

The

# INCLUSION NEWS



## September PWD Increase

Beginning September 1, 2016, everyone who has the Persons with Disabilities Designation will receive a \$25 monthly increase, and a \$52 transportation support allowance.

People with the Persons with Disabilities designation receiving assistance can choose to receive the transportation allowance in the form of a subsidized BC Bus Pass or on your assistance cheque.

It is important to note that we are also eliminating the \$45 bus pass administration fee and the need for an annual sign-up process.

For more information, visit the Bus Pass Program website at [www.gov.bc.ca/buspassprogram](http://www.gov.bc.ca/buspassprogram).

## Community Living Month

Next month is October. That means community living month. As a Self Advocate for the Comox Valley, I take great pride in being involved throughout the community during this time. In the past 2 years I have been fortunate to be involved with School District 71 presenting at Mark Isfeld, Vanier and North Island College. I always find these presentations to be my favorite every year. Being able to co-ordinate the presentations with Barb Legg makes the experience more wholesome as she presents on Community Living services and how to transition properly with least number of barriers. On the flip side, I discuss my transition from highschool into Community Living BC services and how I was able to gain employment through advocating both my wants and needs for the future with support from Doug Barr, Barb Legg & Lesley Gibson from Vancouver Island Community Connections with who I am currently employed with as of December 2013. Looking forward to October and all Community Services & Schools becoming involved.

## A Fresh Start

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 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](mailto:thesherwizzle2013@gmail.com)

