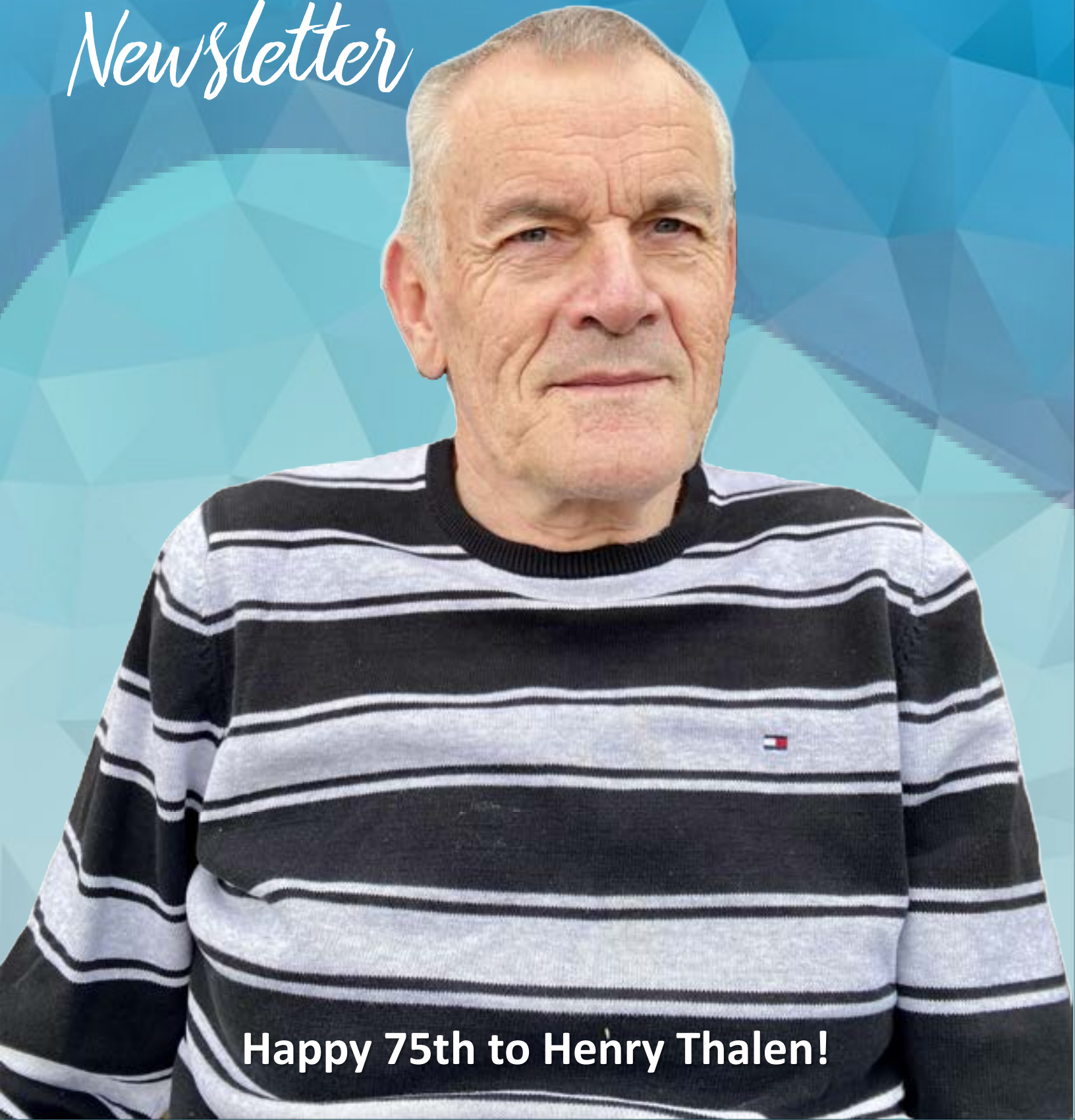


Summer 2024
OUT & ABOUT

Community. Connection. Belonging!

Newsletter



Happy 75th to Henry Thalen!

Name Change

At CSCL's 70th AGM (June 11th, 2024) the Society's Membership approved a special resolution to change our name to INCLUSION CHILLIWACK SOCIETY.

The name change reflects the evolution in the community living movement; from a focus on deinstitutionalization and living in community, to being fully included citizens who find belonging.

It represents the work we do and aligns us with our provincial and national federations: Inclusion BC and Inclusion Canada (not to mention will hopefully reduce confusion with Chilliwack Community Services).

This was a recommendation that has been in the making for over a decade, and was most recently brought up again at the Board's strategic planning session in January 2024.

The new name has been registered with BC Societies Act as of June 20th, but we have to wait for the acceptance of the name and constitution changes with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) who regulates organizations with charitable status. We have a proposal that identifies changing our logo and website. These changes will be mapped out over the coming months.

And then will come the updating of signs - likely to be budgeted and spread out over the next couple years to disperse the financial impact. We'll look at the most prominent (and owned) locations first.

The Board also updated our Mission, Vision, Values and a new Strategic Plan (see page 4). CSCL's Executive Director, Julie Unger, is planning to visit services' staff meetings in the coming year (starting in the fall) to talk about the strategic plan for CSCL and the changes in language. In the meantime, if you have questions, please use the ShareVision "Question and Suggestion" list and submit a request to the leadership team for answers.

*P.S.- this is the 4th time the Society has changed its' name (5 names in all). The only constant is change!



Strategic Overview

CSCCL Strategic Plan 2024 -2028

NAME:

Inclusion Chilliwack Society

VISION:

A community that values and includes everyone. A centre of excellence that inspires a culture of community, connection and belonging.

MISSION:

We advance the inclusion and belonging of people with diverse abilities in partnership with families, friends, and community. We provide individualized and innovative services that enhance quality of life.

VALUES:

- **Accountability**
- **Courage**
- **Integrity**
- **Learning**
- **Respect**

4 Canada Summer Jobs

Press Release: CSCL Expands Summer Employment Opportunities with Canada Summer Jobs Funding:

Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) is a federal initiative providing funding to help employers create quality summer job opportunities for youth up to the age of 30.

We are thrilled to announce that CSCL has received CSJ funding to hire a total of 13 temporary summer positions across various departments. This funding allows us to enhance our services during the summer and ensure adequate staffing coverage during the vacation periods of our tenured employees.

This funding allowed CSCL to hire:

- Six employees in our Child & Youth Services (CYS) Department
- One employee in our Youth Supported Employment Service
- One employee in our Administration Department
- One employee in our Staff Supported Homes (SSH) Department
- Two employees in our Outreach Department
- Two employees in our Community Inclusion Services (CIS) Department



E-Badge Academy

CSCL has been offering employees the option to enroll in the NADSP E-Badge Academy to obtain their Direct Support Professional (DSP) credentials since 2021. Employees can work towards obtaining their DSP-I, DSP-II or DSP-III Credential. The benefit of this credential is that it allows employees to reflect on the daily tasks and duties of a Support Worker, in the Community Living Field, and apply their hands-on knowledge (from their direct experience) to earn the badges required to obtain the credential.



In addition, when employees apply for internal job postings, they can earn 'extra points' in the qualifications section of the interview scoring by having obtained post-secondary education (relevant to community living) or by having obtained their DSP credential(s).

An added bonus – once an employee has completed their DSP credential(s), CSCL will provide them with a financial award (max value of \$1000).

Completing DSP-I = \$200

Completing DSP-II = \$300

Completing DSP-III = \$500

To date (2021-2024): a total of 20 employees have obtained Credentials through the NADSP E-Badge Academy. Here is the breakdown:

DSP-I Credential: 6 employees

DSP-II Credential: 2 employees

DSP-III Credential: 11 employees

Frontline Supervisor Credential: 1 employee

Currently, for 2024 there are still a few vacant seats remaining in the E-Badge Academy. If you are interested, please discuss it further with your program manager or reach out to Natalie Karam, Director – HR/LR.

I Am Voting!

CSCCL supports people to make their own decisions in political elections.

This fall there will be a Provincial Election for the Government of BC. The election will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2024.

During the election, each political party can put forward a candidate in every voting region or area (called Ridings). Registered voters vote for the candidate they want. The candidate that gets the most votes becomes a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). That MLA represents the people in Chilliwack. The party that gets the most MLA's elected

forms the Government. The party with the second most MLAs elected forms the Opposition.

Your right to vote is one of the most important rights you have. It is the way you help choose who will represent you in our government. When you vote you are participating as a full citizen in Canadian society.

The link below is a great resource to help people to register and vote:

<https://inclusionbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/ProvElectionGuide-2024-V2-05.01.2024.pdf>



Golf Anyone?



Kien, Matt and Mark getting ready to golf with Kathy Stecyk from Atlas Academy

“No matter how good you get, you can always get better — and that’s the exciting part.” – Tiger Woods

When Kien mentioned at his LIFE planning meeting that he wanted to improve his golf swing, CSCL’s Jodie Dessau took action. She contacted local golf courses to find an instructor. Kathy Stecyk from Atlas Academy responded and offered semi-private lessons at a reduced rate for Kien and his friends, Mark and Matt. Kathy, who has a younger sister with Down Syndrome, was eager to work with them. Although the men had previous golf experience, none had taken lessons before. Kathy made the lessons enjoyable and used simple, clear instructions. She spent one-on-one time with each person, giving personalized coaching. She even provided better-fitting golf clubs for Kien and Matt at no cost.

After two lessons each, all three improved their golf swings. Kien appreciated Kathy’s helpful tips, Mark liked her step-by-step guidance, and Matt summed it up by saying, “she was nice.”

Thank you, Kathy, for your generosity and for helping the men enhance their golf skills.

CSCL News!

Congratulations to Craig Yendall who has been promoted to an Associate Service Director. As a result, Craig's role will be expanded - he will continue to lead our behavioural health activities and CPI Training, and will work with CSCL to develop the Family Support Role including grant applications. This promotion will give his role more authority in the organization, across services, and will be a key mitigating factor to addressing potential for abuse as it pertains to behavioural supports. This role will also be part of CSCL's Leadership team.

COR Update Report

CSCL is a WorkSafeBC COR-certified organization. Here is a message from Susan Bassett from Glacier View Consulting Ltd:

Congratulations to CSCL for completing a successful COR Re-Certification Audit and maintaining your COR Certification. This ultimately results in growing an organization's culture and attitude towards health, safety and wellness, reducing injuries.



It has been my pleasure to conduct this audit. Every member of CSCL approached this audit with enthusiasm, honesty, integrity, and genuine desire for success. It is a pure joy to work with your team and meet the amazing individuals supported by CSCL.

Going to Disneyland!

Anyone who has ever met Matt Mackay knows that he is the biggest Disney fan ever!

The same can be said for best friends Alec Chelzynski and Corey Bennett who love talking about new marvel movies and superheroes. When starting at the LIFE program Matt drew out his dream goal... Disneyland. Staff Grace Kennedy and Jodie Dessau decided to turn these dreams into a reality. On May 5, Corey, Matt, and Alec embarked on their journey to Anaheim to visit the happiest place on earth. Corey and Alec met their favourite superheroes and villains and Matt met his favourite Disney princesses and cartoon characters! The guys faced their fears by going on stomach dropping rides, and although



nervous at first, afterwards they wanted seconds! . When Matt was asked about his favourite part of the trip he said, "The Little Mermaid," which was a ride he went on repeatedly, singing all the words to the songs and beaming with joy after exiting. When Alec and Corey were asked about their favourite part they stated that meeting the Avengers and going on the Radiator Springs ride. This trip taught everyone to dream beyond what they know and that they have the choice to decide what they want to do with their lives. And living a good life means going on a much needed vacay!!!!

400 and Counting!

CSCL reached a milestone earlier this year. The Society now has 400 active employees - a first for CSCL!

This means there are currently 400 people in our community that work for the Society's Mission and Vision to be a "community that values and includes everyone!"

This also makes CSCL one of Chilliwack's' biggest employers.



Although the pandemic and some budget cuts have impacted our growth over recent years, CSCL continues to be a valued service for people who need

it. This is evidenced by the continual growth of CSCL throughout the years.

Child & Youth News!

Starting September 2024, CSCL will be launching an inclusive after-school care program for children ages 6-12. The program will provide a safe and supportive environment where all children, regardless of abilities, can engage in enriching activities. With a focus on social skills, academic support, and recreational activities, the program aims to foster a sense of community and personal growth. Experienced staff will ensure individualized attention and inclusive participation, promoting a welcoming space for every child to thrive.



Board Update

CSCL's Board is currently on their annual summer hiatus and will begin meeting again in the fall of 2024.



Mike Robinson, CSCL President



Photos from AGM

CSCL held its' 70th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on June 11th, 2024. Many thanks to Board President, Mike Robinson and Executive Director, Julie Unger for leading the meeting and special thanks to our special guest speakers, Walter and Jean Thiessen, MLA for Chilliwack-Kent, Kelli Paddon and Executive Director for the BCCEO Network, Brenda Gillette for their kind and amazing words of inspiration.

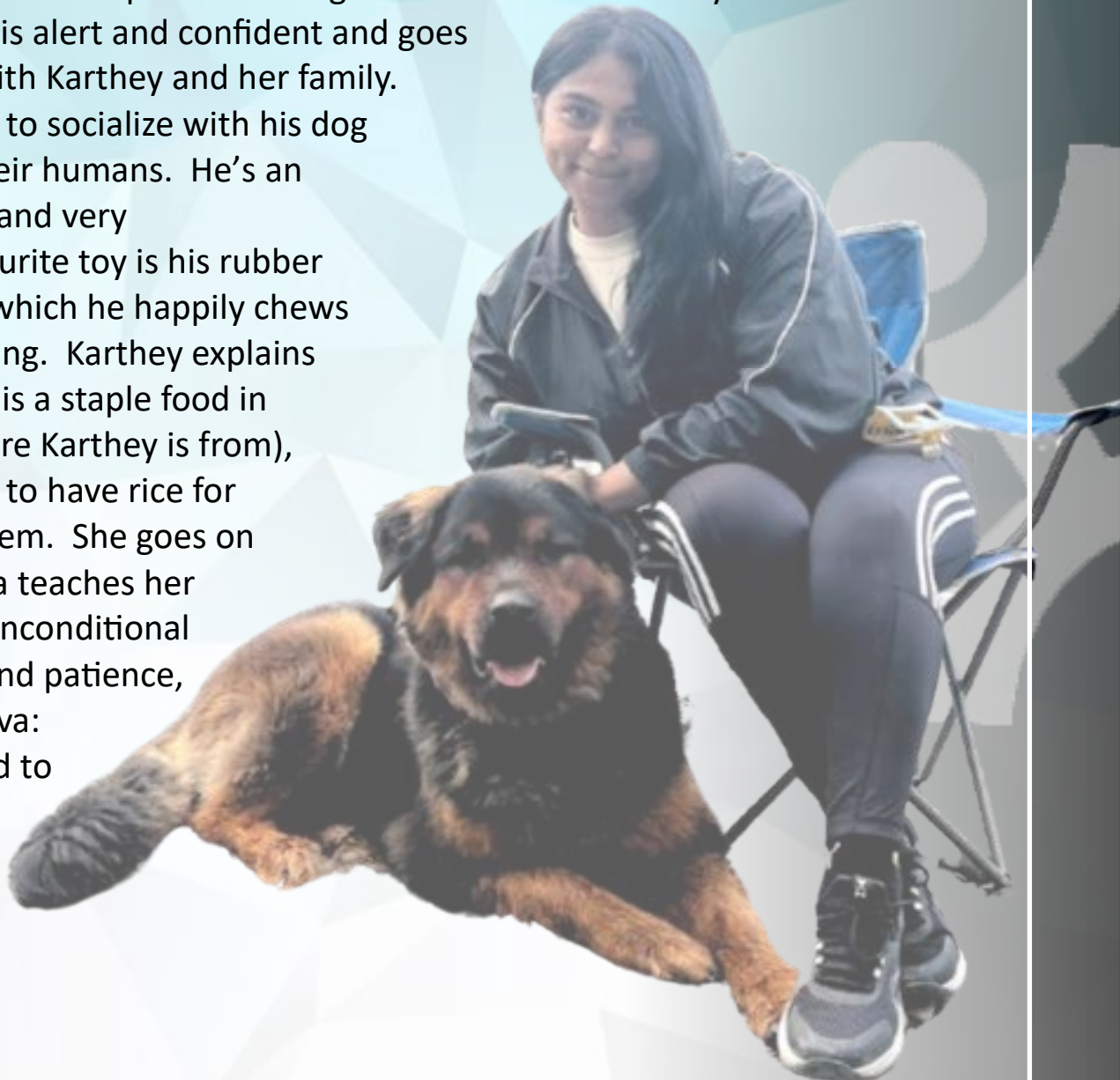


Meet Bhairava!

CSCL's Wonderful World of Pets

Introducing Bhairava, Karthey's courageous pooch. Karthey works in CSCL's Supported Homes department. Bhairava is a 3 year old Rottweiler/German Shepherd cross who joined Karthey's family at 6 months old. His name means "the one who destroys fear and protects" and Karthey describes Bhairava as her guardian angel who takes care of his family with love and a heart full of courage. Bhairava is a protective dog who makes sure nobody enters their home uninvited. He is alert and confident and goes everywhere with Karthey and her family.

Bhairava loves to socialize with his dog friends and their humans. He's an energetic boy and very loyal. His favourite toy is his rubber Chuck-It ball, which he happily chews on while relaxing. Karthey explains that since rice is a staple food in Sri Lanka (where Karthey is from), Bhairava loves to have rice for dinner with them. She goes on to say Bhairava teaches her family about unconditional love, loyalty, and patience, saying "Bhairava: We are blessed to have you and make our lifetime truly joyful!".



CSCL By The Numbers:

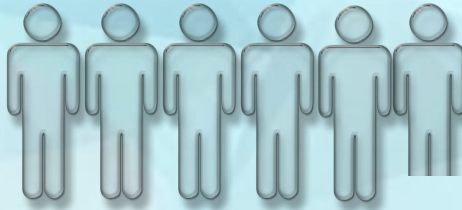
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As of July 1, 2024

of
Individuals

Supported:

588



of
Employees:

400

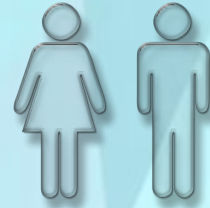


of
**Active
Caregivers:**

136



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



NEOC Report

Measuring Up!

A progress update from CSCL's annual NEOC Report:

NEOC Report Update:

What is CSCL doing to address areas for improvement (based on the feedback from the 2023 NEOC Employee Satisfaction Survey)?

Every CSCL employee received a link (via their CSCL email addresses) to complete a very brief survey called "Career Development & Advancement" We is looking to share information on career development and advancement opportunities for CSCL employees and provide a question/answer period where employees can ask specific questions on this topic. The results of this brief survey will determine which format CSCL will use to share the information with employees (i.e.: in-person meeting or virtually).

CSCL is
100%
Non-Profit

11
Services

58
Service/Program
Options

ONLINE PRESENCE:



2279 Followers



837 Followers



131 Subscribers



582 Followers



STAR Award

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

“Diane has shown tremendous growth in her role and is a welcoming face for CSCL. She takes great interest in the well-being of herself and everyone around her. Her friendly personality ensures that no one feels excluded in everything she does. She is an invaluable member of CSCL’s HR team. Diane deserves recognition for her exceptional commitment to CSCL. She is a shining star and a positive face for CSCL”

“Diane is an excellent communicator, improving team function overall. She makes everyone feel positive and welcome, showing genuine interest in their work, lives, health and happiness. Diane focuses on others and their needs and wants while still making sure to maintain her own wellness. This balance of selflessness, fortitude and personal care is an example for others at how to be the best possible co-worker without giving up or giving away too much of yourself.”



Diane Pinder (left) received the latest CSCL STAR Award from Natalie Karam, Director of HR/LR

CSCL 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!



Pride Chilliwick!

Sunday, July 21, 2024

CSCL is proud to be a sponsor of this event, and will host a booth on the day of the event.



CIS Block Party

Saturday, July 27, 2024

CSCL's Community Inclusion Services are hosting a public block party on Sunshine Drive.

**PROUD TO BE AN
INCLUSIVE EMPLOYER**

CSCL Career Fair

Thursday, August 22

CSCL's Human Resources department is hosting a public career fair at the Mary Street office.



CYS End of Summer BBQ

Saturday, August 24

CSCL's Child & Youth Services are hosting a barbeque open to CYS families at the Mathieson Centre.

**WE ❤️ OUR DIRECT
SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS!**

DSP Appreciation Week

September 9-13

Week long events to be announced soon!



Sunshine Community Garden

Harvest Event

To be announced soon!

The Ravin' Raven!

16

In January of this year, Adam Raven (pictured in the centre) decided that he was making a goal of doing 4 BIG new things this year. Staff worked with him to create a "bucket list" of ideas and during that process, Adam decided he wanted to attend his very first Rave. Staff supported him in researching the ones coming and found that David Guetta was coming to the Tradex in Abbotsford on March 29th 2024. It was that night that Adam's dream of going to a Rave was



completed! His support staff (Andrea Martin and Christina Peck – also pictured) picked him up, assisted him in getting ready, and attended the Rave together. When they arrived, many people greeted Adam, he made some new friends and danced the night away both in and out of his wheel-chair! Adam says his highlight was receiving a few small gifts from a fellow raver and seeing all the ladies! If you ask Adam if he would do it again you will get a huge smile and an even bigger YES!

Chilliwack Society For Community Living

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

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Phone 604-792-7726
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Web www.cscl.org

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



Follow us on Social Media:



Your Voice!

Many thanks to Julie Unger, Natalie Karam, Dan Cerella, Danielle Cross, Aileen Mathews and Andrea Martin for their contributions to this edition.

And, of course, to Henry Thalen, who recently turned 75 years young, 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.