

The

INCLUSION NEWS

**HAPPY
MOVEMBER**
*KEEP 'EM
GROWING!*

One huge step backwards

Wednesday, October 5, 2016, the Government of BC announced \$1 million to fund a total of 15 Special Education Schools (SES) throughout the province. "This funding announcement sends a dangerous message that students with special needs belong elsewhere and cannot be supported in their neighborhood school," said Faith Bodnar, Executive Director of Inclusion BC. I believe this change from the BC government to be immoral, disrespectful and a slap to the history that persons with diverseabilities have been creating in our push for new opportunities and success for all. Here is the link to the full article: <http://www.inclusionbc.org/press-room/whats-new/government-announces-massive-step-backwards-inclusive-education-investing-1-mil>

Community Living Month

This past month was Community Living Month. As the Self Advocate Liaison and as a community member living in the Comox Valley I am thankful to be a part of such an inclusive community. In the next few months going into the New Year, I will be working on ensuring the bigger businesses in town are up to date on Inclusive hiring practices as well as ensuring that the businesses and community support services in CLBC work towards more People with Diverseabilities being hired. I believe it's important that all Community services under the CLBC banner work towards ensuring this success. I am looking forward to 2017 becoming one of the greatest years in this regard. Community Living month is a time of acknowledging every branch of CLBC as well as it's service providers and Persons with Diverseabilities. I can't wait to celebrate Community Living month for 2017.

V.I.S.A. Caf-eh

Along with Community Living Month in October, September is the start of a new school year. For myself as a Self Advocate for People with Diverseabilities I am looking forward to a fresh start. What do I mean by this you may ask? I am hoping that this year of 2016 going into 2017 brings the best possible supports and services for schooling students as well as Community Living BC and each Community Support Service to bring their A game. The reason I am choosing to address this and include it in this newsletter is because I believe that opportunities to increase services and chances for people along with the best support, service & employment is never ending. Speaking from the success I have had and continue to be afforded, I want to see Persons with Diverseabilities to have the same chance. That way we can truly say as a community that we believe in our future. The future is and has always been our young females and males. To have parents, siblings, friends & family support and acknowledge these topics, it will get the word out. Word of mouth starts full discussion to build on how to move forward. Being of First Nations heritage, I've always remembered this saying "It takes a community to raise a child" with this being said I hope to see brand new incentives for better community inclusion, job opportunity, honesty and respect.



This news letter was created by Public Speaker and Self-Advocate Sherwin Strong. If you would like any more information regarding these articles or would like to know more about inclusion within your community, please contact Sherwin at thesherwizzle2013@gmail.com

