

NWT DISABILITIES COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Supporting ALL people, with disabilities, across the NWT since 1978.

Words from the Executive Director

The NWT Disabilities Council is excited to launch Vol.1 of a new quarterly newsletter. Since 1978 the Council has been an advocate, supporter, service provider and voice for all people with disabilities across the Territories. The Council has a freshly elected Board of Directors that is tasked with working on a 5 year Strategic Plan. They will be looking to focus on; community services, public awareness, employment, education, enhancing program delivery and other identified issues.

The Council would like to congratulate MLA Tom Beaulieu on being appointed the Minister Responsible for Persons with Disabilities. The Council hopes to work closely with Minister Beaulieu and the 17th Legislative Assembly in ensuring that the issues affecting persons with disabilities are identified and addressed with effective, practical strategies.

The Council is looking to the future as a time of growth and change. It moves ahead with the goal of forging long lasting relationships with both government and private sectors to ensure strong infrastructures are developed so that all people with disabilities can live a fully inclusive life through self-determination.

Denise McKee

Our Mission

To achieve self-determination and full citizenship for person with disabilities.

We do this by promoting awareness, opportunities, choices and participation in all aspects of life in the Northwest Territories.

ANNUAL BENEFIT AUCTION

While continuing to deliver its important services and programs the Council is busy planning the return of its Annual Benefit Auction. This year there will be a few changes, such as venue and entertainment but the purpose is the same; a great fun filled evening with all proceeds going directly to programs and supports for all people, with disabilities, across the Territories. We hope that, on **November 18th, the Greenstone Building's Atrium** will play host to our most successful Live and Silent Auction in 31 years! See our poster on the back page



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INFORMATION, REFERRAL AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Heather Clarke has assumed a new role in the Council, as Coordinator of this program. The **Information, Referral and Support Coordinator** assists all persons with disabilities, across the Territories, through our regular and toll free number. The Coordinator, in consultation with the Executive Director, attends meetings, assists in letter and form completion and writing, refers clients to appropriate services, advocates on behalf of clients with government and non-government agencies, educates and trains in a variety of forums. Assistance is offered in such areas as employment, housing, legal, health and other services as required. If you are a person with a disability (self or otherwise identified) or a person supporting an individual and require assistance or information, you can contact Heather at; 1-800-491-8885 / in YK at 867-873-8230 or visit our new website at www.nwtability.ca



COMMUNITY RESPITE PROGRAM

Funded by the GNWT Department of Health and Social Services, the Respite Program for Local Communities provides social respite service to families outside of Yellowknife who have children with special needs.



The program hires and trains local community members as Respite Workers to provide planned in-home or in-community relief for primary care-givers, families, and the children and youth with disabilities that they care for.

The goal of a respite service is to provide safe, individualized, and flexible respite support to families and primary caregivers. It offers young people with disabilities more opportunities for inclusion in their community while respecting cultural values. The Community Respite Program currently runs in the communities of Deline, Fort Smith and Aklavik. There is a new **Respite Coordinator, Brooke Eidness-Belkin** that is available for all inquiries and applications for service. She can be reached at the Council office at; 1-867-873-8230 or Toll free 1-800-491-8885.



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EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Our **Mission** is to assist children with disabilities to develop to their full potential.

The Early Childhood Intervention Program (ECIP) provides early intervention services for children between birth and school entry who have disabilities and/or developmental delays. The **Early Childhood Intervention Program Coordinator – Angela Jones** and her trained and qualified ECIP Support Workers partner with parents/ care givers and other professionals to provide optimum 1:1 support for the 12 children currently enrolled in the program.

During Intervention sessions, qualified ECI Workers provide stimulating activities tailored to meeting the needs of each individual child and assist each child in their development in each of the following skill areas:- Language (receptive & expressive);-Cognitive development; Fine & Gross motor skills, Behavioural supports, Self- help skills; and Positive Socialization.

ECI workers usually assist the children in a preschool centre chosen by the parents/guardians; however in certain situations sessions may take place in an alternate location such as the child's home, day home, etc.

Our vision for the Future is to take this recognized, sustainable program, that has shown positive results in the lives of children with disabilities and/or developmental delays and to not only increase services within Yellowknife but to also expand to the surrounding communities and provide our much needed intervention there.



PARKING PLACARD

- The Parking Placard Program issues placards to residents across the NWT.
- The placard is issued to the **person** not the vehicle.
- It allows the registered user to park any car they are using in specially identified parking spots.
- NWT parking placards may be used in any Province or Territory across Canada.
- Applications for placards can be attained through the office at 867-873-8230 or are available on our website at www.nwtability.ca



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LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION
NOVEMBER 18 IN THE GREENSTONE BUILDING ATRIUM

SILENT AUCTION
Casual viewing & bidding begins at
11:30 am

LIVE AUCTION
Starts at
7:00 pm

AUCTIONEER:
MLA Robert Hawkins

LIVE MUSIC:
with Lindsay McIvor
Ray Massey
and other local musicians

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO DONATE

contact the NWT Disabilities Council office
873-8230 | toll free 1-800-491-8885 | disabilitynwt@arcticdata.ca

EVEN SMALL DONATIONS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE!



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