CONTINUITY NEWS

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

FALL 2015

From the Continuity Care Office

Another Manitoba Summer has come and gone. Summer may be short, but Manitoba has so much to offer when it comes to summer festivals, parks and outdoor activities. We hope that you were able to enjoy some outdoor fun with friends and family and also had some peaceful moments of rest and relaxation.

Irma and I both enjoyed some vacation time this summer, but the Continuity Care office remained open and we were here to respond to inquiries from families and also kept busy with completing tasks on our "TO DO" lists and planning for our Fall programs and events.

With the change of seasons, we find that there is a change of pace as well. People are back to work, students are back to school, traffic increases and we are back into our regular routines. It's also a time of year when we feel a push or motivation to do some planning and get organized. It's also a great time to think about joining a club or signing up for a leisure or fitness activity.

Here at Continuity Care, our support groups and workshops will be resuming. These are opportunities to connect with other families and gather information and learn about resources. We are also planning for the Family Fun Night, which will be taking place on Saturday, October 17th. We are also developing a survey that will be sent out this Fall and we hope that you will take time to provide your feedback.

We look forward to the arrival of Autumn and hope to see and hear from you soon!

Suzanne Swanton
Executive Director

Save the Date for our Family Fun Night

Continuity Care's 3rd Annual FAMILY FUN NIGHT will be taking place on Saturday, October 17th, 2015 from 6:00 to 9:00pm at the Robert A. Steen Community Centre (gymnasium) which is located at 980 Palmerston Ave.

We are looking for volunteers to be a part of the planning committee, as well as people to help out the evening of the event. If you would like to volunteer, please give us a call and we can provide you with more information.

We also are looking for donations for prizes for this event, such as gift cards or certificates, new items that can be put together in a gift basket; or handmade crafts items. If you have items that you would like to donate for this event, we would be grateful to receive them.

More information about the Family Fun Night will be provided closer to the date by email and on our website.

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The Disability Tax Credit and the RDSP

The beneficiary of an RDSP is the individual with a disability who will receive money from the RDSP.

The beneficiary must:

- have a valid Social Insurance Number (SIN);
- be a resident in Canada;
- be eligible for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC);
- be under age of 60 in the year the plan is open (a plan can be opened until the end of the year the beneficiary turns 59).

When an individual is approved for the DTC, CRA issues a notice of determination which will identify which year(s) the individual is eligible for the disability tax credit. You won't need to submit a new application every year, unless CRA tells you that they need one. Information about other programs that are dependent on eligibility for the DTC (such as the RDSP) may also be included in the notice of determination.

If you are unsure about how long the individual (beneficiary) is eligible for the DTC, you can refer back to the initial notice of determination. Also, the Notice of Assessment that you receive along with your Income Tax Return may also include information about eligibility for the Disability Amount (line 316). If you are unsure about the DTC status of the beneficiary, you can contact a representative at CRA by phone at 1(800) 959-8281.

Loss of DTC Eligibility

When a beneficiary is no longer DTC eligible, the RDSP plan must close no later than December 31 of the year following the year in which he or she was no longer DTC eligible. For example, if a beneficiary is no longer DTC eligible as of January 2014, the RDSP must be closed by December 31, 2015, unless the beneficiary becomes DTC eligible again in 2015 or makes an election to keep the plan open.

DTC Election

As of January 1, 2014, when a beneficiary loses his or her DTC eligibility, but his or her condition is such that he or she is likely to become DTC eligible again, the holder can make an election to keep the RDSP open for a period of up to 5 years.

A medical doctor must certify in writing the beneficiary is likely to become DTC eligible in the foreseeable future.

Temporary measure

Plans that should close in 2012 or 2013 because of the Beneficiary's loss of DTC eligibility can stay open until December 31, 2014, without the Holder having to make an election.

Celebrating Manitoba's Seniors and Elders

In 1991, the General Assembly of the United Nations declared October 1st as International Day of Older Persons to globally dedicate a day to older persons. October 1st is the one consistent date that recognizes that older adults are an asset to society. Seniors' Day celebrations in Manitoba have been held on an annual basis since 1989. They are intended to honour all older Manitobans for their valuable contributions to the Province of Manitoba. Seniors' and Elders' Day events have included a theme event with entertainment, participation sports, opening remarks, and refreshments. Primarily, they are intended to offer a province wide opportunity to meet and celebrate with others who share the challenges and rewards of being an older adult in Manitoba. Each year, there have been several hundred participants in attendance.

This year, Seniors' and Elders' Day will be celebrated on Friday October 2nd, 2015. For more information please visit http://seniors.cimnet.ca/cim/19C44_50T30630.dhtm

New Services on SMD Financial Literacy and Access Programs

If you are living on a low income, the SMD Access to Benefits (A2B) program can help you get information about a variety of income support programs that may available to you.

By talking with you about your situation, we can help you to decide if you should:

- Get information about the Disability Tax Credit, Canada Child Tax, Benefit, GST Credit, Rent Assist, and more.
- Apply for the programs you qualify for
- Open an RESP and get free money for your children's education
- Open an Registered Disability Savings Plan and get free money for your future
- Get the ID you need to access entitlements
- Open a bank account
- File income tax returns for current or past years

How does it work?

Book an appointment with the Program Coordinator. At the first appointment, you will get information, ask questions, and solve problems about benefits that apply to you. There will be more meetings to go over paperwork and check results.

Please call (204) 975-3103 or email zjoyce@smd.mb.ca to book an appointment.

Brian Doerksen and the SHIYR Poets

Fundraising Concert in Support of Hope Centre Ministries

Hope Centre Ministries is excited to welcome Brian Doerksen and his Abbotsford-based band, the SHIYR Poets! Pronounced "Sheer," the SHIYR Poets are Brian Doerksen, Calum Rees, Brian Thiessen and Teresa Trask. This GMA Award winning group is a collection of friends, songwriters, and musicians who enjoy living on the artistic edge. Fascinated by ancient poets and songwriters, their project is to render the ancient Psalms into modern folk-rock songs. Brian Doerksen explains, "What we're attempting to do is take the world's oldest songbook and make it new again." On September 12 the SHIYR Poets will be performing songs from their debut album, *Songs for the Journey Vol. I*.

Concert Details: September 12, 2015
Covenant Christian Reformed Church
653 Knowles Ave, Winnipeg
Doors open at 6:00pm, Concert begins at 7:00pm

Tickets: $20.00 in advance, $25.00 at the door.
Order through Hope Centre Ministries at (204) 479-4893, or online at:
http://hopecentreministries.org/shiyr-poets-2/

Hope Centre Ministries (HCM) exists to celebrate the gifts and uniqueness of individual who live with disabilities and support them in their walk with God and their faith community. HCM facilitates a number of weekly programs for individuals with disabilities, organizes a spiritual retreat and supports a mission week for youth with disabilities. HCM also provides support for parents of children with disabilities and offers resources and trainings for churches in the areas of inclusion. Please visit their website at http://hopecentreministries.org/

Baby Boomer Cafe'

Even with all the natural, hungry mosquitoes and wasps, 44 people had a fabulous time at our special Birds Hill Park Summer Cafe on Aug. 8th! The weather was perfect! The Potluck buffet had a very nice assortment of delicious appetizers, snacks, main course food dishes, side dishes, punch, drinks & water, salads, fruit, pastry galore etc...!! There was regular, gluten free, & diabetic food!

Music, singing, instruments, and dancing was absolutely extraordinary! The scavenger hunt was challenging, sports events exciting, and the candle lighting ceremony was very meaningful! We celebrated many July and August birthdays!! The bonfire and marshmallow roast went on till 9:30 p.m.!!

Special thanks to Evelyn, Chris, & Mike for driving to Winnipeg from the Park to pick up some people!!

A very big thank you to everyone who came out and made this event a huge success!! Also thanks to everybody for contributing all the yummy food!! Everyone earned a special prize for participating in one or many of the events! We had 2 new people attend and even 1 person who flew in from Toronto to join our celebration!

ATTENTION TO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF CONTINUITY CARE!!

The next Baby Boomer Café will be a winter holiday celebration and will be held on **Saturday December 5th, 2015 at Kildonan Community Church (2373 Main Street).** More details will be sent out closer to the date or you can contact Albert Yanofsky at (204) 334-1839.

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.

We invite you to Become a Continuity Care Member

One Year Membership $20
Lifetime Membership $250

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