



DCSCL

Fall Newsletter



Dawson Creek Society
for **Community Living**

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Issue #9

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Summer & Fall 2023

"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness." ~ John Steinbeck

Ensuring the safety of the people we support is of the utmost importance to us. Providing everyone with a chance to run through a drill, helped familiarize people with what to expect, and also helped us to identify and re mediate issues.

June 2023

Society Evacuation Drill BBQ

Spring 2023 saw the start of a busy season. Finally able to put the pandemic behind us, people focused on getting back to life as we once knew it. Many accessibility issues were tackled, resulting in many positive changes throughout the community and within the Society itself.



Advocacy was taken to new heights, as individuals were supported to voice their concerns themselves, in ways conducive to resolving the issues in a positive manner. Cultural teachings flourished, individuals were encouraged to play an active role in the planning of the activities that would fill the following month, community services were provided and a Society-wide Evacuation Drill was even practiced in light of the many emergencies that were experienced across the Province over the past few years.

One of our newest program's, Bulterys House, has

seen a whopping 48 people use the facility since May of this year. This is inclusive of those receiving needed medical care and their travel companions.

We saw several individuals move into and out of services to attain support that could better meet their specific needs. We also had several large moves within the Society, between programs, this summer. Some people moved into higher care environments, while others spread their wings and embraced further independence.

Programs in Review

If a theme were to be assigned to the past summer, it would be Growth and Learning. From our Society-wide Evacuation Drill, to Peer Meetings being held across all programs, to a vast array of outdoor activities, cultural events, multiple opportunities to be supported to advocate for themselves, travel, enhanced connections with family and friends, and a rapidly expanding Employment Program, every IRS we support has had their 'world grow' over the past six months.

With Camp being the highlight of most individuals summer plans, a concerted effort was made to offer several options for Day Camps this year, in addition to one extended overnight camping trip. To help raise enough funds to keep the costs down for those people wanting to participate, all Community Living programs helped out with the City Clean-Up in May and raised \$800! The Annual Access Awareness Day BBQ, which was once again hosted outside the Opportunity Centre in June, was also successful in collecting approximately \$250 in donations that also helped out with the camps costs. In the end, all the work was well worth it, with zero complaints to be had and much excitement shared over all the wonderful adventures that were had between peers.

Teaching individuals how to advocate for themselves and then supporting them to do so, was another focus. Each program hosted internal Peer Meetings,

with the Supported Homes discussing what each person wanted to see on their monthly calendar, so far as individual and group activities. The Self Help Skills Program hosted their own meetings intended to gather ideas on the variety of skills that people within the program wanted to learn, and the Opportunity Centre offered monthly meetings in which every individual receiving support from DCSCCL in one manner or another, was welcome to attend. These gatherings were meant to discuss desired activities, any new activity idea's, thoughts on how to enhance current activities, as well as how to improve the overall experience had by people attending the Center. Every effort is made to get new activity idea's on to the calendar as swiftly as possible.

We place a lot of significance on people being safe in their homes and throughout their daily lives. As such, every program participates in a monthly fire drill, in addition to a different emergency scenario every month. However, given the regularity with which community evacuations have been happening, we thought it imperative to provide individuals and staff the opportunity to practice as though a city-wide evacuation was underway. Overall, the experience was well received and we were able to identify some area's in which we could improve, and have since rectified. As a way to lighten the mood and thank everyone for participating, a big BBQ was had

at Pouce Park.

A wide array of cultural activities have been hosted, including the cultural potluck dinner served at the Annual AGM. Very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all, the individuals seized their opportunity to have their voices heard through utilizing their power to vote. Of course, they also loved seeing themselves on screen making the many memories that made up the past year!

Rekindling family and friend connections led to many trips with, or to see, loved ones. People also participated in a wide array of activities and events with their peers, throughout the community and surrounding area. From Pow Wow's, to Street Festivals, to the Fall Fair, to the mud-slinging Mud Bog races, a copious amount of time was spent enjoying the outdoors. In addition, there were trips to Edmonton, Kelowna, the Yukon, and more, trips to lakes, boating, fishing, hiking and camping; not a moment of the good weather was wasted.

Employment saw an increase in numbers across the board. More people wanted to work, more Shredding contracts were secured, more Community Event Calendar customers were attracted, lawn care contracts came in fast and furious and Recycling contracts continued to increase in numbers, all of which led to plenty of work for anyone wanting to make extra income.



Seniors Services

Seniors Aging In Place (SAIP) provides crucially needed services to rural seniors wanting to safely remain in their homes longer, within Area D and parts of Area E of the Peace River Regional District. With 100% of service recipients reporting that staff is professional and courteous, 95% reporting satisfaction with the housekeeping services, and 98% indicating they are satisfied overall, it's no wonder the program is growing at a rapid pace. We are thrilled to now be supporting 251 seniors at 172 locations.

Currently, we are providing meals to 55 seniors, Housekeeping services to 111 households, and have 51 locations signed up to receive Snow Removal services.

We are also very happy to announce that we are supporting Pouce Coupe in trialing a similar endeavor. Running from October through December of this year, there are currently 22 seniors in 21 locations being supported to safely remain in their homes. 17 seniors are receiving meals, 14 locations are using the



Thanksgiving Dinner



Housekeeping services, and 14 households have arranged for Snow Removal services.

With a growing need for such services, we genuinely hope to continue supporting seniors to age in place, safely within their homes, for as long as possible.

Our Urban Seniors programs also continue to support residents to maintain their independence within their homes longer. April through September, we served 2042 meals. 1206 of those meals were served to 25 seniors that live in our housing, while the other 840 meals were provided to 17 community members. Thanksgiving was celebrated with a wonderful dinner complete with turkey, ham and all the fixings.

In addition, Good Food Box deliveries and Grocery Shopping services, continue to be offered and are readily used.

Success in the Making

Training has long been a priority of DCSCCL - for individuals receiving supports through us, to front-line staff, to Program Coordinators, Managers and Directors. We are constantly striving to ensure an evolving selection of pertinent training opportunities are available to all staff. This includes Open Future Learning and Relias modules, in-house and community-based training.

This fall, our Program Coordinator's were eligible for the Future Skills Grant, and as a result, were able to enroll in the Leadership Fundamentals Certificate Program being offered through Northern Lights College. This program consists of four courses which run from September through December.

Program Coordinators also participate in CLBC's Capacity Training and recently had the opportunity to meet with the CBI Consultant assigned to our agency. This program has been instrumental in helping many individuals learn the skills necessary to live more positive lives.

In September, the Director of Senior Services and the Home Share Manager, participated in an in-person training called Coordinators Communication Skills. They reported that it was some of the best training they'd ever taken, so we will be looking into further potential training opportunities.

DCSCCL's Directors participate in Community Social Services Employers Association's (CSSEA) on-line Learning Hub and have continual access to a wide range on Leadership courses, webinars and certificates.







Some of Dawson Creek's Inclsive Employers from bottom left:
 Urban Systems, Home Medical Needs, DCSC Confidential Shredding, Hypertoys & Notre Dame



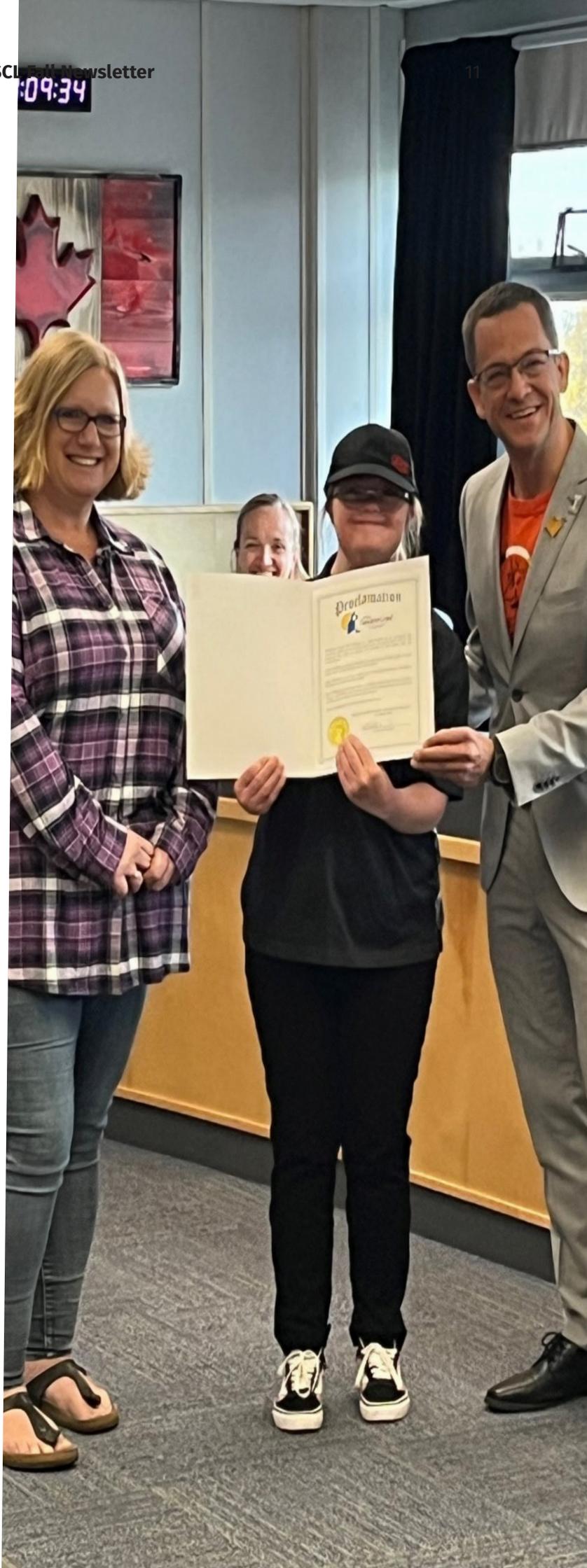
National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

"Businesses that are disability inclusive tend to outperform other businesses in terms of: innovation and productivity, reduced turnover, increased morale, and increased safety records."

Established to increase awareness of the positive outcomes of hiring persons with disabilities in Canada, National Disability Employment Awareness Month highlights the positive contributions that employees with disabilities makes to Canadian workplaces.

We were proud to take part in this years Light It Up for NDEAM. Along with KPAC and Northern Lights College, Dawson Creek Society for Community Livings Administration building, Supported Work and Confidential Shredding Shop, and Opportunity Centre, helped light up Dawson Creek on October 19th, in a beautiful show of blue and purple lights. An excellent showing for DC's first year participating in the event, we hope to see it grow over the following years.

DCSCL would like to extend a thank you to each and every inclusive business in our community and surrounding area, that supports people living with a variety of diverse abilities.



"Amazing place. I am so thankful for the people this beautiful place to stay while my mom was in the hospital. I do not know what I would have done without them."

~ Past Bulterys House Guest

**Bulterys House
Children's Playroom**



Resources

NIDUS *PERSONAL PLANNING RESOURCE CENTRE AND REGISTRY*
For better accessibility and responsiveness, our information and content has been reorganized on our new website. Please check it out at www.nidus.ca

Our Accessibility Project "Learn, Access, and Plan Through Visual Storytelling" is underway. We are developing videos to make legal personal planning information more accessible to persons with disabilities and their supporters and to empower adults in BC to make informed decisions about their personal planning rights and options.

Nidus Personal Planning Registry

Offers secure storage and easy access to your important information and documents for financial and/or health matters, as well as, for emergency preparedness including: Personal Information Records, Personal Plan Documents, and Other Documents such as Insurance policies, etc. There is even a section to store short videos that could be used for settling claims.

Nidus Registry PWD Fund is an initiative that offers a coupon code to use for one free registration with the Nidus Registry for recipients of BC PWD benefits.

Upcoming Webinars & Radio Show
Section 7 Representation Agreements and What Happens After Death.
November 21st @ 12:00 - 1:30 pm PST
November 23rd @ 7:00 - 8:30 pm PST

Nidus on CFIS FM Radio 93.1
"Senior Moments" Community Radio Show in PG
In this feature, Nidus will talk about how personal planning can improve the lives of seniors.
November 21st @ 1:00 - 2:00 pm PST

Bulterys House

Providing short or longer term affordable accommodation for people traveling to Dawson Creek for medical treatment and care. See www.dcscl.org for more information or an Intake Form, or call 250-219-3901.

PLAN INSTITUTE

Webinars
RDSP Level 1 - November 14th & December 7th
Level 2 - November 21st & December 12th
Will, Trusts and Estate Planning - November 12th
Disability Planning Helpline 1-844-311-7526

FAMILY SUPPORT INSTITUTE (FSI)

Canada's only grass-roots, family-to-family not for profit organization. Aimed at supporting, informing and empowering families through the provision of resources, news and training opportunities, you can find a vast amount of information at www.familysupportbc.com

COGNITIVE CARE KITS

An innovative resource for individuals living with dementia and/or other forms of cognitive decline.
AVAILABLE to borrow at the Dawson Creek Public Library

NADRC

National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Centre
www.nadrc.acl.gov

Networks Ministries

Providing physical, emotional, and spiritual help to the community and area, including the Good Food Box program, Healthy Food Bank, Free Store, Furniture Program, Social Worker and Informal Counseling. Please see www.networksministries.com or call 1-844-432-3663 for more information.



Things To Keep Your Eyes Open For...

With every passing year we grow a little bigger which means needing a larger venue to hold our very well-attended events at. As such, we don't have a specific venue chosen for the Annual Christmas Gala yet, but rest assured we are exploring our options and it will proceed! It's just going to be a bit of a surprise this year! Be sure to keep an eye open for your invitation, as well as, on our Facebook Page and at the Opportunity Centre, for the big announcement that will be coming soon!

Another announcement you will want to keep your eyes peeled for, is the theme of 2024's Annual Staff Appreciation Party. After reviewing the results from our Staff Survey this year, we have changed things up a bit to ensure we could provide the additional smaller gestures of appreciation throughout the year that were suggested, as opposed to such an abundance of large prizes at the annual party. As such, things will be a bit different this year, but we asked and you spoke up, so we are sure you'll be happy with the results! Be sure to request the night off in advance, if you would like to attend!

Prior to the 10th Issue of our Newsletter being released in May, the dates for 2024's City Clean-Up will have been released, and the planning for our Annual Accessibility Awareness Day BBQ will be underway, so be sure to watch for these great events that allowed so many people to participate in camp that might not have been able to otherwise!

Have a great winter and holiday season. Until the Spring - Cheers!



Annual Staff Appreciation Party

FEBRUARY 9, 2024



Know Anyone Special?

Do you feel like something is missing from your family?

If you think you might like to enrich someones life and provide them the opportunity to live in a setting of their choice while experiencing happiness and fulfillment, Home Sharing might just be for you! For more information please see our website or call 250-782-2611 Ext. 234



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

Know someone who's values align with DCSCL's?

Last year, we hired 56 new staff, 33 of which were successful. Despite this, we need more staff!! So if you know someone that could be a great fit, please send them our way! You could be eligible for the Refer a Friend Incentive!!



