

Continuity News

Winter 2025

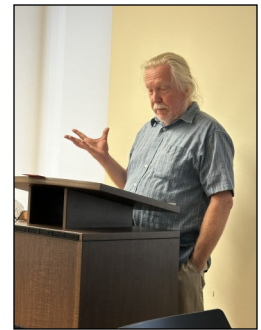
Message from the Office

We held our AGM on September 4th, 2024 at 120 Maryland. 17 people attended in person and 11 virtually by Zoom. Merv Gunter was our MC for the evening and moved the agenda smoothly along.

Sherry Desilets shared her last President's Report. She has been our President since 2020. Her time and contributions are immensely appreciated, and she now continues her board support as Past President. Nick Paulley provided an informative and perhaps, the most interesting and understandable Treasurer's report in the history of our AGM's (apologies to Merv!). Tania Douglas introduced the slate of officers and directors for 2024-2025 and shared the news that Sherri Water Chief is our incoming Board President. Congratulations to Sherri!



Albert Yanofsky shared a passionate report from the Family and Friends Group. As one of the founding members of the group, Albert truly believes the sense of family and support this group has given him and his family and to many others who attend feel the same. Suzanne Swanton wrapped things up with her Executive Director report.



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The 120 Maryland Group shared an update on the Community Based Assisted Decision Making Pilot Project including the premier of a video about Terry Gunter and his family's story, which brought tears to all of our eyes and was very impactful. Thanks to the partners of the 120 Maryland Group for joining us.

Throughout Continuity Care's 28 years, we have been fortunate to have dedicated board members and staff who feel strongly about the service and benefits we provide to our members. We are always looking for new board members as well as for our sub-committees.



Happy New Year on behalf of the staff and board members of Continuity Care. We recognize that the holiday season can be a time of festivities and enjoyment, and for some it can also be a time of grief, stress and loneliness. However you spent the holidays, we hope that you were able to experience some peace, hope, joy and love.

We would like to say a special thank you to the Continuity Care board members for the gift of time off during the holidays to spend with our families and friends and to rest and recharge.

We are excited for the new year and all that we have planned for the first few months of 2025. We look forward to connecting with members and assisting you to achieve the goals and plans you are making and offering our resources and support along the way.

In 2025, may your heart be light, your days bright, and your dreams take flight.



The Closure of the Manitoba Developmental Centre

On December 10th, 2024, the last of the residents who lived at the Manitoba Developmental Centre moved into their new home in the community. The official closure of MDC occurred on December 31st, 2024.

The closure of MDC is reason for celebration and wouldn't be possible with the advocacy efforts of many, including former residents, such as David Weremy and Valerie Wolbert, families and allies, including Community Living Manitoba and People First of Manitoba and Canada. We are grateful to all who were involved and thank them for their courage and determination.

This important milestone is one of sadness and contemplation as we think about those who lost their lives, experienced trauma and abuse and the end of an era of institutionalization of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

It is important to recognize the transition team, the community based organizations and service providers who developed community homes and welcomed and supported residents into their new homes, Community Living Disability Services program staff and also the Manitoba government for fulfilling their promise made back in 2021 to close MDC within three years.

It is fitting that December 10th was also Human Rights Day and we recognize and uphold the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their full inclusion and citizenship in community.

**Disability Rights
ARE
Human Rights**

On September 26, 2024, Canada introduced the *Autism Alliance Strategy and Framework for Autism in Canada* to improve the quality of life for individuals with autism and their families. These plans bring together government agencies, healthcare providers, community organizations, and advocates to address service gaps and create more inclusive opportunities.

Key Highlights of the Strategy:

- Individualized support plans to meet the specific needs of people with autism in school, work, and healthcare.
- Faster access to services by reducing wait times and connecting families to supports when they need them most.
- More resources for caregivers, including training, respite, and support groups to reduce stress and improve well-being.
- Support for young adults transitioning from school to work or independent living.
- Community education to reduce stigma and build understanding through partnerships and awareness campaigns.

Key Priorities of the Framework:

- Easier access to screening, diagnosis, and autism services.
- Economic inclusion by supporting employment opportunities.
- Improved data collection and research to better understand autism.
- Public awareness to reduce stigma and build acceptance.
- Tools and resources for individuals with autism and their support networks.

Learn More:

For details, resources, and updates, visit the <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/autism-spectrum-disorder-asd/what-canada-doing.html#a1>

Seeking Your Recommendations & Resources

Finding skilled and experienced service and healthcare providers can be challenging. If you know a provider whose services could benefit other families, we'd love to hear from you!

We're looking for recommendations of professionals who have knowledge, experience and an understanding of people with disabilities in the following areas (but are not limited to): doctors, dentists, accountants, financial advisors, optometrists, foot care nurses, therapists, nutritionists, and lawyers.

Your input can make a big difference for families looking for these services. Thank you for sharing! Please email your suggestions to info@continuitycare.ca.

Family & Friends Group

On September 14, 2024 we had sunny skies as 53 people attended a fabulous potluck picnic at Kildonan Park. The food & dessert variety was outstanding! We had a special invitational corn hole and bolo tournament with everyone being a winner! The bonfire was a blazing and the sing-a-long was contagious and loads of fun. A big thank you to everyone for participating in all the activities, contributing to the potluck, helping with the setup, cooking and cleanup and most of all bringing their encouragement, support and spirit!



On Sunday, November 24, 2024, Family and Friends Group had 12 bowlers come out to Billy Mosienko Lanes for some bingo bowling, socializing, treats and prizes. We had 3 teams of 4, including support staff participating. Much fun was had by all as we tried to fill out the bingo cards. There was great teamwork happening and support for each other. One special bowler who seemed to get more strikes and mark off more boxes on the bingo card than the rest of us was Dale. Congrats to him for his bowling skills. It was a fun afternoon and we plan to do this again in 2025.



Family and Friends Group would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays and best wishes for a peaceful, healthy and safe 2025. Our next gathering and potluck meal will take place on:

Saturday, January 18th, 2025 at Kildonan Community Church

Please save the date. More details to follow soon!



**GOODBYE
2024
HELLO
2025**



**We invite you to become a
Continuity Care member**

One-year membership \$25

One-year agency membership \$50

Lifetime membership \$250

Leave a Legacy

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