



Port Alberni Association for Community Living

PAACL NEWS

Community Inclusion

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Self Advocates Go Online: News from the BC Self-Advocacy Foundation

The BC Self Advocacy Foundation (BCSAF) has launched its new website. The website is in plain language and is full of videos and pictures telling the story of BCSAF and how they work.

The BC Self Advocacy Foundation was formed in 1985. Their purpose is to assist people with developmental disabilities to become full, participating citizens in their own communities.

The BCSAF is guided by a Board of Directors, and provides self advocates, their families, and advocacy groups with the skills and knowledge to become community leaders.

They provide plain language information on advocating for your rights, community workshops, and community grants and their work is supported through provincial government grants, fundraising efforts and donations from supporters.

An exciting development for the BCSAF is the announcement and launch of the [BC Self Advocacy Foundation website \(www.bcsaf.org/who-bc-self-advocacy-foundation\)](http://www.bcsaf.org/who-bc-self-advocacy-foundation). The website is in plain language and is full of videos and pictures telling the story of who the BCSAF is and how they work.

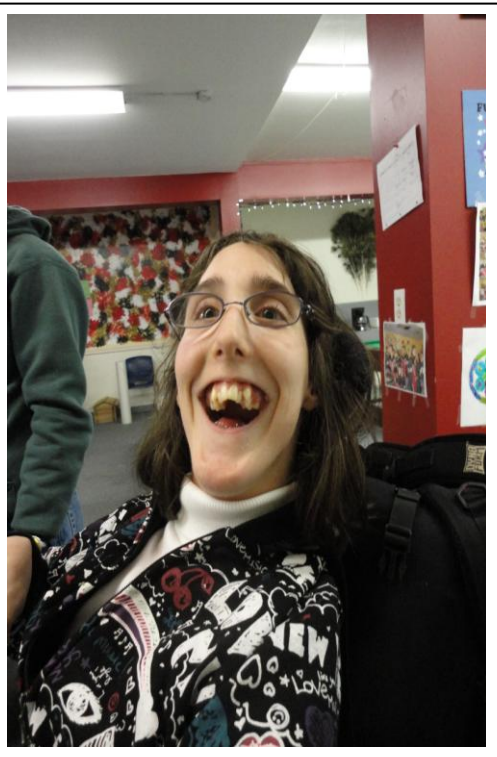
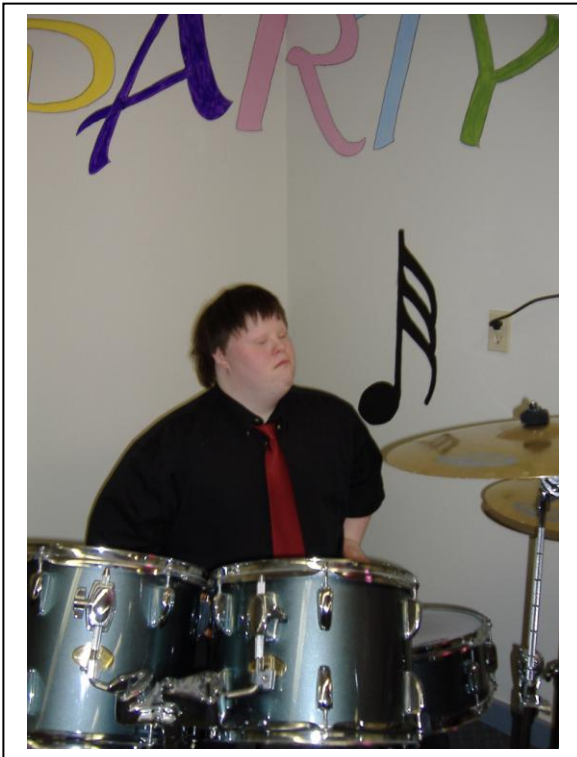
On March 11, 2010 the Government of Canada ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

This is an exciting advancement in the provision of rights people with developmental disabilities and the BCSAF wants to continue to raise awareness about human rights and start a conversation about how to make these rights real for everyone.

As part of the new website they will also be launching the No More Barriers blog. You might be asking yourself, what is a blog?

A blog is an interactive way to share stories online and get feedback from you, the readers. The No More Barriers blog is a way of getting the conversation started. It is very important that people with developmental disabilities are leading the conversation as the experts in their own lives. So over the next year if you go online to the blog you will get to know three amazing self advocate blog writers. Each will be sharing their life lessons and challenging you to look at the world a little bit differently.

BCSAF will also be featuring a guest blog writer once a month. The launch of the BCSAF website was on June 20th. And there is more to come. This fall they will embark on a provincial tour and introduce fun new ways to build this conversation on Facebook. The BCSAF believes we all hold a piece of our story and have a responsibility to write the next chapter together.



- PAACL SERVICES**
- Connections Day Program
 - Services for Community Living
 - Community Employment
 - Access Leisure Program
 - Pathways Club House
 - Self Advocates
 - Residential Support Services
 - Infant Development Program
 - Supported Child Development Program
 - Personal Supports Initiative



Our Self Advocate Board Members

PAACL would like to thank Allan Trenholme of Sovereign Computers for donating a computer to one of our participants who lost their home in the fire on Athol Street.

The Port Alberni Association for Community Living (PAACL) is a non-profit society that has supported adults with developmental disabilities in the Port Alberni area since 1957. Home Sharing is a living arrangement whereby an individual, couple, and/or family shares their home with an adult with a developmental disability and supports them in their daily lives. Home Sharing usually involves supporting one adult with a developmental disability but providers can support two (at maximum) in unique situations. PAACL is currently looking for caring, skilled, inclusive people to provide full time, respite, and emergency respite home sharing to adults with developmental disabilities who may have complex behavioural and/or personal care needs. As the people we support are diverse in lifestyle, age, and desires for living arrangements; we are looking for: Single Men, Single Women, Couples, Families, People from the Port Alberni Region, People with experience with challenging behaviours, Homes in all shapes and sizes (with or without suites), Wheelchair accessible homes, and People with experience performing personal care. For more information about Home Sharing, or how to apply; please contact Sharon MacDonald, PAACL Home Share Manager, at 250-724-7150 option 2, extension 1 .

"Did you know?"

Growing consumer Market

In Canada, the spending power of persons with disabilities is now estimated to be about \$25 billion. They also influence the spending decisions of friends and families and, in doing so, at least double their economic reach.

Companies that recognize the value of reflecting the characteristics of consumers within workplaces will reap the benefits in productivity and sales.

DuPont, a leader in employing persons with disabilities, has surveyed and documented its experiences over the past 30 years. Its findings have been consistent:

"Employees with disabilities are equivalent to DuPont's other employees in job performance, attendance and Safety."

COMING EVENTS