

Spring 2024 OUT & ABOUT

Community. Connection. Belonging!

Newsletter



The Sky's the Limit



How pleased was Matt MacKay (left) when he saw a photo of himself on display during his visit to the Chilliwack Museum? By the look on his face—VERY! One of Matt's contributions to the story of CSCL came in 2006 when he and CSCL's Board President at the time, Loren Tempel, climbed to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa for the "Climb for Community Living".

Would you like to know more about this story and other CSCL stories?

Our Journey for Inclusion: 70 Years of Innovation is now playing at the Chilliwack Museum until June. Book your visit TODAY!



**OUR JOURNEY
FOR INCLUSION**
70 Years of Innovation

CHILLiwack
MUSEUM & ARCHIVES



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Supported by the Province of British Columbia

CSCL



inclusionBC

CSCL's Service Awards Breakfast



CSCL's Annual Service Awards honour employees that have achieved 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 year tenure in 2023. Many thanks to all who attended and a special thanks to Stephen Peters (pictured) who was awarded this year's EXCEL Award for excellence in his managerial position based on Partnerships. Jake Kouwenhoven also received his 30-year Award (L to R:) Natalie Smith-Klassen, Brenda Alexander, Jake, Nancy Gauvin.



People First Update

My name is Ramona Harder, and I am the President of Chilliwack People First. This month (March) we have been doing a non-perishable food drive, in partnership with the Salvation Army. To collect donations, we placed food barrels at supporting businesses in our local community. This was our first food drive, and so far, this has been a success. At the end of March, we will be weighing the donations, and presenting the donations to the Salvation Army. We will then take a group photo with the donations, at the Salvation Army, to thank supporting businesses and members of the community.

People First meets once a month, and we are trying to get more members equally involved during the meetings and at community events, such as the upcoming Transition fair that is scheduled for April 4, 2024. At the transition fair, three People First members will attend University of the Fraser Valley, to represent Chilliwack People First. It is our goal to recruit new self-advocates and increase our exposure in the local community.

After the transition fair, three of us are hoping to go to Vancouver Island to represent People First at the Inclusion BC conference at the end of May. This would be a great opportunity for our members, as we would have the opportunity to attend educational workshops and strengthen our social connections by meeting new people.

For more information about Chilliwack People First, please email us at

chilliwackpeoplefirst01@gmail.com



Join Art with Friends!

Most Wednesdays at 10am you will find Nicole Sorenson at the Mathieson Centre. Her mother Beth runs Art with Friends there, and it all began when Nicole had a goal of spending more time with her doing art with her mom. Beth says, "I told her I'd do her one better", offering to put on weekly art classes for anyone wanting to learn art and spend time with friends. "We have a core group who are almost always there. We are open to any adults that are supported by CSCL, as well as other service providers." The class dates and times are posted on ShareVision and it is preferred that people RSVP ahead of time so that Beth has an idea of how many people to expect. Terra Norton has been attending since the beginning and loves it. "I like being around other people and I like art!" Terra says that it allows her to meet people, she can do fun projects, it's not expensive, and it's close to home. The class is done by donation and Beth encourages any attendees that would benefit from a support worker to have one with them, as it gives Beth the opportunity do hand over hand instruction with more people. Beth encourages everyone to put their own slant on their artwork. She also emphasizes that there are no restrictions on abilities and notes that it is an all-inclusive setting, even if someone just wants to hang out. "Your art is your art."



L to R: Jasmine, Hope, Melinda, Nicole, and Susie hold up their art pieces.

NEOC Report

CSCL has received the finalized Report from the NEOC Survey (employee satisfaction survey conducted anonymously in November of 2023) and the results are in. CSCL has received the Non-Profit Employer of Choice Award for 2023 (based on the results from the survey).

Thanks to everyone for participating.

The TOP 5 Areas where CSCL excels are:

1. CSCL strives to build a positive public image
2. CSCL treats employees with respect
3. CSCL supports diversity in the workplace
4. Employees feel good about CSCL's mission
5. CSCL supports a realistic work/life blend

The BOTTOM 5 Areas identified (where CSCL can make improvements) are:

1. CSCL proactively discusses career advancement plans with employees
2. CSCL pays a competitive wage/salary
3. CSCL regularly solicits feedback from employees and acts on the results
4. CSCL financially supports continuing education



5. CSCL conducts regular performance reviews with action plans for improvement

CSCL's HR department, HR committee and Leadership Team will be developing plans on how to improve the bottom 5 areas. The goal will be to provide an update to employees, quarterly, on the progress.

In Memory: Ed Bryan



CSCL lost an amazing person when Ed Bryan passed away unexpectedly in January. Ed lived at Bordas but was known throughout CSCL, especially the community inclusion services on Sunshine Drive. He spoke often about his time there and the people he knew. Ed continued to visit Sunshine Drive and tended to his garden plot each year. Ed will always be remembered for his feisty personality and big presence. He loved ice cream, hats, dogs and his family. He is deeply missed by his friends and staff team.

NADSP

7

NEWS



All CSCL employees that are interested in obtaining their DSP-I, DSP-II or DSP-III Credential through the NADSP should talk to their Manager and submit a professional development request in ShareVision. Once they obtain their credential(s) – they can earn a financial reward from CSCL:

DSP-I = \$200

DSP-II = \$300

DSP-III = \$500

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



CSCL News!

CSCL's Community Inclusion Services is very pleased to welcome, Deidra Innes, and welcome back, Jesse Lang, to the management team. Deidra will be managing the REV and OASIS services while Jesse will be managing the WAVE, Vedder, Britton and McCaffrey services. The department is rounded out by Natalie Smith-Klassen managing LIFE, Early Risers, THRIVE and ACE. Nancy Gauvin is the Associate Director of Community Inclusion & Employment Services.

CSCL's Homeshare Services is very pleased to welcome to the team, Ashley Cordsen as the new Shared Living Manager. Ashley first started with CSCL in 2016.

COR Report

Susan Bassett (below) from Glacier Consulting will be CSCL's external COR Auditor for this year's WorkSafeBC/BCMSA Audit.

Susan has many years of experience working in the field and is always happy to promote COR and a positive audit experience. Susan has been a certified BCMSA Auditor for many years. The BCMSA awards the Certificate of Recognition (COR) to



employers who are dedicated to proactively improving workplace safety. This year's audit will involve the following services: Admin, Outreach, Homeshare, CYS, Hipwell, Jasper, Southlands, Vanmar, ACE and OASIS.

CYS Changes

After 8 years at CSCL, Child & Youth Services (CYS) Manager, Aileen Mathews is moving to 100 Mile House.

Aileen Mathews is leaving CSCL for a management position in 100 Mile House with Cedar Crest Community Living Society, as their Director of Children Services. Aileen has been CYS Manager for the last 7 years and has been an active contributor to CSCL in many other areas, including her committee work (OH&S, Transportation, Wellness, ShareVision and Green) and as a CORE training facilitator. Aileen brought many skills and expertise to CYS, and her passion, creativity and genuine personality made the department a better place.

Dan Celella was the successful candidate for the open CYS Manager position and started in April from his previous position as a

manager in CSCL's Community Inclusion Services. Dan brings a wealth of knowledge to CYS as a former Child Protection Officer with Fraser Valley Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society.

Alicia Eksyma, was the successful applicant for the Administrative Assistant position at CYS. Alicia comes to CSCL after 10 years as a Medical Office Assistant in various community medical centers around Chilliwack and Abbotsford. She brings valuable administrative and interpersonal skills to the position. Alicia's weekly schedule has her working Monday to Friday 8:30am to 12:30pm.

Chilliwack Wins Gold!

The Chilliwack bowling team representing BC at the Special Olympic Canada Winter games won GOLD!

Three of the five athletes attend CSCL services and the other two athletes at one time were in services with CSCL.

Congratulations to Neil Fromhart, Jamie Fulcher, Betty Coleman, Julie Prachnau and Corey Bennett.

Overall, Chilliwack has 65 athletes who participate in 10 local sport programs through SOBC.



**Special
Olympics**
British Columbia

Child & Youth News!

CSCL's Child and Youth Services is gearing up for this year's Summer'Scapes and Summer Youth Programs! Program registration opens on May 1st and summer camps begin on July 2nd. They run through to August 23rd. Call the Mathieson Centre for more information at 604-846-7777.



Board Update

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

Over the past months, CSCL's Board of Directors has been working on refining the strategic plan goals.

A new mission statement has been adopted by the board as well as some changes to the Vision statement and values. These changes reflect moves in our sector and in our community to use more inclusive language, and better represent the work CSCL is doing today.



Mike Robinson, CSCL President

A name change for the organization will also be proposed to the membership at the June 11 AGM.

March and April were consumed with discussing membership and

board of director nominees, in preparation for the AGM, and approving the annual budget for April 1st 2024 through March 31st, 2025.



A Happy Retirement!

Yvonne Patrick has just retired from caregiving and we want to acknowledge her many years of work and dedication to community living. Yvonne has been an exceptional caregiver, supporting the same individual, Jason, in her home from 1997 until 2024. She has made strong positive connections with all of Jason's support network and services, and has been connected to CSCL through her supports for over 20

years. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with Yvonne. Yvonne has also always been extremely professional and diligent in completing the administrative pieces of her caregiver work. She is polite, helpful, and passionate about supporting people with disabilities to live their best lives. Yvonne has always been a



Yvonne Patrick has been caregiving for over 27 years!

champion for individual's independence, seeing everyone as capable. She has always encouraged Jason and the other people she has supported over the years to do things for themselves and to be given the opportunity to learn new things. Yvonne has worked to build social capital for Jason with her own family and support network, and he

is dearly loved by Yvonne's family and friends. Every year,

Jason goes with her on vacations to Connecticut and Arizona to see family. Jason enjoys these trips so much, and likes to wave Yvonne off and spend time with her sons/son-in-law in the pool. Yvonne has been a delight to work with these many years, and we will dearly miss her in HomeShare.

CSCL's Wonderful World of Pets

Meet Shadow, a sweet and gentle pooch who lives up to his name – he is loyal and sticks to his person, Laura, like, well, a shadow! Shadow is a 10 ½ year old “Yorkiepoo” (cross between a poodle and a Yorkshire terrier). Yorkshire Terriers and Poodles are both non-shedding breeds that are known for being smart and great family pets. They tend to be a bit sassy and need lots of training and activity to keep them out of mischief. Laura brought Shadow home as a puppy, when she was looking for a dog for company and walks, who she could spoil. Many readers will remember seeing Shadow in Laura’s office at REV when he was a small puppy. Shadow is a silly guy who loves the water and will climb into a pail of water if he gets a chance. He also loves to go on car rides in his special car seat and harness. Shadow’s favourite toy is a squeaky rubber ball, and his favourite treat is chicken jerky. Laura’s favourite thing about Shadow is seeing his smile each day when she comes home from work.



CSCL By The Numbers:

1 2 3

As of April 1, 2024

of
Individuals

Supported:

524



of
Employees:

392

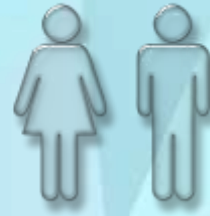


of
**Active
Caregivers:**

134



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

11
 Services

58
 Service/Program
 Options

ONLINE PRESENCE:



2244 Followers



804 Followers



130 Subscribers



558 Followers

CSCL Reports

Measuring Up!

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

CSCL Risk Register Report:

Five (5) sick days to be made available at 100% pay to all CSCL employees (including casual and probationary) after 90 days of employment. CSCL will need to amend its policy and practice. Note: it is expected that language around this will also be negotiated into the new collective agreement

Recommendations: Amend CSCL policies and payroll reporting to include five (5) 100% paid sick leave days for all eligible CSCL employees (effective March 31, 2022). Work with CSSEA to clarify averaging for calculation, in advance of a new collective agreement directive



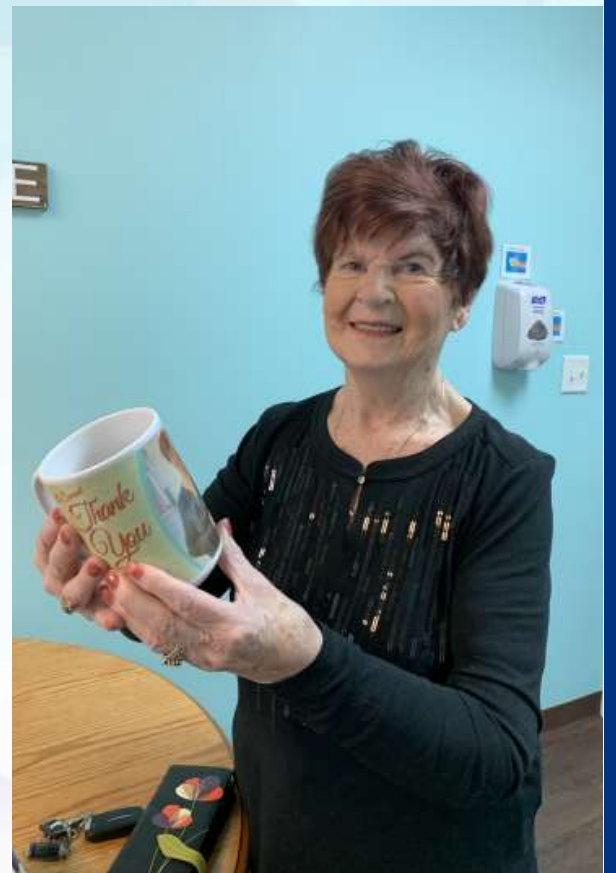
STAR Award

Congratulations to Jodi Whitehead (left) who received the latest CSCL STAR Award from Michelle Gower, Associate Director of SSH. The STAR Award was created to recognize employees for excellence in their job as a CSCL employee. Jodi's nominator(s) wrote: "Over the years, Jodi has planned and put on the Vanmar Christmas dinner. It started as a small vision and has grown into a larger event (where the dinner occurs at a larger venue now). Jodi is so committed, that she even recruits her own family members to assist with the preparation and serving of the meal to the guests. Thank you Jodi, for your vision to celebrate the people we love and the people we call family."



Caregiver Award

Congratulations to Yvonne Patrick who received the latest CSCL Caregiver Award, created to recognize caregivers for their outstanding service to the people they support. Yvonne's nominator(s) wrote: "Yvonne has been an exceptional Yvonne caregiver, always ensuring the needs of the person she supports are met and that he is well cared for. She works collaboratively with the CSCL team and has maintained a strong relationship with his foster sister. Yvonne has worked to build social capital for him with her own family and support network, and he is dearly loved by Yvonne's family and friends."



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!



Employee Service Awards

April 25, 2024

CSSL's Annual Service Awards honour employees that have achieved 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 year tenure.



Inclusive Employer Luncheon

April 2024

CSSL's Employment Services will be once again hosting their annual Recognition Event!



Sunshine Community Garden

Spring 2024

Get connected with the Sunshine Community Garden! Register now for the 2024 Growing Season!



NAOSH Week

May 6-10, 2024

Time to focus on the importance of preventing injury and illness in the workplace, at home and in the community.



Annual General Meeting

June 11, 2024

CSSL will be hosting our Annual General Meeting June 11, 2024. More details to come!

“David’s Retirement”

After 15 years of working at the City of Chilliwack City Hall, David Crey has chosen to retire. David was a caretaker for the Hall and surrounding grounds, making sure the area was clean. Many of his coworkers there agreed that his dedication to his work, his friendly nature, and his friendly smile made him a joy to be around. Carol Marleau, on behalf of City Hall, stated that David had become part of the City Hall family



during his 15 years there. “He had a great sense of humour and would make us laugh when he made car noises as he turned a corner. He is very much missed.” During his retirement party, dozens of his coworkers bid him farewell with kind words and echoed the sentiment that he both worked hard, as well as made work fun. When asked what he would be doing next, David laughed and said that he would still be keeping busy, while enjoying retirement. Congratulations, David, on this next chapter of your life!

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!

Many thanks to Julie Unger, Natalie Karam, Dan Celella, Danielle Cross, and Ellen Peters for their contributions to this edition.

And, of course, to Eddie Crosina and his friend, Glenda, 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.