



INCLUSIVE INSIGHTS

Inclusion | Awareness | Accessibility

Quarterly Newsletter

WHAT'S HAPPENING ?

- Provincial Elections
- 2015 Medavie Blue Cross Charity Golf Tournament
- Blue Zone Accessible Parking Campaign and Community Audits
- Athletes Win Big in 2015 PanAM Games

Message from the Manager of Strategic Initiatives, Kim White

Exciting Projects for the Coalition

The Coalition is excited to be delivering a number of new projects this year. One project is focused on making the provincial elections process more accessible for persons with disabilities. A task force has been put in place to help guide this work. The task force has staff from CNIB, Elections NL, Disability Policy Office, Newfoundland and Labrador Association of the Deaf (NLAD) and the Coalition.

For more details on this project, please see page 2.

Another project the Coalition is working on is creating a positive image of disability through the media and marketing sector. This project is also being guided by a task force. Members include staff from Autism Society, CNIB, Disability Policy Office, the Coalition along with a representative from the media sector, Steele Communications.

This project focuses on:

- Creating and promoting of an inclusive marketing and media toolkit which includes tools around Respectful language, Clear language, Clear print, samples of positive media images/ stories, etc.

- Developing and delivering inclusion training workshops to support media and marketing business the use of the toolkit.

A third project the Coalition is delivering this year is supporting the provincial Public Service Sector to make their service delivery more inclusive for persons with disabilities. The Coalition is working with the Provincial Government through the Centre for Learning and Development and the Disability Policy Office to provide resources and training materials on such things as respectful language, communication tools, and disability sensitivity. These resources and materials will be placed online with the Centre for Learning and Development so they can be accessed by all members of the Public Service Sector.

For further information on any of these exciting new projects, contact Kim White, Manager of Strategic Initiatives at [722-7011](tel:722-7011) or kimw@codnl.ca.

Provincial Elections Project

The Coalition of Persons with Disabilities is currently working with Elections Newfoundland and Labrador (Elections NL) around accessibility of the voting process. The work includes the following:

- Creating video version of Elections NL information brochures “Information for Electors”, “Special Ballot Voting” and “Student Voting”
 - This video will present the information in clear language and it will be signed in ASL, as well as being captioned and spoken.
 - This video will be located on the Elections NL website. It will also be linked on various websites of organizations that support persons with disabilities.
- Making these three brochures available in large print and Braille format. They can be requested from Elections NL or the Coalition of Persons with Disabilities.
- Training for Provincial Returning Officers and other staff involved in the Provincial elections process. This training includes topics such as respectful language, communication tips and accessibility information.
- Providing Provincial Returning Officers with a checklist to help provide accessible locations for their offices and polling stations. The checklist will also include information about alternate formats, communication tips, personal supports and service animals.
- Providing staff working at the Provincial polling stations with a checklist which will focus on communications tips, respectful language, and how to support voters with disabilities.

Individuals are encouraged to contact Elections NL to see if they are on the Voter's List. They can also contact Elections NL to find out which polling station they can vote at and about accessibility features of the polling station. Elections NL can be reached toll free or locally at (1-877)-729-7987 or by email at enl@gov.nl.ca. Their website is www.elections.gov.nl.ca.

The Independent Living Resource Centre will be hosting an information session on “Accessibility at the 2015 Federal and Provincial Elections” on Tuesday, September 08, 2015 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm at the E.B. Foran Room, St. John’s City Hall. To attend please RSVP by calling Annette at 709-722-4031, TTY: 709-722-7998, or email Annette@inclusionNL.ca.

2015 Medavie Blue Cross Golf Tournament

The First Annual Medavie Blue Cross Charity Golf Tournament for COD-NL was a huge success, and raised almost \$10,000! All of the money raised will support the Coalition’s ongoing projects and efforts to eliminate barriers for persons with disabilities, including:

- Emergency Preparedness
- Advanced Health Care Planning
- Blue Zone Accessible Parking
- Inclusion and Disability Sensitivity Training
- Accessible Elections Campaign
- Inclusion and Media
- Policy research



Hosted at the beautiful Wilds at Salmonier, the Golf Tournament saw the participation of 21 teams, and received support from 29 different organizations. All players had the chance to win prizes throughout the day which we announced at our post-tournament luncheon, catered by The Wilds. Not to mention all players received a fabulous gift bag for participating in our fundraiser.

The success of the tournament would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors, especially title sponsor Medavie Blue Cross. A huge thank-you to our Golf Committee, Leonard Morgan, Randy Simms, Sharon Tucker.

We are planning for next year’s tournament, with the aim of making the golf tournament a fun and successful event for years to come!

Blue Zone Accessible Parking Campaign and Accessible Audits

COD-NL has been actively engaging with community partners in helping them achieve best practices for Blue Zone accessible parking.



Throughout the summer, we have been conducting accessible audits for organizations in our communities in effort to expand accessibility. This initiative has been well received, and we have been successful in helping our partners understand accessible building regulations and universal design in our built environment.

As part of a Blue Zone audit, we help our partners identify key elements which may pose to be physical barriers to persons with disabilities. We then advise for innovative solutions and best practices for Blue Zone accessible parking. Striving to ensure a more accessible community for all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, the Blue Zone initiative is an ongoing initiative of COD-NL.

Is your organization interested in receiving consultation for accessibility or Blue Zone audit ? Please contact, Kelly White, Executive Director, at [722-7011](tel:722-7011) or kwhite@codnl.ca.

Accessible Vehicle Program

As an initiative through the Provincial Strategy for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Newfoundland and Labrador, the Accessible Vehicle Program was developed to help support individuals who require an accessible vehicle. The program offers eligible applicants a grant upwards of \$25,000 to modify a vehicle to provide accessible features, such as hand controls, or an accessible side entrance.

This provincial initiative, developed in 2012, has helped support 15 individuals in the province for the 2015 program year. Brittany Long is one individual who received

funding. Brittany has said that this initiative will support her capability to become more independent and feels very positive about being able to be more self-reliant.

The 2015 Accessible Vehicle Funding Program is now closed but will re-open in spring of 2016. For more information please visit the Department of Seniors, Wellness and Social Development website at:

http://www.swsd.gov.nl.ca/disabilities/accessible_vehicle_funding.html

Athletes Win Big in 2015 PanAM Games



COD-NL proudly congratulates all athletes who participated in the Toronto 2015 PanAm Games.



Winning silver in men's wheelchair basketball, Liam Hickey brought his medal home to celebrate at Easter Seals where he started playing basketball at age 8. On how he feels about such an accomplishment, Liam said he hopes he can serve as an inspiration to other young athletes living with disabilities.

Winning a total of 6 medals at the PanAm games, Katrina Roxon of Kippens, NL took home a gold, three silver, and two bronze medals in the women's swim competitions.

Born without her left arm below her elbow, Katrina shows us that nothing is impossible. Setting a new Parapan Am record in the 100m breaststroke with a time of 1:22.18, Katrina does not let her disability slow her down.

Congratulations to Liam and Katrina! We are so proud of our provincial athletes!

Coalition of Persons with Disabilities – NL Board Members & Staff

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Kim White, Manager of Strategic Initiatives

Danielle Parrell, Summer Student

Interested in becoming a member of COD-NL ??

**Visit: www.codnl.ca
email: info@codnl.ca**

**If you would like to receive this newsletter in an
alternate format please contact:**

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