



CONTINUITY NEWS

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

DECEMBER 2012

2012 Mike Keane Celebrity Hockey Classic



The Third Annual Mike Keane Celebrity Hockey Classic was held on November 14th & 15th, 2012 at the MTS Iceplex. There were 18 sponsored teams that participated in this year's event to play hockey and raise funds for the Winnipeg Jets True North Foundation and Continuity Care. The Draft Night was held in the evening of November 14th, where each participating team had the opportunity to draft a NHL Great to play with their team throughout the tournament. Congratulations to the Richardson Pioneers for the most money raised and capturing first pick in the draft, choosing Claude Noel – coach of the Winnipeg Jets. Tim Howell was this year's top fundraiser for the event who raised an amazing \$28,751.

There was an incredible lineup of NHL alumni that included: Eric Lindros, Ray Bourque, Paul Coffey, Curtis Joseph, Lanny Mc Donald, Kelly Chase and former Jets, Dean Kennedy and Thomas Steen. The Frontiers North Cardinals had 13th choice in the draft and selected Bryan Trottier.

Continuity Care was the official volunteer provider for the event. A BIG THANK YOU to all our volunteers for donating their time to help out with the registration, security, ticket sales, driving of the pros and rink coordination. We are so happy to have had the opportunity to share the excitement with you. We couldn't have done it without you!

Special thanks to Mike Keane, Mark Chipman and Dwayne Green – Executive Director of the Winnipeg Jets True North Foundation, Andrew Jackson and Joe McDonald from Jackson Events and the awesome members of the planning committee including; Rick, Judy, Patti, Dave, Kaitlyn, Jeoff and Merv. Many thanks also to the staff from the MTS Iceplex and the Winnipeg Jets True North Foundation, all of the NHL alumni, the businesses that sponsored the teams, the tournament players who did an amazing job of fundraising and to the many wonderful people that generously made donations to support this event. The Tournament was an exciting fun filled event and a great opportunity to watch hockey, talk hockey and rub shoulders with some of hockey's favorites! We hope you all had fun!



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From the Office

Winter has arrived and today is the coldest day in Winnipeg so far. I must admit, winter is not my favorite season and I usually spend much of it complaining and dreaming of ways to escape it. This year, I am trying a different approach – *to accept that which I cannot change*. A wise colleague of mine often talks about the concept of reframing and I have decided to put this concept into practice and so far, it appears to be working. I am seeing the beauty of the clean, white snow as I take the dog for a walk. I am noticing the artistry in the frost as I scrape my wind shield. I am feeling energized and invigorated as I breathe in the cold, crisp air. I am enjoying winter activities, like curling and also hope to get out ice fishing during the holidays. I will report back to you in our March newsletter to let know if I am still embracing winter.

We have been keeping busy this fall at Continuity Care. We hosted three well attended workshops. Thank you to our presenters: Catherine Gates and Tim Herkert from Employment and Income Assistance, John Poyser with Inkster Christie Hughes and Anne Kresta from Community Living Manitoba for sharing your time, expertise and experience with our members.

Both our Senior Parent to Parent and Transition Parent support groups have also been actively meeting on a monthly basis. The Senior Parent group held their holiday potluck on Dec 6th which was well attended and was a time to enjoy some food and fellowship with members from both groups. We have invited guest speakers to come and present on topics of interest at our group meetings. I would like to thank Dave Unrau for sharing information about the Safety Aid program and Debbie Sirota and Carla Kehler for sharing your time and parenting perspectives with our group members.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and time that our board members have been contributing to the success of Continuity Care. Our board meetings are held on a monthly basis. We have updated our Strategic Plan for 2012-13 and will be actively working towards completing the goals and actions plans that have been identified. The Family Advisory Committee has also been meeting and is in need of new Committee members. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact our office. The HR Committee has also been persistently working on updating our HR policy manual, which is almost complete. The focus of the Fundraising Committee has been related to this year's Mike Keane Celebrity Classic, which we are pleased to report was another great success. We are grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this great event and appreciate the efforts of everyone involved, as noted in the article on the front page of this newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge one of our Board Members – Jo Verstraete - as she has recently announced her retirement from her position as Director of the Community Support Program with St. Amant. On behalf of the Board, Staff and members of Continuity Care – we wish Jo many happy adventures, time to rest and relax and enjoy time with her family and friends as she begins this next leg of her journey in life.

I would also like to take this time to thank our team of facilitators with our Sharing Circle of Support Program; Tracy Klawuhn, Tracey Kenning –Needham and Teresa Galashan for their continued efforts in developing and maintaining the sharing circles that we have established. Spending time with family and friends is one of the best gifts we can give this holiday season.

Happy Holidays and may you also find ways to enjoy and embrace the beauty and joy of our Manitoba winter.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Swanton



RDSP News from the Government of Canada - Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

In the coming months, a *Statement of Entitlement* (SoE) will be sent to all RDSP holders. This annual mail-out was implemented last year. The SoE provides important information about the amount of grants and bonds that an RDSP beneficiary is entitled to receive from the Government of Canada each year. Unused grant and bond entitlements from past years can be claimed as well (going back to 2008, the year that the RDSP became available). Grant and bond entitlements are based on the beneficiary's family income, as determined through the Canada Child Tax Benefit or Income Tax Returns filed. Grant entitlements also depend on how much money is contributed to the RDSP.

To ensure receipt of the SoE, RDSP holders are encouraged to contact their financial institution as soon as possible, if their mailing address has changed.

Should RDSP holders have questions about their SoE, they may contact HRSDC by telephone at **1-866-204-0357**, TTY at **1-866-260-7723** or by e-mail at rdsp-reei@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca (Callers should have their Social Insurance Number (SIN) available; however, inquiries submitted by e-mail should not include the SIN.)

General information about the RDSP, the grant and the bond continues to be available on our web site at www.disabilitysavings.gc.ca, or by calling 1 800 O-Canada (1 800-622-6232). TTY users may call 1-800-926-9105.

Manitoba Disability News - An update on Accessibility-Rights Legislation in Manitoba

On September 6, 2012, Minister Howard released the Manitoba Accessibility Advisory Councils (MAAC) recommendations for accessibility - rights legislation and standards that would help "identify, remove and prevent barriers faced by people with disabilities." The Minister gave the public until October 21st to provide comment on the recommendations. The full news release can be viewed online at the Manitoba Government website <http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2012-9-01&item=15267>.

Barrier Free Manitoba responded with a 134 page response "Stronger Measures Essential for Effective Legislation Comments on the Manitoba Accessibility Advisory Council's Recommendations" released on October 1, 2012. Their response concluded that: the new legislation is essential, the MAAC's recommendations simply do not go far enough, and the legislation must incorporate the stronger measures identified by Barrier Free Manitoba. The full response paper can be viewed online on Barrier Free Manitoba's website at <http://www.barrierfreemb.com/files/file/Stronger%20Measures%20Essential%20Full%20Final.pdf>.

Thanks to many of our Continuity Care members for signing and sending in the action postcards supporting Barrier Free Manitoba's call for stronger measures and signing the online petition.

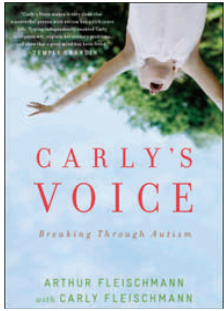
Minister Howard now has until January 18, 2013 to prepare a response to the report and the community feedback she has received.

The Disabilities Issues Office hosted an event on December 3rd at the Winnipeg Convention Centre to celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The 2012 theme was "Removing Barriers to Create an Inclusive and Accessible Society for All Backgrounds." The event began with greetings from Minister Howard. There were also several presentations that exemplified the valuable work that is being done in our province to improve access to services and supports and make Manitoba more accessible to all citizens.

It is important to take time to acknowledge the time, passion and contributions of the many individuals, committees and organizations that have working towards bringing strong and effective accessibility-rights legislation to Manitoba. THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP, VISION AND COMMITMENT TO THIS PROCESS!!

New to the Continuity Care Resource Library

Did you know that with your Continuity Care membership, you can access our Resource Library? Call the office at 779-1679 if you are interested in borrowing this book or any other item from the library.



Carly's Voice

By: Arthur Fleischmann with Carly Fleischmann

The book was written by Carly's father and his daughter Carly. The family lives in Toronto. It brings readers inside a once-secret world and in the company of an inspiring young woman who has found her voice and her mission. Carly's voice makes it clear that non-verbal person with autism has a rich inner life. Typing independently enabled Carly to express it, explain her sensory problems and show that a good mind had been freed.

Holiday Giving

These are tough economic times, business have been affected, foundations have been affected, family incomes have been affected - most of us have felt the impact in one way or another.

At Continuity Care, we are continuing to invest in the future - supporting families to plan for an enriched quality of life for their family member with an intellectual disability now and for many years to come.

Our organization is not government funded. This was important to our founding Board members, as they wanted to remain autonomous to provide advocacy to families when needed.

Our main source of funding is our Endowment Fund held at The Winnipeg Foundation. Each year, we receive quarterly payments from the interest earned on our fund.

As of August 31, 2012, the market value of our fund was \$1,831,384.42. Our fund payments currently do not cover all of our operating costs, therefore we continue to fundraise and seek out grant opportunities and donations.

As we come to the end of 2012, we want to thank those who have contributed to our success and ask that you consider making a donation this holiday season.

There are 2 options to financially support Continuity Care:

1. Support Continuity Care directly. We can accept cash, cheques, VISA and MasterCard. Contact our office at 779-1679 for more information.
2. Support our Endowment Fund held at the Winnipeg Foundation by credit card at www.wpgfdn.org or cheques can be made out to Continuity Care's Endowment Fund and mailed directly to:



The Winnipeg Foundation
1350 - One Lombard Place
Winnipeg, MB, R3B 0X3

Holiday Greetings

Holiday greetings from the Board members and staff of Continuity Care. May the Joy of the Holiday Season be with you now and throughout the New Year! We value our relationship with you and look forward to working with you in the year to come. We wish you a very Happy Holiday Season and a New Year filled with peace, good health and prosperity.

The office will be closed on December 25th to January 1st, 2013 and reopen on January 2nd.

