

Fall 2023 OUT & ABOUT

Community. Connection. Belonging!

Newsletter



San, John and Ann -
The Doeleman Family

CSCL Families

CSCL is an organization founded by families, for families and their sons/daughters/siblings with developmental disabilities. The CSCL of today looks very different than it did 40 years ago, let alone 70! When individuals came to CSCL (originally the Upper Fraser Valley Society for Handicapped Children) for support, parents were also committing to volunteer work and fundraising. Our community inclusion services that receive provincial funding today, were supported through Bingo and Other community fundraising activities back in the day. We are grateful for the tireless efforts of those families in working and advocating for the services we have today. One such family is the Doeleman Family!

Ann and San Doeleman have been involved with CSCL for many years! Both have served as board members (San reminisces about their astonishment when our annual contracts reached \$2million, he laughs at that when he

sees our current budget), and Ann also served with the Ladies Auxiliary. Their son John started receiving services when he was just a boy and now at age 63 lives in one of CSCL's Staff- Supported Homes. This past summer, John and his support staff decided to have a special, surprise celebration at his home to



honour his mom and dad and their many contributions and volunteer hours to CSCL over the years. When they showed up for a weekly coffee visit, they were served appetizers and cake, and reminisced about the old days: smoky Bingo Halls, Lawn tractors, and donated washers and dryers. To celebrate, John and staff Wendy made up hats that said "Best

Mom Ever" "Best Dad Ever" and "Best Son Ever." Ann and San were delighted with the celebration and are still talking about it! Great job Chadsey team! Our deepest gratitude to Ann and San Doeleman, and other families like them, who have contributed so much to the success of CSCL!

Jake Kouwenhoven:

35 Years and Counting

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On Sept 1, 1988 a young man, with a huge heart started his career as a support worker in CSCL's Children's Services. His height and bushy mustache were certainly memorable, but it was his bright pink shorts that really made him stand out! Says Suzanne May, "I thought he was so cool and confident, many men in the 80's did not wear pink!" They made friends and became roommates in later years, at which time Sue realized, Jake is colorblind and had thought his shorts were grey!

Jake went on to manage the respite service that was run out of Chadsey House, and then worked as a Direct Support worker at Taylor and Salish House's, in 2000 Jake began working the Woodshop (now known as Oasis) until 2013, at which time he worked as the Manager of Early Risers and the Occupational Center (now REV) until January of 2015. When SSW positions were created within the Community Inclusion Services, Jake was a natural fit. With his computer like mind and attention to detail, Jake was a shoe-in for the job! Jake worked out of Early Risers for 5 years before joining Natalie SK on Sunshine Drive as SSW for REV, Oasis, ACE, and now THRIVE services. Over the years Jake has been nominated for the STAR award and was the recipient of the Be Kind, Be Calm and Be Safe Award In 2021.

Jake is a familiar and beloved face to many of the people served and employed in CSCL services, and he is commonly referred to as Jake the Snake. The positive impact Jake has had over the years is immeasurable, and he is a valued and much appreciated part of our team! Jake's favorite phrase is, "we'll figure it out" and he somehow always does! Thank you Jake for all you do, Community Inclusion would not be the same without you!



Fun Photos From...



...DSP Appreciation Week!

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On Tuesday, September 12 CSCL hosted a Direct Support Professional Appreciation Event. CSCL Employees enjoyed an ice cream station, delicious food from an on-site Shawarma food truck, music, games, photos, and door prizes.

CSCL's Leadership Team and HR Committee were on hand to offer staff thanks for all the hard work they do.

This was part of DSP Appreciation, to acknowledge and celebrate the work and dedication of all Direct Support Professionals.

This is the third year CSCL has been taking part in DSP Appreciation, since becoming a member of the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP).

HR Director, Natalie Karam explained the importance of CSCL joining. "They are an organization that focuses on community living, is about professionalizing the work force, and providing professional development opportunities for our staff."

Natalie noted that one of the tools to do this is the E-Badge Academy. Now in its third year, it allows staff an opportunity to learn and demonstrate knowledge of their profession. Those interested can talk with their manager to learn more.

The door prize winners were Sarbjit B., who took home a new iPad and Teresita K., who will enjoy a one-night stay at the Harrison Hot Springs Hotel.

Call for Submissions

The Chilliwack Museum and Archives welcomes submissions that explore the theme of "Wholeness," the principle that people with diverse abilities are whole and valued, and the importance of embracing disability as part of a person's identity and a source of empowerment.

Deadline: November 4, 2023

Submit: chilliwackmuseum.ca/exhibitions/submissions

CSCL was first established in 1954 so next year will mark CSCL's 70th Anniversary! To help commemorate this milestone, CSCL has arranged to cohost an upcoming exhibition, Our Journey for Inclusion: 70 Years of Innovation, developed in partnership with the Chilliwack Museum and Archives and Inclusion BC. The exhibit will be displayed at the Chilliwack Museum and Archives (45820 Spadina Avenue) from January to June 2024.

There will be a special "Opening Night" on Thursday, January 18 so look for more information about that in the days to come. To help enrich the exhibit, there is a Call for Submissions for artwork that explore the theme "Wholeness" - the principle that people with diverse abilities are whole and valued, and the importance of embracing disability as part of a person's identity as a source of empowerment.



Alec and his support staff were hopeful that this following submission would make it into the next issue of the newsletter for the Fall 2023 edition.

Your wish is our command, Alec!!!

Alec shared the following:

“I am so excited that my Handy Dart is running again. This is a picture of me and my driver Dean. We were both happy to be able to see each other again. My day was not complete without my HandyDart transportation time with others and my driver Dean. Yes the strike is OVER!!!”

NADSP

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NEWS



As an employee of CSCL - all of us have access to the NADSP "Members" site for 2023. This means you have access to NADSP resources, webinars, material, training discounts, etc.

Check out the email that was sent to all employees recently and see the attached poster with the link to access the NADSP website, where to access the Members section and the shared password.

Or email CSCL's Human Resources department for more information at human.resources@cscl.org



CSCL News!

Congratulations to Taylor Laviolette and Dona Hettiarachchi for joining the Staff Supported Homes Manager Team. Dona is also joining the Homeshare department as a Shared Living Manager.

CSCL's Payroll Team is happy to report that all retro pay has gone out to unionized employees, and the April 2023 wage rates are now in effect!

Welcome to Kami Edwards & Katrina Both to CSCL's Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Committee. The OH&S Committee's mandate is to ensure the health and safety of all employees, volunteers and practicum students of the organization.

AGM

CSCL's Annual General Meeting (AGM) has held on Wednesday, September 20 at the Chilliwack Cultural Centre.

The meeting was attended by representatives of CSCL's Board, CSCL's Membership, CSCL employees and the general public and hosted by CSCL's Board President, Mike Robinson. Presentations were facilitated by Kate Feltren and Jeff Gilbank for the upcoming exhibit at the Chilliwack Museum and Julie Unger, for two video presentations about stories "from the field" featuring people supported by

CSCL. Julie also gave a Property Planning Update for the new building plans for the Wells Road properties. An Auditor's Report from a representative from KPMG was also presented. Many thanks to Shaaron Enright for making it all happen and to the volunteers at the Cultural Centre for their warm welcome and helping set up. Next year's AGM will likely take place in June of 2024.

Matt Nilsen

Matt joined CSCL services about 10 years ago. He started at the ACE service and immediately started making friends.

His huge smile, awesome laugh and sense of humor quickly made him an important part of the ACE group. Matt moved to the REV service in 2015 and adapted quickly there as well. Matt loved tractors and construction, especially spotting them before others when out and about. He would work on his Lego every day, it was one of his favorite activities. Matt loved music, in particular ABBA, probably more



Matt Nilsen

than anyone else, he would sing every song loud and proud, raising his arms in the air, so happy that you couldn't help but join in with him. Matt loved going to ACE and REV and visiting with his friends particularly Kim and Karena. Matt was well loved by all who knew him, and

our lives were made better by having him be a part of them. Matt passed away April 26, 2023 and is dearly missed by his friends and staff teams at CSCL..

People First Update

Matt Yeomans is the current President of the Chilliwack Chapter of the People First Group.

It's been a busy few months for the People First group as they set out their agenda for the rest of the year and 2024. In other events, Matt has been asked by the City of Chilliwack and the Healthier Community Committee to be involved with one of their projects. Matt is also a member of the Upper Fraser Community Council that is organized by CLBC. The group is hosting a meeting for the general public on Wednesday,



October 18 at the Abbotsford CLBC Office starting at 5:30pm. Matt will also be conducting the annual surveying to people that receive CSCL services for the third year in a row. His questions will ask people how they feel about the supports they are receiving from CSCL and if there is anything the organization can improve upon.

Board Update

CSCL's Board of Directors is elected by the Membership every year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

CSCL's Board of Directors hosted their first meeting after the summer hiatus on Monday Oct. 2nd. Board members were treated to a Thanksgiving-style dinner, prepared by our ED, Julie and Office Manager, Shaaron. We have immense gratitude for these board members who volunteer so many hours to govern the work at CSCL each year. Because it was the first meeting after our AGM, the board was tasked with electing its officers and appointing committee members. The following list reflects the Board's Executive. President: Mike Robinson; 1st Vice



Mike Robinson, CSCL President

-President: Shawn Palmer; 2nd Vice-President: Bill Turnbull; Treasurer: Jeremy Johnson. Additionally committee chairs were identified, Jeremy Johnson will chair the

Finance Committee (members Samantha Tolmie, Bill Turnbull and Aaron Hale); Joshua Hall will chair the Property Planning Committee (Members Al Niemann, Shawn Palmer, and participants from our CSCL Membership – Brenda Gillette, and Brent Tolmie); Membership/Nominating Committee chair – Ben Honeyman (members – Lexa Bergen, Karen Steegstra, Mike Robinson).

Child & Youth News!

Back to school season is upon us which means colder temperatures and darker days! Our Child and Youth programs will be focusing on fun indoor activities with special events such as our Halloween Party for youth as well as our Annual Family Christmas Party. CYS is also excited to announce the opening of our Community Youth Program! Offered after school from 4:30-7:30 Tuesday to Fridays. This program is for anyone and everyone between the ages of 12 and 18. Contact 604-846-7777 to register.





Photos from the CLE!!!



Chilliwack Society for Community Living
Spooky Spectacular
 Community Inclusion Event
Friday, October 27th
5:00pm to 9:00pm
Evergreen Hall
 9291 Corbould Street, Chilliwack, BC
 Come dressed in your favorite Halloween costume!
 Food, 50/50 Draw, Dancing, Paper Bag Auction, Photo Booth

Tickets	
Family of 4	\$25
Adults	\$10
Self Advocates	\$5
Children (5-18)	\$4
Children (0-4)	free

No Admission Tickets will be sold at the door.
 Tickets must be pre-purchased prior to 4pm on Thursday October 26th
 Call 604-792-7726 for tickets & information

CSCL
 Chilliwack Society for Community Living
 Live Music by
Calvin Rempel & friends
 Community and family event celebrating the lives of people with disabilities, and their contributions to the community.



Jill's Fishy Friends



CSCL's Wonderful World of Pets

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Meet Cherry, Pineapple, & Blueberry! One fish, two fish, red fish, blue fish! Jill would like to introduce everyone to her fishy friends, Pineapple, Cherry, Blueberry, and Catfish. Jill says, "One is yellow, one is red, one is blue, the catfish is brown. The green one died and a catfish died. I give them a little bit of food and they need water. My fish glow in the dark. I like sleeping beside them so I can watch them at night. We're going to buy a new green one and a brown cat fish again soon." Jill has been a proud fish keeper since 2007, when she got her first fish tank, which was pirate-ship themed. Her current fish are glofish tetras, plus a small catfish. Glofish tetras are a peaceful and easy to care for community fish that can live for up to 7 years. They're a great beginner fish and do best in schools. Their fun colours and hardy nature make them a great option for a community tank like Jill's. Jill's fish bring her a lot of joy and she loves showing her pets to new guests to her home.

Cherry

Pineapple

Blueberry

CSCL By The Numbers:

1 2 3

As of October 1, 2023

of
Individuals

Supported:

577



of
Employees:

393



of
**Active
Caregivers:**

215



39%



60%

1% Self Describe



0-18	19-29	30-49	50-64	65+
33%	28%	26%	6%	7%

Serving Communities in:

- Chilliwack
- Sardis
- Hope
- Yarrow
- Agassiz
- Harrison
- Deroche
- Greendale
- Cultus Lake
- Sunshine Valley



CSCL is
100%
Non-Profit

10
Services

56
Service/Program
Options

ONLINE PRESENCE:



2170 Followers



765 Followers



16920 Views



539 Followers

CSCL Reports

Measuring Up!

A random survey of progress updates from CSCL's official Plans and Reports:

CSCL Risk Register Report:

Area of Risk: Employees:
Employment Practices

Planned Action:

Implement use of Employment Contracts (to replace employment letters) for all excluded personnel. Improved clarity of employee/ employer relationship; averaging agreements where applicable; ensure compliance with all employment standards.



STAR Award

Congratulations to Ashley Johnson (left) who received the latest CSCL STAR Award from CSCL HR Director, Natalie Karam. The CSCL STAR Award was created to recognize employees for excellence in their job as a CSCL employee. Ashley's nominator(s) wrote:

Ashley fundraised, planned, and coordinated a trip to Toronto for an individual supported by CSCL. This is a testament to what CSCL strives to accomplish. To go above and beyond what is needed to create a community that is inclusive, welcoming, and safe for all. Ashley embodies the values of CSCL and that has never been more apparent than in her planning and execution of this trip on top of her already full support schedule. Ashley has demonstrated what it means to work at CSCL and how your effort pays off through each individual that we support.



CLBC WOW Award

One of CSCL's funders, Community Living BC (CLBC), has an annual award called Widening our World (WOW) Awards to recognize community members for their inclusive hiring practices and workplaces. This year, Keith Larson (right) from Redux Nutrition, Chilliwack was honoured. Here is their write-up: Nominated by: Paul McCracken, Chilliwack Society for Community Living - Keith has been the plant manager at Redux since 2021, and he oversees a very diverse group of staff. With the Chilliwack Society for Community Living, Keith provided work experience for three individuals who have now been hired permanently. Keith has worked to promote them and build their skills and confidence (one individual now operates a loader). Keith believes everyone should have a chance to try new things and build new skills, and that everyone at Redux benefits.



CSSL Events...



BINGO Wednesdays!

Did you know about ZOOM BINGO

Come join us for BINGO every Wednesday, hosted by the gang at Vanmar! Email them for more details!



Zoom into Connection!

Have a great idea for a Zoom activity?

Send us your ideas to help everyone stay connected to community, family and friend!



Community Inclusion Month

October 2023

To honor the dedication of individuals who tirelessly work towards creating more inclusive communities.



Photo Contest

October 2023

CSCL's Annual Photo Contest is back! Submit your favourite photos of the year!



CLE

Friday, October 27, 2023

CSCL's Spooky Spectacular – Community Inclusion Event!
Now SOLD OUT!



Survey Month

November 2023

Surveys for all employees and all Individuals receiving services from CSCL will be conducted in November

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

IDPWD

December 3, 2023

International Day of People with Disability is a United Nations-sanctioned day that is celebrated internationally

"Angel Eggs"

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Which came first, the chicken or the egg? We might finally have an answer to that age-old question – in Angel's case, we say the chicken! Angel has always loved animals and this year she set a goal to raise chickens for eggs. First, Angel and her family built a chicken coop in their yard. Angel has limited mobility, so she left the heavy lifting to her dad and others, with Angel acting as foreman and directing everyone. Once the coop was built and the ordered chicks arrived, Angel helped with set up and care, and made sure to check on the chickens and feed them each day. Once the chickens reached

maturity and started laying eggs, Angel was able to truly enjoy the "fruits of her labour" – one of the first eggs she collected was a lucky double-yoker! Angel is proud of achieving her goal of raising chickens for eggs. It was a truly EGG-cellent Experience!



Chilliwack Society For Community Living

Supporting adults with developmental disabilities, children and youth with support needs and their families since 1954.

9353 Mary Street
Chilliwack, BC
Phone 604-792-7726
Email info@cscl.org
Web www.cscl.org

"Our Vision is for a community that welcomes and includes everyone."



Follow us on Social Media:



Your Voice!

Our apology to Kean who was mistaken for someone else in our last newsletter.

Many thanks to Julie Unger, Natalie Karam, Dan Celella, Danielle Cross, Ellen Peters, and Aileen Mathews for their contributions to this edition. And, of course, to the Doeleman family for gracing our cover!

Do you have something to say? Let's hear from you! Please contact Jeff Gilbank at jeff.gilbank@cscl.org for your comments, editorials, and/or newsletter ideas.