



CONTINUITY NEWS

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

APRIL 2015

From The Continuity Care Office



Happy Spring! Here in Manitoba we know that the date on the calendar doesn't guarantee winter is over, but it sure has been nice to spend time outdoors, feel the warmth of the sun on our faces and walk on drive pavement and grass.

Here at the Continuity Care office, Spring means fiscal year end, budget planning, membership renewal time and preparations for our AGM. The Spring series of workshops have been scheduled and we hope that they will continue to draw interest from our members. The winter workshops were well attended and there were opportunities for interesting conversations and connecting among the family members. The parent support groups have continued to have low attendance, however, we will still continue to offer these until the end of June. We are working on developing a survey that will be sent out to our members and those on our mailing list to obtain feedback regarding improving our programs and services; interest in support groups; finding other ways that families can connect and use of social media.

Our Family Advisory Committee is looking for new members who represent a variety of ages and stages to join this Committee. This Committee meets approximately 4 meetings per year and meetings are during the day. If you are interested, please contact our office for more information.

April is membership renewal time for Continuity Care. Currently we have 720 individuals, families and organizations on our mailing list, who receive our quarterly newsletters and bulletins about upcoming events and important issues. We have 169 members: 84 who are Lifetime members and 85 who purchased an annual membership this past year. Our goal for 2015-2016 is to increase the number of our members and would like your help. Please read the enclosed Membership Form and consider purchasing or renewing your membership with Continuity Care. We truly appreciate the support of our members and believe that our services and supports are of value to our members.

SAVE THE DATE!! Continuity Care's Annual General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 17th** from 6:00pm-8:00pm at 120 Maryland. More information will be shared closer to the date, but please write/enter this date into your calendars and plan to attend.

*"Despite the forecast, live like it's Spring!"
- Lilly Pulitzer*

Suzanne Swanton
Executive Director



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The Mike Keane Celebrity Hockey Classic

The 5th annual Mike Keane Celebrity Hockey Classic took place on February 18th and 19th, 2015 at the MTS Iceplex. This exciting event allowed 16 sponsored teams to team up with former NHL greats to play hockey and raise funds for the Winnipeg Jets True North Foundation and Continuity Care. The Draft Night was held on the evening of February 18th, where each participating team had the opportunity to draft an NHL great to play with their team throughout the tournament. Congratulations to the 24/7 Intouch for raising the most money and capturing first pick in the draft, choosing Doug Gilmour. After an evening spent getting to know their celebrity teammate, teams hit the ice on the next day at the MTS Iceplex.

The NHL alumni that participated in this year's tournament included: Doug Gilmour, Joe Nieuwendyk, Ray Bourque, Terry O'Reilly, Brian Propp, Mike Krushelnyski, Ric Nattress, Al Iafrate, Rick Vaive, Tom Fergus, Gary Roberts, Charlie Simmer, Paul Coffey, Dean Kennedy, Trevor Kidd and of course Mike Keane.

Continuity Care was the official volunteer provider for the event. A BIG THANK YOU to all of the volunteers for donating their time to help out with the registration, coat check, ticket sales, security, rink coordination and driving of the pros. Special thanks to the four students from Sisler High School who volunteered. Your commitment and support was an integral part of the success of this year's event. We are so happy to have had the opportunity to share the excitement with you. We couldn't have done it without you!



Many thanks also to Mike Keane, Winnipeg Jets True North Foundation, Jackson Events, NHL alumni, the businesses that sponsored teams and to the many amazing people that make donations to support this year's 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!

Welcome to the Continuity Care Board



Frank Wade joined the Continuity Care board in January 2015. He is the Vice President, Wealth Advisor and Portfolio manager for Wade Wealth Management Group with RBC -Dominion Securities and has over 25 years of experience in the financial and wealth management field and has been part of the RBC family since 1988. His perspectives in finance will be a welcome addition to the board and to our Finance Committee. A lifelong resident of Manitoba, Frank resides in Winnipeg with his wife Carmela, who is an artist, as well as daughter Emily, son Jonathan and their Golden Retriever, Maggie. Frank has a genuine passion for giving back to his community and has been involved with various community foundations, including The Riverview Health Centre Foundation. He decided to join the Board because "I want to give back to the community I live in and I felt that Continuity Care Inc. was the kind of smaller charitable

organization that could use some help. I also joined because I have known Merv Gunter for many years and have always been so impressed with how his family cared for his brother and how Continuity Care could play an important role should that level of care no longer be available."

Helpful Hints About Canadian Passport Applications

One of our members inquired about passport applications for adults with intellectual disabilities who require assistance to complete this process. We thought that we would share what we learned from the Passport Canada office.

Q) Who can assist an adult individual with an intellectual disability to apply for or renew their passport?

Answer: The responsible parent or guardian may apply for a passport on behalf of a person with an intellectual disability sixteen years of age or over using the adult application form.

Q) Which passport application form should be used for an adult with an intellectual disability?

Answer: For a first time application the adult general form should be used. For renewal applications, the shorter, simplified form can be used - as long as the existing passport has been expired for less than 1 year or if the current passport is still valid.

Q) What happens if the applicant is an adult with a disability and cannot sign for themselves?

Answer: If you are assisting an individual who is unable to sign his or her passport application and passport, it is recommended that you submit a medical letter with the application, that states that this person does not write. In this case, the signature fields in the application form must be left blank. Passport Canada will add an observation on page 3 of the passport stating "signature not required".

Upon receipt of the passport, the signature box on page 3 must be left blank and must not be signed by anyone.

Q) Should a supporting person assist the person to sign their name?

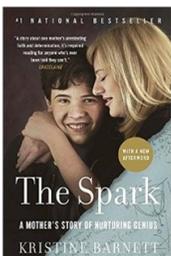
Answer: No. A supporting person (parent, legal guardian or other) should not assist the person to sign using a hand over hand technique, as the signature will not be able to be replicated. Leave blank as instructed above. Agents at a Passport Canada office should be providing the proper rules and instructions. Agents at a Service Canada or post office location may not be providing the proper instructions.

Q) What form should be used to renew their passport?

Answer: If the person has a current valid passport without signature and needs to renew, they can use the simplified, shorter form and follow same procedure as above.

Book of Interest

The Spark: A Mother's Story of Nurturing Genius by: Kristine Barnett



The extraordinary memoir of a mother's love, commitment and nurturing, which allowed her son, originally diagnosed with severe autism, to flourish into a universally recognized genius and how any parent can help their child find their spark. Today, at 13, Jacob is a paid researcher in quantum physics, working on extending Einstein's theory of relativity. Diagnosed at age 1 with severe autism, at 3 he was assigned to life-skills classes and his parents were told to adjust their expectations. The goal: tying his own shoes at 16. Kristine Barnett's belief in the power of hope and the dazzling possibilities that can occur when we keep our minds open and learn to fuel a child's true potential changed everything.





An update from

Just a quick update to share the very promising news: all three of the NDP leadership candidates have now responded to the joint Barrier-Free Manitoba/Abilities Manitoba request for their positions on key disability issues. While we all know that commitments made during an election can be different from action after, this is a remarkable development:

- Disabilities are the only major public issue that all three candidates have addressed in their campaigns so far.
- Like the candidates themselves, their responses are quite different but all three have committed, if elected, to act on Abilities Manitoba's five-priority pathway to ensure the sustainability and quality of services for Manitobans with intellectual disabilities
- All three candidates also made important commitments on related disability issues.

This is good news indeed. The even better news is that Manitoba's disability communities worked together once again to make this happen. We've proven once more that there is real strength in numbers and in collective action. Thanks to everyone that participated in the postcard campaign.

Now that the NDP leader, Greg Selinger, has been elected, we will need to continue to work together to ensure government fulfills the promises that have been made. And we will need to work together yet again to ensure that disability issues are key priorities in the general election scheduled for Spring 2016.

Abilities Manitoba is committed to working in partnership with the Province in the implementation of the action plan in which these 5 priorities were identified:

- 1) Professionalize the wages of Direct Support Workers who support adults with intellectual disabilities;
- 2) Professionalize the community living services sector;
- 3) Improve Government resources and overall system coordination of services for adults with intellectual disabilities;
- 4) Develop and implement new quality assurance measures for services provided to adults with intellectual disabilities, and;
- 5) Remove barriers that prevent adults with intellectual disabilities from fully participating in society.

For more information, please visit the Abilities Manitoba website at <http://www.abilitiesmanitoba.org/>

It's Membership Time!

Don't forget to renew your membership with
Continuity Care Inc.

One Year Membership \$20
Lifetime Membership \$250

(see attachment or insert for membership form)

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