

transition

BC COALITION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES • ISSN 0842-5124

SPRING 2009

Welcome to BCCPD

A Look Inside

Projects and issues we're focussing on in 2009

BCCPD Faces

Meet some of our board members and volunteers

Transition Goes Green

Sign up to get your copy by email or online



CANADA PENSION PLAN DISABILITY

**Do you need help with CPP Disability benefits?
Did you already apply, but were denied CPP?**

BCCPD can help you.

Canada Pension Plan Disability (CPPD) has several advantages over provincial disability benefits.

BC Coalition of People with Disabilities (BCCPD) can help you to understand CPPD and your eligibility for the program.

Our CPP Disability Advocacy Program provides people with one-on-one assistance with CPPD applications, appeals, tribunals and Pension Appeals Board cases.

You can learn more about the CPPD Program at www.bccpd.bc.ca.



Our experienced CPPD advocates provide one-on-one assistance with applications, appeals, tribunals and Pension Appeals Board cases.

Please contact us for information or to make an appointment.

Contact

Canada Pension Plan Disability Advocacy Program
BC Coalition of People with Disabilities
Toll-Free: 1-800-663-1278
Local Tel.: 604-872-1278
Hearing Impaired Only: 604-875-8835



**BC Coalition of People
with Disabilities 2008**

PROGRAM FUNDED BY THE BC MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Contents



- 2 | **Editorial** BY AL HANET
- 3 | **Transition Goes Green: With Your Help!**
- 3 | **Letter to the Editor**
- 4 | **Living with a Disability** by Robin Loxton
- 6 | **Improving Access for Assistance Animals**
- 7 | **Personal Supports: Equipment and Assistive Devices**
- 8 | Board Member has Contributed So Much
BY JO DUNAWAY
- 9 | **HIV/AIDS and Disability are Finally on the Agenda** BY SHELLEY HOURSTON
- 10 | BCCPD says Farewell to Long-time Executive Director
- 11 | **Improving Benefits Related to Car Accidents**
- 13 | **Rolling Dog Ranch Animal Sanctuary**
- 14 | **The Busiest Program in Town: Advocacy Access** BY JANE DYSON
- 16 | **Meet the Pres** BY JO DUNAWAY
- 18 | **Personal Supports: Attendants**
- 19 | Twenty-Five Years of Volunteer Service
BY JO DUNAWAY
- 20 | **Faster than a Speeding Bullet**
- 21 | **Time to Enact a Wrongful Death Act**
- 22 | The Voice of BCCPD
- 22 | **The Hostess with the Mostess** BY JO DUNAWAY
- 23 | Community News
- 23 | Community Responses in Emergencies

Special

- 5 | The Kids are Moving Out



Transition is published four times a year by BC Coalition of People with Disabilities. Subscriptions are \$20/year.

We welcome articles, graphics and creative writing for consideration. The editors reserve the right to edit and/or withhold material from publication.

We are pleased to see *Transition* material republished without prior permission, with these conditions. Please credit "*Transition*, BC Coalition of People with Disabilities" and the edition date. Thank you.

BC Coalition of People with Disabilities
204-456 W. Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5Y 1R3
Tel 604-875-0188 • TTY 604-875-8835
Fax 604-875-9227

Transition only: trans@bccpd.bc.ca
BCCPD: feedback@bccpd.bc.ca
Online at: www.bccpd.bc.ca

Canadian Publications Mail Product Sales Agreement No.40051676



Editorial

BY AL HANET

Welcome to the BCCPD. Some of you may have a long association with us as *Transition* readers or supporters of BCCPD community campaigns. Some of you may be fairly new to us.

No matter how well you know us, we felt that an edition of *Transition* devoted to our own work was overdue. We would like *Transition* readers to know more about some of the programs and issues BCCPD is working on.

A lot of the work we do is “behind the scenes” and can be invisible. Increasing the income supports that people with disabilities receive is crucial to us, but this kind of issue rarely receives much media attention. We want people in the disability community and other sectors, to hear about the work we are doing on behalf of people with disabilities.

This *Transition* offers snapshots of some current issues and programs. We hope it will give you a good idea of how we spend our time! And, if you have any questions about our community campaigns, or would like to register your support, please call or email Jane Dyson at our office at 604-875-0188 or feedback@bccpd.bc.ca.

If we start at the “beginning,” BCCPD has always been unique because we are cross-disability. We look at the big picture for social policies and systems that affect people with all types of disabilities, from using a wheelchair to having a visual impairment to living with a learning disability.

To that end, we have wonderful community partners who work closely with their members and who share their invaluable experience with us—through helping us develop projects, supporting our community campaigns or sitting on our Board of Directors.

Speaking of our Board, I have to say, I’m privileged to be President. The men and women on the Board are incredibly hard-working and bring a range of expertise that makes us stronger than the sum of our parts. What’s more, virtually all of them are active in many other ways in the community as well.

I’d also like to take the opportunity to say thank you to all the people who volunteer with BCCPD. We have some people who have been with us for more than 20 years, making huge contributions of their time and energy to help with keeping the office humming.

Finally, it’s important to remember in community advocacy that we have successes. We were instrumental in the recent major changes to handyDART, for example; changes that we hope will vastly improve handyDART service for years to come.

We have a great team at BCCPD—our staff, Board and volunteers—and we are confident that we’ll be here, working hard for the disability community no matter how tough things get.

We’ve been here for over 30 years and we are looking forward to continuing the good fight.

Al Hanet is BCCPD President ■



Transition Goes Green With Your Help!

What's this about?

It's simple. We think our readers care about the environment and think that *Transition* should be up-to-date, informative and affordable to produce.

What can I do?

You can join other readers who have switched from getting *Transition* on paper to getting a full-colour PDF by email. We will email you each edition, hot off the press!

Or, read us online: starting soon, you will find an online, clickable version of *Transition*, so you can find articles you want easily and link to any resources or websites we mention in *Transition*. You'll still be able to download a PDF version, too.

How can I sign up?

Glad you asked! Follow step 1 or 2 below:

- 1 Renew your *Transition* subscription using the form in this edition and select email or online version.
- 2 Contact Val at the office and let her know "I want to switch!" to:
 - receiving *Transition* by email. Be sure to provide your email address!
 - reading *Transition* on the website
 - Contact Val by email at feedback@bccpd.bc.ca or by phone at 604-875-0188.

And, if you still want to receive *Transition* by mail, that's ok too.

Save a tree, save BCCPD money and still have access to all *Transition* issues. Switch today!

Letter to the Editor

DEAR LILLIAN, BCCPD ADVOCATE:

I am reporting to you on the disability application you sent to Victoria on my behalf, I think last Wednesday.

I was notified on Friday that they had received the application and yesterday that my application was approved. By my calculations, my application was approved in three days! That must be some kind of record and a true testament to your organization's proficiency and the government's respect for your work and understanding of the process. Thank you again.

I cannot properly express my gratitude to you and the BCCPD for all that you have done for me. I expected confusion, mistakes and delays when I first realized that I had no choice but to apply for disability.

You have made this process painless and have accomplished it in three days. I do not think I am stretching the point when I call you miracle workers.

I thank you and the BCCPD staff. If it were not for you, and the caring you have for others, my life would be more difficult today and it would be harder to deal with my disease.

NAME WITHHELD AT WRITER'S REQUEST

Living with a Disability

Advocating on issues from housing to dental coverage

BY ROBIN LOXTON

Over the years, the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities' advocates have taken up a number of important issues that are of concern to our community. One of our key concerns has been income supports for people with disabilities.

In the 1990s, BCCPD staff and Board members joined with the BC Association of Community Living and the Canadian Mental Health Association (BC Division) to advocate for new provincial disability legislation with a new definition of "disability." This collaborative effort, which lasted over four years, saw results in 1995 when the provincial government introduced the BC Benefits legislation which included the Disability Benefits Program Act and a new definition of "persons with disabilities". Although we did not get everything we asked for, it was an important step in the right direction.

More recently our concerns have been the high cost of housing, health coverage and personal supports, and the administrative barriers many people with disabilities face when trying to access benefits and programs.

We have a housing crisis in BC. The average rent for a one-bed-

room apartment in Metro Vancouver is over \$700 over month; waiting lists for subsidized housing are growing longer and there are a limited number of resources available to help people find housing. A single person receiving disability benefits assistance receives a shelter allowance of \$375 per month which is clearly inadequate. Benefits recipients need more money for shelter and we need more affordable and accessible housing.

Dental coverage is an essential component of the health supplements provided to people with disabilities. Good dental health is vital to a person's overall well-being. Unfortunately, \$1,000 every two years is insufficient for most. It can be challenging for people, especially those in rural communities, to find a dentist and some dentist's offices charge extra if the dental plan does not pay the rate they expect.

An example of the administrative barriers to accessing income support is the 12-month waiting period required by the Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers to employment (PPMB) program. To apply for PPMB—which provides recipients with a higher rate of assistance and better health coverage—applicants must have received income assistance for 12

months. This means not only that applicants are unable to access needed additional income supports, they also cannot obtain needed health goods and services during the waiting period. The BCCPD feels strongly that this waiting period must be removed from the PPMB application process.

On the positive side, new Personal Supports Centres that have opened in Victoria and Prince George demonstrate that a citizen-centred approach to the provision of equipment and assistive devices can really work. And the federal Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) that has been introduced with the support of the BC government gives people with disabilities and their families a new opportunity to save money and qualify for bonds and grants.

The BCCPD has a reputation of speaking up on issues. Over the past 30 years we have had our share of victories and disappointments. We will continue to listen to and work hard for our community and we will always speak out about what is important to the independence and dignity of people with disabilities.

Robin Loxton is Co-Director of Advocacy Access ■



The Kids are Moving Out

One of BCCPD's favourite programs will be closing this year. The Kids on the Block (KOB) educational puppet troupe has always held a special place in the hearts of everyone at BCCPD. So, the Board's October 2008 decision to close KOB was a very difficult one.

We have seen a steady decline in bookings in recent months and the Board decided it was in the best interest of the BCCPD to close the program for now. We say "for now" because we all hope the Kids will be back one day.

Sadly, the closure means we'll lose Olive Ndungutse who has brought so much joy to our office over the years. We will also miss our outstanding puppeteers.

Olive had this to say. "Coordinating the Kids on the Block program has been an exciting, challenging and rewarding experience—one I will certainly not forget. And I'll really miss the puppets!

"I owe a debt of gratitude to the puppeteers who were so committed, helpful and hardworking: Tania Conley, Charles Demers, Tara Goerzen, Shawn Killaly, Julia Lockley, Jonna Milledge, Elizabeth Milton, Jaimie Robson, Advah Soudack, Haley Turner, Maggie Winston and Cara Yeates. Thanks to all of you," said Olive.

Thanks!

A big thank you to the following organizations, companies, associations and government departments for their tremendous and generous support for the Kids on

the Block. We also thank the many, many others who have offered advice, encouragement, individual donations and training over the years.

Founding Partner

The Kinsmen Foundation of BC & Yukon

Sustaining Partners

BC Rehab Foundation
Province of British Columbia

Performance Partners

BC Nurses' Union
CKNW Orphans' Fund
RBC Foundation
Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of BC
The Kinette and Kinsmen Clubs of BC
Variety—The Children's Charity of BC

Funding for Educational Materials

United Way of the Lower Mainland

Friends of Kids on the Block

Alliance for Arts and Culture
ArtStarts in Schools
British Columbia Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC)
Budget Printers
Central Okanagan Access Awareness Team, Kelowna, BC
City Recreation Departments and Community Centers of BC
CUPE, BC
GriefWorks, BC
Mission Association for Community Living
Pacific Coast Brain Injury Conference, BC
Parent Advisory Councils of BC
Powell River Association for Community Living



Principals, Vice Principals, Teachers, Support Staff of BC Elementary Schools
Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health, Victoria, BC
Richmond Society for Community Living
School Boards and School Districts of BC
Sisett & Company
TELUS BC
The BC Association for Community Living
The BC Epilepsy Society
The B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union (BCGEU)
The Kids on the Block, Campbell River, BC
The Kids on the Block, Waterloo Region, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada
The Little People of British Columbia Society for Short Stature Awareness
The Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada
The Thompson Nicola Family Resource Society, Kamloops, BC
The www.TylerDawson.com Group of Companies
Vancouver City Savings Credit Union ■



OUR ISSUES

Improving Access for Assistance Animals

The BCCPD, and some of our community partners, has formed a new working group with the goal of reforming BC's Guide Animal Act. We have produced a working brief on the need for an improved Act and circulated it to key organizations who work within the guide animal-user community.

BC's disability community has been seeking reform to this legislation for many years. Two of the main weaknesses in the current law are the inadequate fines for businesses and services that refuse entry to people with guide animals and the lack of ensured access for people with puppies-in-training.

The working group has met twice and includes representatives from the BC Guide Dog Services, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Access for Sight Impaired Consumers, Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians and Pacific Assistance Dogs. We are currently reviewing legislation from other provinces and formulating a final version of our recommendations.

It would be a great help with this work to hear about people's experiences with access to public facilities and services with an assistance animal. If you have a story, please contact Jane Dyson at 604-875-0188 or feedback@bccpd.bc.ca. ■

Privacy Statement The BC Coalition of People with Disabilities (BCCPD) respects and upholds an individual's right to privacy and the protection of their personal information. The BCCPD is committed to ensuring compliance with British Columbia's Personal Information and Protection of Privacy Act (PIPA). The BCCPD will inform people what personal information it collects about people and why. It will store information securely and identify who has access to the information it collects. It will inform people what information will be shared, with whom, and why. BCCPD Privacy Officer: Sam Bradd (604) 875-0188; Alternate: Jane Dyson (604) 872-1278; privacyofficer@bccpd.bc.ca.

transition

Founding Editor

Richard A. Watson

Editor/Layout

Ann Vrlak

Cover Design

Fiona Gamiet

Proofreaders

Shelley Hourston

Jane Dyson

Fundraising Team

Jane Dyson • Sam Bradd • Shelley Hourston

Alternate Formats

Val Stapleton • Eleanor Pasholko

Admin Assistant

Elena Kubaseck-Berry

Contributors

Jane Dyson • Shelley Hourston

Mailout Coordinator

Janis Walsh

Editorial Statement The views and opinions expressed within the pages of *Transition* are not necessarily those held by the total membership or Board of Directors. The material presented herein is meant to be thought-provoking and to promote dialogue. *Transition* is a forum to share information within the disability community, and with government and the general public. It is also an opportunity for people with disabilities to display creative talent.

Disclaimer Any firm or company advertising in *Transition* is for our readers' benefit and does not constitute an endorsement by the BCCPD.

Personal Supports Equipment and Assistive Devices BY CHRISTINE GORDON

British Columbia has a high level of unmet need for personal supports. Personal supports are the good and services, for example, equipment and assistive devices, personal attendants or sign language interpreters that enable people with disabilities to participate. The current patchwork approach to the provision of equipment and assistive devices leaves many people falling through the cracks with no obvious source of funding. Here are some examples of their stories:

Lahra is a new immigrant from Iran. She was a professional in her home country. She is a single parent with a child in school and she receives provincial income assistance. Although she still has some vision, she can't read the notices her child's school sends her. She also has difficulty reading instructions on packaged goods, cereal boxes and canned food. Lahra needs a portable CCTV. She can use this technology to magnify print so that she can read it. At present, there is no way she can get this equipment which costs approximately \$1000.

Melissa is woman who lives with heart and lung disease. She is very fatigued and has a great deal of difficulty walking and moving around her apartment. She needs grab bars in her bathroom to help her keep her balance to prevent falling. She has a federal funding source which will buy grab bars.

However they will not pay for installing the grab bars. Melissa is not able to afford the few dollars for installation. The benefit to her in reducing her risk of falls would be huge and the cost is small.

Dora is a woman who is deaf-blind. In order to access her computer to do email and make shopping lists she needs a computer, JAWS computer software and a Braille display. She learned to use this technology when she was a student, but has no resources to purchase it for home use. She also wants to use the computer as a communication tool with hearing homemakers who do not use sign language or the two-hand manual alphabet. She can type her questions on the computer and the person can type the answers on the same computer. When she was a student, Dora did have access to funding for equipment because she was in a recognized post secondary institution. Now that she is no longer a student there is no program that will meet her needs.

Since 2006, several ministries of government and the community, which has been represented by a broad coalition called the Provincial Equipment and Assistive Devices Committee, have been in partnership to develop a new program to provide personal supports for people with disabilities, beginning with equipment and assistive devices. They have created the Participation Model

for Personal Supports which is a citizen centred and integrated approach to the provision of personal supports. Demonstration sites have been developed in two communities (Victoria and Prince George) and a provincial network of community organizations is forming in order to test the new approach and to begin to meet the unmet need.

BCCPD helped to found the Provincial Equipment and Assistive Devices Committee and continues to play a leadership role in the development of a Provincial Personal Supports program. Personal Supports are a key component of a comprehensive provincial disability strategy. ■



Board Member has Contributed So Much

BY JO DUNAWAY

May McIntyre was just 16 when she joined the Board of St. John's Ambulance. "I think I was following my mother's volunteering example," she says.

In the years since, May has seen her community service as a way to contribute and to expand her own experience. The needs of a son with ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) led her into 12 years of advocacy work in the school system and internationally with the Feingold Association, a program that links diet and food additives with behaviour and learning problems.

In the 80s, May took a number of courses through Legal Services and the Law Foundation and helped set up Advocacy Outreach in her home community of Salmon Arm where she still works on poverty issues.

"There is never enough funding for advocacy. And, like many small organizations, we don't have enough board members to qualify for funding from the large associa-

tions that sometimes fund advocacy programs.

May served for many years on the board of her local women's shelter and still volunteers with Second Harvest Food Bank when needed. In the past two years, she has been on the steering committee of the new Inn from the Cold program in Salmon Arm that teams volunteers with a local church to provide cold weather emergency services like hot food and a place to sleep.

She is also on the board of the Vancouver-based Public Interest Advocacy Centre.

In her many years as a member of the BCCPD Board of Directors, May has held a number of positions, currently that of Internal Vice-President. "Time flies when you're having fun. BCCPD's base is so broad that it brings me into areas I wasn't familiar with and gives me the perspective of a provincial organization. I've had opportunities like serving on the ad hoc committee that met directly with government on disability issues."

May has been recognized for her ever-growing contributions in advocacy. She was awarded the Queen's Medal in 2002 and the 125th Anniversary of Confederation Medal. However, the award she is most proud of was presented to her in 2003 by the Council of Canadians with Disabilities.

"This was from my peers in the disability field, so it means a great deal to me." ■



transition

subscription form



Yes, I would like to receive *Transition* magazine 4 times per year. Please add me to your mailing list; I am enclosing my \$20 annual subscription fee.

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City/Prov _____

Postal Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please check one: I'd like to receive *Transition* in the following format:

- PDF (by email)
- I'll read it online
- Paper (by mail)
- Text disc (by mail)
- Audio tape (by mail)

Please make cheques payable to "BCCPD" and send to us at *Transition*, c/o BCCPD, 204 - 456 W. Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5Y 1R3.

For information on BCCPD's privacy policy, see the Privacy Statement in this *Transition*.

HIV/AIDS and Disability are Finally on the Agenda

BY SHELLEY HOURSTON

I write this the day after returning from Ottawa where I attended Health Canada's 4th International Policy Dialogue on HIV/AIDS. The theme this year was disability and HIV/AIDS, incorporating both the risk of HIV/AIDS for people with disabilities and the disabilities that accompany HIV/AIDS. I applaud Health Canada's effort to shine the spotlight on disability.

As you know, in 1987, BCCPD's AIDS and Disability Action Program (ADAP) was the first organization in Canada to focus on HIV prevention for people with disabilities and to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS as a disability. This pioneering work was noted more than once by disability advocates this past week.

Since that time, ADAP has worked hard to ensure that people with disabilities are included in HIV/AIDS prevention efforts, but it hasn't been easy. Disability rarely appears on the agenda of larger social issues, regardless of the context. Recent advances are undoubtedly due to the relatively high profile of disability at the XVII International AIDS Conference in Mexico City last August. After attending the Policy Dialogue last week, I feel more hopeful than ever before that we are making progress.

Approximately 45 people from Canada, the US, Brazil, the Nether-

Since that time, ADAP has worked hard to ensure that people with disabilities are included in HIV/AIDS prevention efforts, but it hasn't been easy. Disability rarely appears on the agenda of larger social issues, regardless of the context.

lands, South Africa, Ethiopia, Uganda, Botswana and Kenya attended the Policy Dialogue. Stephen Lewis delivered an inspiring keynote and panels of community experts on disabilities and HIV/AIDS provided thought-provoking sessions to fuel small group discussion. Topics included defining or un-defining disability; international policy perspectives; legal aspects of HIV/AIDS and disability; sexuality and disability; partnerships; research; stigma; and, integration of HIV/AIDS and disability advocacy work.

There was considerable discussion of the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons (CRPD). In fact, a key message from Stephen Lewis was that international treaties such as the CRPD play an extremely important role in forming and, in some cases, enforcing human rights laws in countries around the world. Note that Canada has not yet ratified the CRPD.

For more information, visit the Disabled Persons International (DPI) website: <http://v1.dpi.org>. ■



We would like to thank the Provincial Health Services Authority for their financial support of our AIDS and Disability Action Program.



BCCPD says farewell to long-time Executive Director

The BC Coalition of People with Disabilities' Board of Directors regrets to announce that our Executive Director, Margaret Birrell, has left the organization after more than 22 years of service.

Margaret has worked hard over the years to build the BCCPD into the organization it is today. She has played a leadership role in many community campaigns focused on ensuring the independence and dignity of people with disabilities. For example, under Margaret's guidance in the 1990s, the BCCPD formed the Ad Hoc Committee with the BC Association of Community Living and the Canadian Mental Health Association (BC Division). The Committee successfully advocated for changes to BC's definition of disability and the introduction of new legislation which would better serve the needs of the community.

More recently, Margaret's skills in advocacy and coalition-building resulted in the federal government's expansion of its compensation package to people who contracted Hepatitis C through tainted blood before 1986 and after 1990. And Metro Vancouver HandyDART users now have a more streamlined and efficient service thanks to Margaret's work with the Coalition of HandyDART Users.

Margaret has been a strong and respected advocate for disability rights. The Board would like to thank Margaret and wish her every success in her future endeavours. ■

your voice counts | become a member of bccpd

I accept your invitation to join the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities and enclose my membership fee of \$15* (groups and individuals). I am also sending along a tax-deductible donation of \$_____. (Donations over \$10 are tax deductible)

Please check the correct boxes:

- 1** New membership **or**
 Renewal
 Voting Member **or**
 Non-voting Member

Voting members are people with disabilities and self-help groups where at least 50% of members have a disability.

Name _____ **2**

Organization _____

Address _____

City/Prov _____ P Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

3 Please return your payment/donation with this form, to BCCPD, 204 - 456 W. Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5Y 1R3. You can also become a member online at www.bccpd.bc.ca. **We thank you for your support.**

* Some of you will notice our annual membership fee has increased from \$12 to \$15. This small increase will go toward managing the ever-increasing costs of our operations.

Improving Benefits Related to Car Accidents

BCCPD is advocating for long overdue change to the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia's (ICBC) benefits for people injured in car accidents. These benefits, known as Part 7 Accident Benefits, have rates and policies that are far out of step with today's costs. As a result, accident victims are often left without the services and financial supports they need to recover well and/or live with the effects of disability. We are working to change several ICBC policies around these benefits.

One of the main problems in Part 7 is the overall amount possible for rehabilitation and medical expenses. Whether or not an injured person is found to be responsible for a car accident, ICBC will cover up to \$150,000 in rehabilitation services and medical expenses.

This amount, last increased in 1990, does not come close to meeting today's costs of living with a disability. For example, a conservative estimate of the cost of equipment, attendant care and user fees alone for a spinal cord injury in the first year is approximately \$185,000 – \$35,000 over the Part 7 maximum.

An increase in rehabilitation benefits is the most important change we are seeking, but there are several others. Here is the complete list of BCCPD recommendations.

Summary of Recommendations

- Increase rehabilitation benefits to at least \$300,000.
- Institute a mandatory review of rehabilitation benefits with disability community groups every 5 years.
- Increase wage benefits to 75% of a person's weekly income to a maximum of \$413 per week to reflect the standard of compensation due to injury set by the government of Canada.
- Increase funeral benefits to \$4,000 to cover the basic cost of a funeral in British Columbia.
- Extend homemaker benefits to family members, regardless of residence.
- Increase homemaker's benefits to \$225 per week or 50% of the cost of professional care services.
- When an ICBC adjustor approves or declines a request for services or equipment, they must provide the person requesting the service with a letter outlining the reasons for the decision.

- ICBC management should consult with disability organizations to better understand the equipment and service needs of people injured through accidents and the positive impacts that provision of these needs will have in clients' lives.
- ICBC's claimant evaluation team must include medical or rehabilitation professionals.
- ICBC management partner with disability groups to ensure claimants are properly evaluated and diagnosed.
- ICBC add psychological services to the services covered by Accident Benefits. ■

Our thanks to

The City of Vancouver for their financial support with the rent for our office space and with our Membership and Outreach Coordination.



We couldn't do it without you

Thank you to the following organizations, companies and government departments who support BCCPD's work on behalf of people with disabilities.

BC Association for Individualized Technology and Supports for People with Disabilities

BC Government and Service Employees Union

BC Hydro Employees Community Services Fund Committee

BC Medical Services Foundation

BC Ministry of Housing and Social Development

BC Nurses' Union

BC Paraplegic Foundation

BC Rehab Foundation

Centre for Emergency Preparedness, Public Health Agency of Canada

Coalition Against No-Fault in BC

City of Vancouver

CKNW Orphans' Fund

Emergency Management Division, BC Ministry of Health

Health Sciences Association of BC

Home Medical Equipment Dealers Association

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada: Homelessness Partnership Strategy

Kinsmen Foundation of BC and Yukon

The Kinette and Kinsmen Clubs of BC

The Law Foundation of British Columbia

Legal Services Society of British Columbia

Notary Foundation

Office of Disability Issues, Ministry of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

Province of British Columbia

Provincial Health Services Authority

Royal Bank of Canada (RBC Foundation)

Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association

Status of Women Canada

TELUS (Charitable Giving Program)

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

United Way of the Lower Mainland

Vancity

Vancouver Coastal Health

The Vancouver Foundation

Variety - The Children's Charity of BC

Workers Compensation Board of Nova Scotia

WorkSafe BC

Rolling Dog Ranch Animal Sanctuary

Steve Smith and Alayne Marker founded Rolling Dog Ranch Animal Sanctuary on 160 acres of open grassland in Montana in December 2000. The couple dreamed of creating a sanctuary for disabled animals—those who are least likely to be adopted and most likely to be euthanized.

According to Steve and Alayne, “We named the ranch the ‘Rolling Dog’ because our dogs love to roll around on their backs in the sagebrush and grass-covered meadows on the property. We’ll have as many as four dogs at a time rolling around upside down, feet straight up in the air, scratching their backs in the fields.”

The sanctuary currently has about 70 residents—dogs, cats, and horses—and about two-thirds of them are blind.

Steve and Alayne describe their facilities as an “open, ‘home-style’ environment... We don’t have kennels or runs. The dogs live in full-size, heated and insulated cottages that range in size from 200 square feet up to 1,000 square feet.” During the day, the dogs play in a fully fenced ‘dog paddock’ that is up to 2 acres in size.

The cats live in the 300 square foot “Hoedad’s House,” named after a starving kitten Steve rescued and brought back to the US from Sri Lanka. Hoedad’s House is heated and insulated, and has windows on four sides. The resident cats spend time outside in an enclosed “jungle” when not basking indoors in the sunshine.

Rolling Dog Ranch is also home to 25 horses, most of whom are blind. A few have other disabilities, such as Wobbler syndrome, a severe swayback condition. They spend their days in the acres of pasture and during winter are brought into the corrals and barns.

The ranch has an online gift store at their website and gratefully accepts donations to help with the cost of running the sanctuary. You can also subscribe to their heartwarming newsletter or read issues online. Recent newsletters include stories about Tibby and Fibby, two kittens born without bones in their back legs. Smokey and Charlie are young Whippet mixes from a shelter in Ohio. They have a neurological condition called cerebellar hypoplasia which causes them to wobble. They’ve recently been fitted for wheelchairs and according to the Sanctuary newsletter story, “As soon

as the snow melts, these boys will really be able to cruise!”

Creighton, the Lab pup pictured here, was four months old when he came from a rescue group in Mississippi. He was not only blind, but his eyes were bulging and extremely painful due to ulcers. After visiting the sanctuary’s vet, it was confirmed that the only way to eliminate the pain in Creighton’s eyes was to remove them. Only a week after his surgery, Steve and Alayne received an email from a couple who wanted to adopt him. They already had two blind chocolate Labs and wanted to add to the family. At last report, Creighton had “mastered the stairs, made his first unofficial therapy visit and is now playing fetch with tennis balls.”

For more about Rolling Dog Ranch Animal Sanctuary (including gift shop, blog, and videos), visit www.rollingdogranch.org. ■



OUR PROGRAMS

The Busiest Program in Town

Advocacy Access BY JANE DYSON

As anyone who has visited or phoned our office will know, the BCCPD's Advocacy Access program is always busy.

Our advocates' main job is an important one: to assist people with provincial and federal disability benefits applications and appeals. Our advocates work with clients on provincial Persons with Disabilities and Persons with Persistent and Multiple Barriers benefits, and the Canada Pension Plan Disability pension. We work closely with our community partner, the BC Rehab Foundation, to help clients access mobility equipment and devices. We also help clients to complete their BC Housing applications, provide information

and referral on issues related to disability benefits and supports, and help people to access health goods and services.

We have nine advocates on the Advocacy Access team: Liz Davis, Ginger Richards, Annette Murray, Lillian Wong, Ken Walker, Amanda Malitsky, Peter Beaudin, Ashley Silcock, and Robin Loxton and me, who are Co-Directors.

We have excellent administrative support and volunteer coordination thanks to Janis Walsh, and skilled- phone-answering by Dan McKenzie, Chloe Krause and Violet Puskas. We could not do it without them. Our program is also very fortunate to have the invaluable input of our supervising lawyer,

We see first-hand the practical impact that the rules have on our clients' lives: on their ability to access income supports and their accompanying health benefits.

Bibhas Vaze, who meets with the advocates every week to discuss their cases and give them advice.

Our work on the "front-line" means that we have to be very familiar with all the nuances of disability benefits legislation, regulations and policy. Rules can be difficult to understand, have certain meanings that may not be obvious to clients and hidden "pitfalls" that can shut out people who are entitled to benefits.

We see first-hand the practical impact that the rules have on our clients' lives: on their ability to access income supports and their accompanying health benefits. So, we can communicate our observations to the Ministry of Housing and Social Development (MHSD) in the hope that amendments can be made to better meet our clients' needs. For example, the Ministry has improved the appeal information it provides to clients who have been denied at application. This change resulted from a Ministry-stakeholder consultation process on appeals that we participated in. We were able to



communicate what we are seeing in the field to the Ministry. There has also been some increased flexibility with respect to the timelines on the submission of Reconsiderations, thanks to our efforts and that of other stakeholders.

We regularly receive requests for assistance with legal issues that are outside the scope of our expertise. So, for a few years, we have been offering two *pro bono* legal clinics a week attended by lawyers who help clients with

legal issues. We facilitate these clinics in partnership with the Western Society to Access Justice. We are also fortunate to have a registered social worker who attends our office at least once a week to help clients with Section 3 of the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) application form.

Advocacy Access is very well known in the community and, as new programs are announced or amended, we are often the first place people call. For example, the

newly implemented Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) has resulted in an influx of enquires about the application process and the Disability Tax Credit (DTC)—one of the conditions of eligibility for the RDSP.

It's true that our work is challenging as we see members of our community working so hard to get the supports they need. However, we all feel honoured to assist the disability community in the way we do at Advocacy Access. ■

What will be your legacy?

Be part of ours.

We are working toward our legacy, too. It's a legacy for people with disabilities living in all corners of BC and it includes:

- dignity and independence
- income security
- full citizenship and participation in the communities where we live
- improving our communities to make inclusion a reality—through social change, education, transportation, accessible buildings and more

For information on bequests and other forms of giving, please contact Sam Bradd
tel 604-875-0188
email sam@bccpd.bc.ca
or fax 604-875-9227.
Learn more about us at
www.bccpd.bc.ca.



BC COALITION of
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Provincial Election

X May 12, 2009

For general and disability-specific information on voting in BC's provincial election, please go to Elections BC's website at <http://www.elections.bc.ca>.

The site includes a video on voting and polling station information for people with a disability. The video does not have closed captioning, but does provide a phone number at the end to call if you want more information.

Go to: <http://www.elections.bc.ca/index.php/voting/voters-with-disabilities>.

Another helpful link is located on the ASIC website (Access for Sighted Impaired Consumers). It has written information describing how people with disabilities can vote. The page can be used with screen readers.

Go to: <http://www.asic.bc.ca/releases/ElectionBCPrepares.shtml>.

Meet the Pres

BY Jo DUNAWAY

No one is more surprised than Al Hanet about the role that sports has come to play in his life.

"I was never an athletic child or teenager," says Al. "It wasn't until after I was declared legally blind in 1987 that I discovered lawn bowling. I loved it! And I couldn't believe that I was winning trophies!"

In fact, just two years after he took up the sport, Al won the Gold Medal in the 1989 BC Lawn Bowling Championships. Since then he has competed in World Bowls Championships in Scotland and twice in South Africa, as well as the Paralympics in England, and the Commonwealth Games in Victoria. In April, he will be travelling with 24 other lawn bowlers from across Canada to compete in Australia.

At 73, Al keeps in shape for competitions with a regular fitness program and lots of walking. He is still as excited about lawn bowling as when he first got involved. "It is a game of strategy and precision. A game can be won or lost by a millimetre. The mental part is very important. My brain trains my arm how fast or hard to throw—my hand goes where my brain tells it. I find that exciting!"

Lawn bowling is like curling: the thrown object is to come as close as possible to a target. Each blind bowler brings a spotter who describes "the lay of the land"—the openings, distances and direction. Al's wife spots for him in competitions and they enjoy travelling together to the events.



"I was never an athletic child or teenager," says Al. "It wasn't until after I was declared legally blind in 1987 that I discovered lawn bowling. I loved it!"

Al has been on the Board of BC Blind Sports and has returned to the executive of the Canadian Council of the Blind where he is working on creation of an Okanagan Chapter.

Al credits the BCCPD with broadening his knowledge about the disability community.

"I knew what it was like to be blind, but I didn't have any idea what it was like to have another disability. What I have learned by being on the BCCPD Board I have been able to take back to my own community. This is the best organization I have ever been involved with."

Al has been on the BCCPD Board for eight years and is currently in his second term as President. ■

Imagine the Possibilities...

Fraser Health Acquired Brain Injury Program



fraserhealth

Better health. Best in health care.

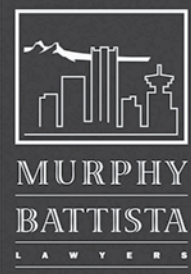
The **Fraser Health** region includes 12 acute care hospitals, a tertiary teaching centre and extensive community-based residential, home health, mental health, and public health services....all integrated into a seamless continuum of care.

We are developing a rehabilitation team to provide assessment and treatment for individuals with **Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)**. We are looking for experienced and skilled health care practitioners who can assist us develop and deliver a high quality service. We invite your application for these opportunities.

- Occupational Therapists (Postings #45049 & #41406)
- Physiotherapist (Posting #47724)
- Speech Language Pathologist (Posting #39805)

Contact | Jerry Stanger, Director, ABIP 604.520.4175 x 5858 | Website: www.fraserhealth.ca
Email: recruitment@fraserhealth.ca | Telephone: 604.953.5115 x 69031 | Toll Free: 1-866-837-7099

Getting Your Life Back. Specializing in Personal Injury.



Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Medical Negligence Catastrophic Injury Death Claims

We handle personal injury claims all over the province and represent clients all over the world with an enviable record of success. We offer percentage or hourly fees and handle all legal expenses. Flexible appointment times and location. Come meet us then decide. Languages spoken: English, Italian, Cantonese, French, Serbo-Croatian Tagalog and Irish!

www.murphybattista.com

Tel: 604-683-9621 • Toll-Free: 1-888-683-9621 • Fax: 604-683-5084

Joseph E. Murphy, Q.C.
Giuseppe Battista
J. Scott Stanley

Wesley D. Mussio
Stephen E. Gibson
Brian R. Brooke

Derek M. Mah
Grace K. Chen

Irina Kordic
Angela Price-Stephens

2020-650 West Georgia Street
Box 11547, Vancouver, BC V6B 4N7
murphy@murphybattista.com

Personal Supports | Attendants

The Choices in Support for Independent Living (CSIL) Program was developed in 1994 with significant input from people with disabilities. There are currently over 700 people with disabilities receiving services through this program. CSIL provides its members individualized direct funding in order to manage their own personal attendant services. Thanks to the CSIL program people have the flexibility to manage their own needs and to fully participate in their communities.

However, the CSIL hourly rate has not increased in 10 years. It has not kept up with market rates, making it very difficult for CSIL employers to hire and maintain qualified staff. The Association of CSIL Employers (ACE) has been communicating with the Ministry of Health over the last 6 months, negotiating for parity with agency rates, but no resolution has been made thus far.

Here is an extract from a letter that one CSIL user and ACE member sent to his local Health Authority about this issue.

“ I’m writing this letter to you with the help of a computer. I am blind, unable to speak and can’t use my hands or body. But by moving my head from side to side, and touching sensors on each side, I am able

CSIL provides its members individualized direct funding in order to manage their own personal attendant services. Thanks to the CSIL program people have the flexibility to manage their own needs and to fully participate in their communities.

to tap out messages using Morse code. A computer records my coded taps and translates them into words. Without this technology I would be silenced.

I have juvenile diabetes and require insulin and blood testing around 8 times a day. I require my caregivers to learn how to read my lips as I spell out letters when not in my wheelchair hooked up to my computer. I need them to help me eat, drink, wash, manage my wash-room duties, dress and undress me, transfer me to and from my chair, as well as help me conduct my business and personal matters which requires good computer skills. I need around the clock care as I also need blood glucose management during the night and I often get stuck in my blankets or need temperature control when in bed.

I have very complicated needs, which traditional home support doesn’t work well for me, and I have just barely been managing to keep my caregivers with the current funding since if you work it out to an hourly wage over 24 hours, is less than \$8.00/hr. This wage hasn’t increased in

10 years, it actually has decreased 1.5 hrs per day of funding due to a change many years ago when I moved to a different health authority region. This has made it extremely challenging to sustain staff, which is why I ended up with no care in Vancouver last month, and found myself in the hospital which like I said doesn’t take care of my complicated needs very well. I was left in a hospital bed unable to communicate my needs to them for 2 days. This situation scared me and left me with very limited options.

I am very grateful for the CSIL program, as without it I wouldn’t be able to have a life in a mutually enriching community such as the one I am trying to succeed with living in. I want to give back to my community, continue to share my story with all the children on the island as well as across the nation so that they may get a chance at life. ”

BCCPD will continue to support the Association of CSIL Employers as they advocate for parity in the CSIL hourly rate and other changes to the CSIL program that will enable more British Columbians with disabilities to use this crucial program successfully. ■

Twenty-five Years of Volunteer Service

BY Jo DUNAWAY

If anyone can be said to be a BCCPD old-timer, it is George Lawson. "September 16, 1984—that's when I started volunteering at the BCCPD," remembers George. "The organization was in one little room at the First United Church in the 300 block East Hastings. That was two years before we moved to this building."

George volunteers four days a week working at the reception desk, clipping newspaper articles and monitoring radio broadcasts for news that concerns the disability community.

"I'd love to have a regular job," says George. "I'd love to have a paycheque and pay taxes. But nobody has hired me or the jobs wouldn't last. So this way, at least I'm contributing."

George has struggled with health issues, including weight problems, most of his life. Recently, a degenerative back condition has put his part time studies through the Open Learning University on hold. But George says he will return to pursue a degree in American History.

"You know how kids who are different are usually treated as if they are stupid? I really want to prove to myself that I can do this."

George's interest in history and politics runs deep. He volunteers to work in every election—federal, provincial and municipal—and for the last four years has represented his Mount Pleasant riding on the NDP Provincial

Council. "It makes me very sad that some people don't even bother to vote," he says.

A few years ago, George's life took a surprising turn. "Maybe we're all entitled to one miracle," says George.

"Ghia is my miracle. It was the day that George W. Bush was elected and I was really depressed. Ghia was volunteering at the BCCPD office and one day she took me to lunch to cheer me up." Many long talks, walks and movies later, they were married. "I was in my fifties and I never thought I'd ever get married. We took a long



time to be really sure. We've been married four and a half years now and we work hard at making it work. If it's important, it's worth working hard." ■

Disability Parking – More Spaces, Better Access



The City is adding more disability parking spaces on our streets every year.

Look for designated disability parking zones and marked meter spaces in busy areas and commercial districts. Any vehicles displaying a permit for people with disabilities (SPARC placard or recognized equivalent) may use them.

For a map of current locations, visit: vancouver.ca/parking

Parking exemptions that allow extended time in loading, passenger, residential and no-parking zones are also available for vehicles with permits.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 604.871.6154
paul.pittman@vancouver.ca

vancouver.ca



Faster than a Speeding Bullet

BY Jo DUNAWAY

Robert Ponto describes himself as “a fixture at the BCCPD.” Although legally blind, he couriers envelopes and packages around the city three days a week.

“It just sort of happened,” says Robert. “It was something BCCPD needed that I could do. I like being out and around rather than just in the office.”



“When I was a kid, I was always asking ‘How does it work?’ Now, with the computer I can look up everything that I want to know.”

But, he will be glad when the obstacle course created by Canada Line construction near the BCCPD office at Cambie and Broadway is finally gone.

A few years ago, Robert took a year away from BCCPD to take a computer technology course sponsored by the federal Innovations Canada at the Port Coquitlam campus of Douglas College. “It sounded really promising—we were told that it would help us find a job. We were supposed to get computers, but I ended up buying my own and, after our practicum, there weren’t any jobs. The program was a one-shot thing. And I came back to BCCPD.”

However, he feels he has benefited greatly from becoming a computer user. “When I was a kid, I was always asking ‘How does it work?’ Now, with the computer I can look up everything that I want to know. I remember my Dad always wondered why his hydro bills were so expensive at his laundry and dry cleaning business. I wish he were still alive and I could tell him that I looked it up and can explain about the power his equipment used.”

Robert also appreciates that the Internet allows him to get his news from a variety of sources, one of his favourite being the online BBC World Service. ■

In memoriam

Helen Connolly
1934–2008



Long-time
mental health
advocate,

Helen Connolly passed away in December. Helen became an advocate when her son was diagnosed with schizophrenia. She helped found the Riverview Family Group which continues to meet.

Some new mental health facilities are modelled on Connolly Lodge, a residence on the Riverview grounds that was named after Helen in honour of her advocacy work.

“You have to have a positive attitude while talking about negative things. After all, if you’re not going to talk about negative things why are you there? But you have to go about it in a way that doesn’t leave people feeling defeated. And you have to listen. That is so important! Actually listen to what someone is saying before you decide what they need. You have to sense where a person is on their particular journey.” ~ Helen Connolly

Alayne Keough
1946–2009

We were also saddened to hear of the recent death of Alayne Keough. Alayne had been a friend of BCCPD and community advocate for many years. Our thoughts are with her family and friends.

Time to Enact a Wrongful Death Act

With 2009 well underway, it would be a massive understatement to say that the time has come for British Columbia to enact a Wrongful Death Act. BCCPD, along with other community partners, are continuing to advocate for a new one—to replace the current law that has existed for 162 years.

Though times have changed, citizens and families continue to suffer from a sad and frustrating reality. British Columbians do not have a proper legal remedy for families to seek justice after their loved ones have died due to the wrongful actions of others. This has been the situation for far too many families, despite proof of medical negligence, impaired driving or other forms of recklessness.

BCCPD and our partners have been leading the call for change, an effort that has been constant since 2005 and continues to build momentum. More than 100 other organizations have signed on in support of this cause.

Why does BC need a new Act?

New legislation is needed because the current Family Compensation Act (modelled after Lord Campbell's Act of 1846) fails to recognize any kind of loss other than direct financial impacts. This makes justice and real compensation particularly hard for people

with disabilities, seniors and other citizens who do not have a regular salary or income.

The goal is to have a Wrongful Death Act that enables family members to seek compensation for bereavement, anguish and stress, as well as for their loss of companionship, comfort, love and affection. The law should also allow citizens to be compensated if they have lost guidance, protection and care.

BCCPD's partners on this campaign are the Trial Lawyers Association of BC, the Coalition Against No-Fault and the Wrongful Death Law Reform Group. The latter is an organization of representatives from families who have suffered added harm due to the failings of the Family Compensation Act.

To read the story of the Pereira family and others, visit our website at www.bccpd.bc.ca, under Community Campaigns. ■



"The law definitely needs to be changed. You can't imagine how much more grief this causes families who are already grieving. Our questions remain: how is it possible for someone to go in for a perfectly 'routine' procedure and end up dead? Worse yet, why is no accountability required? What does this say about our society and the current system which we have in place?" ~ Bea Pereira, whose mother died after medical complications

OUR PROGRAMS

The Voice of BCCPD

One of BCCPD's longest running programs is *Transition!* For a few decades now, *Transition* has been the public voice of BCCPD, shining the light on disability topics—from the radical to the everyday.

We use these pages to take an in-depth look at a current issue, inform our readers and often ask for your support in campaigns to improve services and programs available to people who have a disability.

All of us at *Transition* enjoy working on the magazine and with the many contributors and colleagues in the community who add their expertise to our content. We'd like to give a special thank you to our mailout team who manage this huge job.

We are open to ideas for themes, articles and also welcome letters to the editor, and unsolicited articles or creative work by people with disabilities. Keep in touch with us; we love to hear from our readers. ■



An early morning start for our dedicated team of volunteers seen here getting ready to begin the mailout process for *Transition* magazine. From left to right, Debbie Brkich, Florence Corbett, Janis Walsh, Audrey Spry, Marie Lands and Kam Chung.

The Hostess with the Mostess

BY Jo DUNAWAY



If you call the BCCPD, chances are you will be greeted by Florence Corbett's cheerful voice. Florence has been a volunteer at BCCPD for the past 11 years. Three days a week she is at the reception desk greeting visitors and answering the phones. One day a week, she is, in her words, "The Hostess With the Mostess" at Planet Bingo, one of BCCPD's sources of revenue.

An "Army brat," born in Three Rivers, Quebec, Florence attended school in almost every province. "It wasn't that great," she remembers. "Always moving, leaving friends and starting at a new school."

After raising four children—"that's a full-time job"—Florence began volunteering and was joined by her husband Jim after his retirement. Jim was well-known at BCCPD for his ability to maintain and fix things, and

never saying "no" when something needed to get done. Sadly, Jim died recently.

"We were married 25 years," says Florence. "We did a lot of things together like our volunteer work and we gardened and took road trips to see family."

Jim also volunteered at Bingo with Florence, where it's the interaction with people that attracts her. She admits she is not lucky at the game itself. "I set myself a \$20 limit. If I win anything at all, I get all excited!"

At 69, Florence has no intention of cutting back or leaving what she considers her "extended family" at BCCPD.

"I don't want to just sit at home and watch soap operas. I know everyone here and there's always something happening. I'm here to stay!" ■



Community news

Zajac Ranch



The Zajac Ranch for Children family camps provide a therapeutic camping experience for the entire family. Our family camps are inclu-

sive to various medical needs and ages, and aim to foster empowerment, social networks and fun! We encourage the whole family to partake in activities and feel like a kid at summer camp while they are here.

This upcoming summer, we are excited to announce that we are expecting the highest number of campers at Zajac Ranch for Children. To meet the needs and the expectations of our campers, we are reaching out to you more than ever, to come out and spend some of your valuable time with us this summer.

To secure your spot on our summer roster, please fill out a volunteer application at <http://www.zajacranch.com/employment-volunteers.htm> and send it in.

For information on volunteering or any other inquires about our ranch and programs, please refer to our website: www.zajacranch.com. And look for upcoming information on our Fall 2009 Family Camp.

OUR ISSUES

Community Responses in Emergencies

The BCCPD continues its Emergency Preparedness Project on many fronts. We are:

- Providing presentations on the needs of people with disabilities during emergencies at the Emergency Social Services Association (ESSA) regional seminars
- Coordinating an Emergency Planning Medical Needs Task Force and working with health officials to address the following during emergencies: medical needs; replacement of medications; replacement/loan of medical equipment and supplies, and assistive devices.
- Developing recommendations for municipalities, transit authorities, BC Housing, and individuals based on the stories we collected of people with disabilities' experiences during the December 2008 snow storms in the Lower Mainland and Southern Vancouver Island.
- Hosting a one-day event in March 2009 on Pandemic Preparedness and the role of community in educating the disability community on pandemic influenza.

For more information on BCCPD's work around emergency preparedness, please visit our website or contact Karen at 604-875-0188 or karen@bccpd.bc.ca.



BC Coalition of People with Disabilities,
Suite 204, 456 West Broadway, Vancouver BC V5Y 1R3
(604) 875-0188 • fax (604) 875-9227 • tty (604) 875-8835
trans@bccpd.bc.ca • www.bccpd.bc.ca

BCCPD would like to thank our funders for their ongoing support of our work in the disability community.

BC Paraplegic Association

BC Rehab Foundation

City of Vancouver

Centre for Emergency Preparedness,
Public Health Agency of Canada

Emergency Management Division,
BC Ministry of Health

Homelessness Partnering Strategy,
Ministry of Human Resources and
Social Development Canada

Law Foundation of BC

Legal Services Society of BC

Ministry of Housing and Social
Development

Office of Disability Issues,
Ministry of Human Resources and
Social Development Canada

Province of British Columbia

Provincial Health Services Authority

BC Association for Individualized
Technology and Supports for
People with Disabilities

Vancouver Coastal Health Authority

Vancouver Foundation

WorkSafe BC