

CONTINUITY NEWS

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

SEPTEMBER 2012

From the Office



Continuity Care held its Annual General Meeting on June 18th, 2012. The meeting was attended by 36 members and chaired by our Board President Jane Schledewitz. Reports were presented by Linda Ormonde, Jo Verstraete, Jeff Chipman and Karen Leggat.

Continuity Care's new video was premiered at the meeting. The video was created to help promote our organization and included interviews with families who shared their experiences working with our organization, Suzanne Swanton – Executive Director, Merv Gunter – founding Board Member, Richard Frost - CEO of The Winnipeg Foundation and Jeff Chipman – Board Member. David Wowchuk of Artisan Media who created the video was also in attendance. We would like to thank David for his guidance, expertise and special connection to our video project. We are very pleased with the final product. We would also like to extend our appreciation to the families, Board members and to Rick Frost for their time and participation in this project.

The evening ended with an enjoyable dinner from De Luca's and time for our members to spend making and renewing connections.

Thank you to everyone who attended and made our AGM an evening to remember.

Hard copies of the Annual Report and Year End Financials are available at the Continuity Care office. Our Annual Report and the Continuity Care's video can also be viewed on our website at www.continuitycare.ca

Continuity Care's Board of Directors 2012 – 2013

Jane Schledewitz	<i>President</i>
Linda Ormonde	<i>Past President</i>
Jo Verstraete	<i>Secretary</i>
Merv Gunter	<i>Treasurer</i>

Adeline Berg
Art Hock
Brian Coughlin
Dolly Chudnow
Jeff Chipman
Jason Dyck
Karen Leggat
Terry Williams



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Mike Keane Celebrity Celebrity Classic	pg 2
RDSP News	pg 3
Accessibility Legislation	pg 3
EIA Disability	pg 4
Health e-Plan	pg 4
Fact Sheets	pg 4
Asking The Right Questions	pg 4

Mike Keane Celebrity Hockey Classic



We are very pleased to announce that once again Continuity Care is participating in "The Mike Keane Celebrity Hockey Classic"! This exciting tournament is taking place on **November 14th and 15th, 2012** at the **MTS Iceplex**. This event will allow everyday hockey enthusiasts to team up with former NHL greats to play hockey and raise funds for The Winnipeg Jets True North Foundation that will assist many worthwhile charities in Manitoba, including Continuity Care.

Continuity Care is the official "**volunteer provider**" for the tournament and we are looking for approximately 30 people who would be available and interested in helping out the evening of **Wednesday, November 14th** and throughout the day on **Thursday, November 15th** at the MTS Iceplex (*near Assiniboia Downs*) with a variety of tasks. You do not need to commit to the entire day; we will be scheduling shifts around everyone's availability. This event is a huge financial support to Continuity Care and we would greatly appreciate any assistance you can help out with. **Please contact our office at 779-1679 for more information.**



There will be 18 teams participating in the tournament; each sponsored by a Manitoba business or corporation. The players on each of the teams will be collecting donations in support of the event and to help their team's position in the Draft Night. The team who raises the most funds gets rewarded with the 1st Choice in the Draft and will play in the final game against all of the NHL pros.

Please show your support for this event and Continuity Care by making a donation to a player and team of your choice by visiting the Mike Keane Celebrity Hockey Classic's website at www.keanehockeyclassic.com. Official tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more.

If you a hockey fan and would like to come out to watch the games on the day of the tournament, tickets will be available for purchase closer to the event. Stay tuned for more details.

We are looking forward to sharing the excitement of this event with you! We would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to The Winnipeg Jets True North Foundation for their continued support.



Federal Government Update on Registered Disability Savings Plan

Regarding the Plan Holder: The 2012 Budget announced the Government of Canada's commitment to work with provinces and territories to develop standardized, streamlined processes that provinces and territories could adopt in order to facilitate and simplify the process of opening RDSPs for adult beneficiaries who lack contractual competence. In the budget report, it was noted that "Some provinces and territories have instituted more streamlined processes to allow for the appointment of a trusted person, such as a parent, other relative, or friend, to manage resources on behalf of an individual with a disability, or have otherwise indicated that their system already provides sufficient flexibility to address these concerns. The Government of Canada recognizes and appreciates the leadership shown by the Governments of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, **Manitoba**, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Yukon in this regard." (source – Budget Plan 2012 document- Government of Canada).

In the interim, while these processes are being developed, the Government of Canada has temporarily expanded the definition of who may be the plan holder of an RDSP. Until the end of 2016, a beneficiary's spouse, common-law partner or parent will be able to become the plan holder and open the RDSP on behalf of an adult beneficiary who might not be able to open a plan due to concerns about their ability to enter into a contract. These temporary rules are intended to afford provinces and territories sufficient time to develop long-term solutions to address RDSP legal representation issues. This temporary measure came into effect as of June 29, 2012 when Bill C-38 received Royal Assent.

The remaining Budget 2012 measures will be introduced in a second Budget Implementation Act in September 2012, with approval anticipated in December 2012. If passed, these remaining measures could come into effect as early as January 1, 2014.

For more information on the all of the RDSP improvements announced in the 2012 Budget, you can visit: Canada Revenue Agency's website at http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/gncy/bdgt/2012/qa08-eng.html#_Toc320860289 or RDSP.com at <http://rdsp.com/2012/07/11/federal-government-releases-qa-sheet-on-rdsp-changes/>

Manitoba Disability News

Where are we at? An update on Accessibility-Rights Legislation for Manitoba

The Manitoba Accessibility Advisory Council (MAAC) was established on June 16th, 2011 under Bill 47 – the Accessibility Advisory Council Act. On December 2nd, 2011, Minister Jennifer Howard announced the membership of this 12 person Council. The MAAC held a series of meetings and community consultations.

In May 2012, the Manitoba Accessibility Advisory Council released a discussion paper which is available to the public by following this link http://www.gov.mb.ca/dio/discussionpaper/pdf/aac_discussionpaper.pdf or is available in print by contacting the Disabilities Issues Office at (204) 945-7613. Public feedback was requested up to the deadline of June 5th.

Barrier-Free Manitoba (a non-partisan, non-profit, cross-disability initiative has been working since 2008 to secure strong and effective accessibility-rights legislation in Manitoba) released a document on May 24th, 2012 entitled "A Solid Foundation for Strong and Effective Legislation" in response to The Manitoba Accessibility Advisory Council's Discussion Paper. This document outlines 7 critical elements that Barrier-Free Manitoba believes are essential to creating legislation with a strong foundation. The response paper also identified three concerns about the consultation process. This document can be found on Barrier-Free Manitoba website at <http://www.barrierfreemb.com/>

Barrier-Free Manitoba invited disability advocates from around the world to share their messages of support for Manitoba's efforts to create strong and effective legislation. These global messages were submitted to Minister Howard by the June 5th deadline and can also be viewed on Barrier-Free Manitoba's website.

The Manitoba Accessibility Advisory Council submitted their initial recommendations to Minister Howard which were tabled on June 16th, 2012. These recommendations were expected to be released to the public in early summer but are now delayed, pending the Fort Whyte By-Election (ie. government publication and advertising restrictions during elections) which is scheduled for September 4th, 2012.

Following the release of the MAAC's, there is a 45 day public feedback process that follows. We will wait with interest to learn about these important recommendations and learn about ways that Continuity Care can get involved and support those involved in our province in bringing strong and effective accessibility-rights legislation.

“Check Out These Resources”

New EIA brochure for Persons with Disabilities

The Employment and Income Assistance Program (EIA) has a new brochure that contains valuable information about their program including; how to apply for EIA; eligibility criteria; Manitoba benefits; Rewarding Work; Responsibilities under EIA and other provincial and federal programs that may be options for financial assistance.

The brochure is available online at http://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/assistance/pubs/eia_disability.pdf. We also have some copies available at our office.

Health e-Plan – A New Manitoba Online Health Resource

Health e-Plan is a secure, interactive online tool that will help you better understand your current health and learn ways to improve your health over time.

Access Health e-Plan anytime from anywhere in Manitoba and in a few minutes, this new online tool will be working for you. All you have to do is answer some simple questions about your current health and lifestyle. Health e-Plan uses this information to identify potential health risks and recommends ways you can reduce these risks over time.

Based on the information you supply, Health e-Plan gives you a detailed report to help you learn more about how your current habits and lifestyle, your family history and other factors affect your health in the future.

For more details, follow this link the website at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/healthplan/>

Fact Sheets for Manitobans with Disabilities

Manitoba Family Services and Labour have launched a new online resource - Information for Manitobans with Disabilities. This will help you to find information on the services available for people with disabilities in Manitoba.

Each fact sheet focuses and gives you information to help get you started on your journey in finding the right disability service for you and your family. The fact sheets provide links to additional resources as well as contact information should you wish to connect directly with a specific program, service or resource.

For more helpful information, check out their website at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/imd/>

What questions should I ask?

A very wise man shared this valuable resource with me and I have shared it with some of our members who have been exploring residential options for their family members. Sometimes, it is difficult to know what questions to ask when visiting agencies and this resource addresses that challenge.

“Through Asking the Right Questions... You Can Reach Your Destination” was developed through the University of Minnesota and is designed to support families and persons with disabilities in selecting residential service providers. Its contents are based upon information family members have indicated is important to consider when making decisions about which agencies are best suited to meet the support needs of persons with disabilities.

The guide does not provide information about specific support providers. Rather, it is intended to be used to assist persons in gathering information that will help them make informed choices when selecting a residential provider.

It is hoped that through use of this guide, family members and persons with disabilities will have the information they need to make informed decisions about residential support services.

Through Asking the Right Question can be found at <http://rtc.umn.edu/questions>