



CONTINUITY NEWS



Supporting families in Manitoba to plan for an enriched quality of life
for their family member with an intellectual disability

JUNE 2014

From The Continuity Care Office



Finally it feels like Spring has arrived here in Manitoba! It's wonderful to get outdoors and enjoy these warm, sunny days. Here's hoping there will be many more sunny days to come this summer.

The Continuity Care office has been a hive of activity this Spring. The Senior Parent group meetings continued to meet each month. Thanks to Ken Campbell from the Manitoba Tax Assistance Office for coming out to share valuable information with our members about the Manitoba Primary Caregiver Tax Credit. Both Senior Parent groups will be getting together on June 5th to enjoy their June Potluck gathering, which is the last meeting for the year. Both groups will resume again in September 2014.

The workshops on Developing A Support Network and Telling Your Family's Story that were held in April and May offered opportunities to gain information on these important topics and also led to some truly inspiring conversations among those who attended. Thanks to Tracey Needham and Jane Schledewitz for assisting Suzanne with the facilitation of these workshops and sharing your valuable perspectives. The last session for the year is "An Evening Just for Adult Siblings" on June 4th, facilitated by Karen Leggat.

As mentioned in our April 2014 newsletter, Continuity Care is participating in a federally funded project to provide RDSP information sessions and one-on-one consultations here in Manitoba, along with Anne Kresta from Community Living Manitoba and Natalie Mulaire from SMD Clearinghouse. Suzanne presented the first session on March 25th and the second was on May 29th in Winkler, hosted by Gateway Resources. This project provides us with the opportunity expand our outreach in Manitoba on this important topic.

Suzanne has been busy responding to inquiries for information and actively supporting families on an individual basis by providing assistance with planning, advocacy and also facilitating PATH's for some members. Continuity Care is also as a member of the Children's Coalition and Abilities Manitoba, which are both valuable opportunities to assist with advocacy on a broader level involving issues that impact families in Manitoba.

Spring is Continuity Care's membership renewal time. We would like to thank those who have already renewed their memberships and extend a warm welcome the families who are new members to our organization. A special acknowledgement to the four families who purchased lifetime memberships this year. We are grateful for the support of ALL of our members and for believing in our Mission and the services and supports that we offer to families here in Manitoba. If you haven't already purchased/renewed your Continuity Care membership, please consider doing so. Your membership allows you to have say in how the organization operates with voting privileges at our AGM.

Speaking of our AGM, it is taking place on June 18th and your invitation is included with this newsletter. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn about what has taken place this past year and what the future holds for the organization, mix and mingle with fellow members. We are excited to welcome Kalyn Falk as our guest speaker.

On behalf of the staff and board members of Continuity Care, we wish you a safe and enjoyable summer!



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Regional Spring Gatherings: The Next Step

Abilities Manitoba is delighted to be holding **Spring Gatherings** across the province during May and June. As a follow up to the spectacular success of the action card campaign, these Spring Gatherings are being planned and hosted in partnership with local member agencies.



Program participants and their families are invited to attend the gathering being held in their region to help us:

- Celebrate what's working for them in the services and supports they receive and in their participation in the communities.
- Find out what can be improved.
- Identify key priorities for future development.

Each of the regional gatherings will feature:

- An opening ceremony.
- Refreshments and finger food.
- The chance for everyone to tell us what's working well and what's not working well.
- A videography booth to record a three-minute message about the most important improvements needed to better support Manitobans with intellectual disabilities.

Schedule of Spring Gatherings:

For Central Region - Held on May 28th in Portage La Prairie. Coordinated through Visions of Independence.

For Interlake Region - Held on May 29th in Selkirk. Coordinated through Community Living Selkirk.

For Parkland Region - June 11th from 5:00 - 7:00pm at 424 - 1st Avenue NE in Dauphin. Coordinated through Parkland Residential and Vocational Services Inc.

For Westman Region - June 12th from 5:00 - 7:00pm at St. Matthews Cathedral - 403 - 13th Street in Brandon. Coordinated through Brandon Community Options.

For Norman Region - June 16th - details are pending

For Eastman Region - June 19th from 5:30 - 7:30pm at Martha P. Rempel Centre 429 Main Street in Steinbach. Coordinated through enVision Community Living.

For Winnipeg Region - June 24th from 6:00 - 8:00pm at St. Amant, 440 River Road.
Or June 25th from 5:00 - 7:00pm at Garden City Community Club, 725 Kingsbury Ave

An online option is available for participants and families who want to share their views but can't attend one of the regional gatherings. This option is also available for agency staff. Follow this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CLdSSurvey> to participate online or visit Abilities Manitoba's website at <http://www.abilitiesmanitoba.org/>

Abilities Manitoba will also be holding focus group discussions with other stakeholder groups throughout the province to ask for their advice and suggestions on how to improve services for Manitobans with intellectual disabilities.

You can also help us create a better and more sustainable future for adults with intellectual disabilities throughout our fine province.

News From the Disabilities Issues Office - Province of Manitoba

Accessibility Standard for Customer Service

The Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA) became law December 5, 2013. Under this landmark legislation, the province is introducing a clear and proactive process for the prevention and removal of barriers that affect Manitobans with disabilities. The building blocks of the legislation are accessibility standards that apply to public and private sectors and target 5 areas: customer service, information and communication, transportation, employment and the built environment.

Like in Ontario, where similar legislation already exists, the accessibility standards will be developed to achieve real results, in stages. Stakeholders who must comply with the standards will be invited to provide their input on how to achieve these standards including the timelines that will allow them to plan for any associated costs.

Representatives from Manitoba's disability community, The Retail Council of Canada, Manitoba Hotel Association, Manitoba Restaurant and Foodservices Association, and Association of Manitoba Municipalities are participating in a Customer Service Standard Development Committee that is responsible for developing the first priority area: an **Accessibility Standard for Customer Service**. This standard will address business practices and training needed to provide good customer service to people with disabilities.

Share your views

Work is well underway on this first priority area and the Customer Service Standard Development Committee is now seeking the public's views on an Initial Proposed Customer Service Standard. To review the Discussion Paper or to learn more about the Act, please see www.gov.mb.ca/dio. Please submit your written feedback to access@gov.mb.ca.

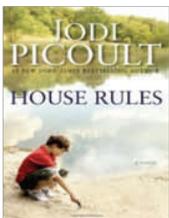
You are invited also to provide feedback in a **public consultation June 17th OR 18th, 2014, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Greenwood Ballroom & Conference Centre, The Best Western Plus Airport Hotel, 1715 Wellington Avenue in Winnipeg**. To register, or to obtain documents in alternate formats, please contact Tracy MacMillan at the Disabilities Issues Office by e-mailing: Tracy.MacMillan@gov.mb.ca, or by calling (204) 945-7613. **The deadline for registration is Monday, June 9, 2014.**

The June 17th event will be **webcast** to allow on-line participation; to register see: <http://download.isiglobal.ca/govmb/2014-06-17.html>

Continuity Care is on Facebook. Find out information about coming events, articles and resources, and more. Please visit our page and LIKE US!



Members' Book Picks



House Rules is a novel by Jodi Picoult about a boy with Asperger's Syndrome living in Townshend, Vermont who is accused of murder. The novel shows the struggle between the boy and his family, the law, and his disability.

Baby Boomer Cafe'

Siblings Unite...

Once again we had a very successful Baby Boomer Café at Kildonan Community Church on May 4th, 2014. There were around 24 people that attended our "Spring" gathering. The Bob Hanley orchestra and choir provided a wonderful and inspiring musical ensemble, second to none!! The supper buffet was delicious as usual, with lots of yummys for everyone's diet. Special thanks to everyone for their generous contribution of food to the evening meal. Everyone had a great time one way or another, singing their favorite songs, meeting, chatting, sharing stories, and laughing with friends, playing card games, enjoying the assortment of foods and deserts, and/or just being an important part of a very supportive, fun and welcoming "Baby Boomer Cafe" community!

Special recognition to Brian and Jane for all their work coordinating this special café! Finally, we would like to also thank the amazing Kildonan Community Church community, for their continued generosity and support, in welcoming us and allowing us to have our Baby Boomer Cafe in their beautiful church!

The Baby Boomer Café is an opportunity for adult siblings and their brothers or sisters with a disability to spend time together. There are 3-4 Cafés planned each year and gatherings include musical entertainment, playing games, honoring the memories of past members, celebrating faith and family traditions and sharing a meal together. Our celebrations have a serious purpose as well. As our parents pass away, our siblings with a disability need relationships and friends more than ever. The Baby Boomer Café is a place where you and your sibling can build relationships and community. New members are warmly welcomed.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF CONTINUITY CARE!!

The famous, summer Baby Boomer Café at Birds Hill Provincial Park will hereby be held on Saturday, August 16th, from 3:00 - 9:00 (confirm times with Albert), in Group Use Area #1 - Site #1. Please contact Mike Maunder at 338-0090 or Albert / Sharon Yanofsky at 334-1839 if you plan to attend or would like more information.

Don't forget to renew your membership with
Continuity Care

1 Year Family Membership \$20
Lifetime Family Membership \$250

With your membership enjoy free workshops during the year, voting privileges at AGM, one to one planning and a copy of The Circle of Life workbook.

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