\$2,206,565

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2022	2021
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$342,338	\$211,938
Deferred Revenue	\$371,216	\$283,337
	<b>\$713,554</b>	\$495,275
<b>Net Assets</b>		
General Fund		
Operating	\$1,730,104	\$1,463,052
Invested in Capital Assets	\$105,287	\$106,377
Designated Funds	\$141,861	\$141,861
	<b>\$1,977,252</b>	\$1,711,290
	<b>\$2,690,806</b>	2,206,565



# Statement Of Operations

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

REVENUE	2022	2021
Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services	\$982,948	\$ 1,112,877
Federal Grants	\$548,044	\$ 755,295
Membership Fees	\$516,160	\$513,287
Registration Fees	\$32,381	\$29,944
Donations	\$704,251	\$728,124
Investment Income	\$10,000	\$85,800
Other Revenue	\$56,358	\$57,965
	<b>\$ 2,850,142</b>	<b>\$ 3,283,292</b>
EXPENSES	2022	2021
Amortization	\$36,375	\$25,805
Bank Charges	\$2,443	\$6,667
Disbursements for external	\$97,922	\$97,922
Employee benefits	\$ 245,880	\$260,584
Events catering	\$551	-
Insurance	\$8,837	\$7,508
Office and general	\$ 198,665	\$187,623
Professional fees	\$58,050	\$61,390
Project expenses	\$189,209	\$372,020
Purchased services	\$186,754	\$58,657
Rent	\$91,642	\$115,600
Staff Training	\$20,625	\$8,280
Telephone	\$40,038	\$46,167
Travel	\$12,378	\$10,797
Wages	\$1,394,811	\$1,510,291
	<b>\$ 2,584,180</b>	<b>\$ 2,769,311</b>
Excess of revenue over expenses before the undernoted	\$265,962	\$513,981
Designated fund - net revenue (deficiency)	-	(16,995)
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	\$ 265,962	496,986



# Acknowledgements

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## Board of Directors 2021/2022

**Michael Jacques**, President  
**Jennie Chanda**, Vice-President  
**Jill Teeple**, Past President  
**Keira Lum**, Treasurer  
**Chris Beesley**, Secretary  
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**Stinder Lyall**, Director-at-Large  
**Brittany Manu**, Director-at-Large  
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**Donna Marcaccio**, Family Engagement  
Steering Committee Appointed  
Director-at-Large  
**Theresa Somerton**, Council Appointed  
Director-at-Large

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**Jem Moeller**  
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**Meaghan Mitchell**, Council Engagement  
Coordinator  
**Keith Dee**, Council Advisor

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**Jim Cressos**  
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**Louis Kan**  
**Emma Leith**  
**Laxmi Navka**  
**Neerajah Raviraj**  
**Jennifer Wilkie**  
**Ramon Yarde**

## 📌 Anne Stafford Bursary Recipients 2022

**Jonathan Christopher** — Belleville  
**Tanner Dang** — Mississauga  
**Caitlyn Elliot-McGrail** — Milton  
**Adam Fitzpatrick** — Pickering  
**Thomas Fraboni** — Hamilton  
**Breanna Fraser** — Ajax  
**Evan Goertz** — Waterloo  
**Brittany Hearn** — Brighton  
**Bryan Kaenchanh** — Waterloo  
**Emily Kelly** — Kitchener  
**Zainab Khan** — Pickering

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**Shane Ruston** — Amherstburg  
**Octavia Strickland** — Kingston  
**Rebecca Strickland** — Kingston  
**Bryan Tersigni** — Woodbridge  
**Alexis Wrightson** — Guelph

# Strategic Partners

## Awake Labs

Wearable Technology

## Humberview Mobility

Accessible Vehicles

## PooranLaw

Law Firm

## BestBuy Business

Business Hub

## People Minded Business

Strategy & Innovation

## SafeGuards Training

Professional Development Training

## ComVida Software Solutions

Employee Management  
Software Solutions

## Inclusive Instruments

Musical Instruments

## Sigma Promotions

Promotional Products &  
Brands

## Community Services Benefits Trust

Health Insurance/Benefits

## NucleusLabs Information Technologies (Canada) Ltd.

Person-Centred Case Management  
& Outcomes Software Solution

## Economical Insurance

Home & Auto Insurance

## MedPro Direct

Supplies for Personal Needs

BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY LIVING MOVEMENT

## COMMUNITY LIVING Ontario Foundation

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 through our website](#) or call Heather Evans, Director of Marketing, Communications and Foundation at 416-447-4348 ext. 229 to discuss potential opportunities. To learn more about the impact of Community Living Ontario, [click here](#).

Charitable Registration Number: 81172 4756 RR0001

## STAY CONNECTED WITH US



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



[info@communitylivingontario.ca](mailto:info@communitylivingontario.ca)

[Sign-up for our e-newsletter Update Friday](#)

Telephone: 416-447-4348 or toll free (Ontario) – 1-800-278-8025



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Change the lives of people who have an intellectual disability and their families