April 2026 Issue

Williams Lake Association for Community Living Newsletter

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Welcome to Our April Newsletter

Spring is a season of growth, renewal, and new opportunities, and here at the Williams Lake Association for Community Living, we are excited to embrace all that this season brings.

Over the past month, we have seen many meaningful moments across our programs, with individuals, staff, and volunteers coming together to build connections and support one another.

We continue to be inspired by our self-advocates, whose voices and leadership help shape our community. Their involvement, along with the dedication of our team and volunteers, creates a welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone can thrive.

We are also very grateful to our community supporters. Whether through attending events, participating in programs, or supporting fundraisers like our Purdy's campaign, your support makes a real difference.

As we move into the spring months, we look forward to continued growth, new opportunities, and spending time together as a community.

Thank you for being part of our journey.

SelfAdvocateNet

Our Voice. Our Strength

ARE YOU A SELF ADVOCATE?

The Self Advocate Net is a website created by self-advocates, for self -advocates and their supporters around the world. They share great stories and have useful information for all.

WLACL encourages all Self advocates to check out the website.

www.selfadvocatenet.com

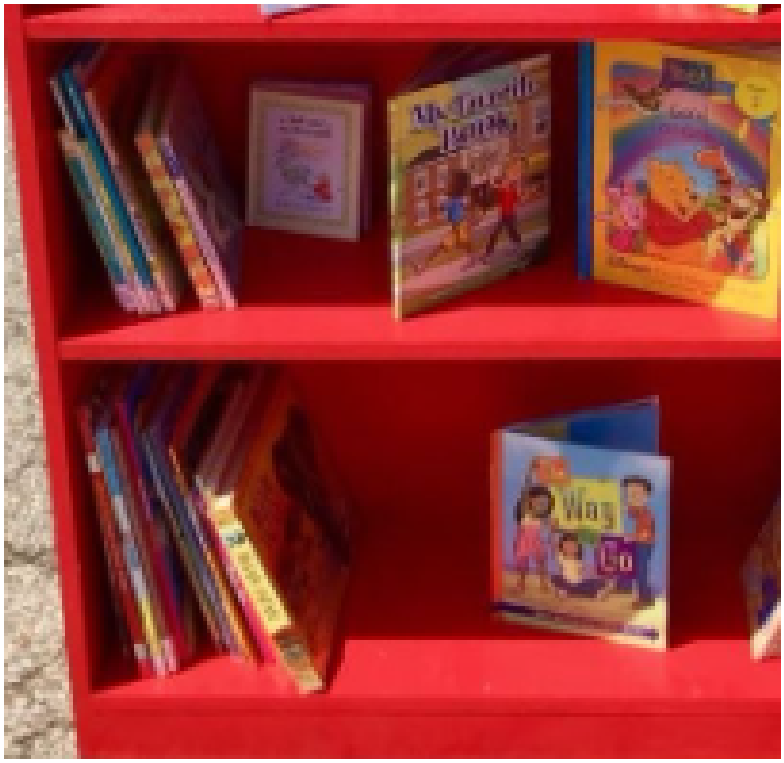
"Nothing about us without us!!"

For many people, finding a sense of belonging and connection to others in community can be challenging and often overwhelming. A new website is making that easier. myCommunity BC is an online tool that engages citizens to share and celebrate the places in their community that are inclusive, value diversity, and are welcoming of everyone.

Findsupportbc.com/map/

The My Community BC website, is available in desktop and mobile versions. It helps people find and share inclusive, accessible places in their communities.

Red Book Shelf Volunteers



Behind every book is a story—and a helping hand. Individuals we support proudly volunteer their time to clean and prepare books for distribution throughout the community.

Through this meaningful work, they build skills, confidence, and a sense of
pride, while promoting inclusion and creating stronger connections within our community.

The Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy has the Bright Red Bookshelf program that gives the gift of reading by sharing new and gently used children's books at no cost to families. The books are available at convenient locations around Williams Lake and 100 Mile House. More than 10,800 books are distributed by the Bright Red Bookshelf program annually!

Check them out in your community.

For more information
https://www.caribooliteracy.com/bright-red-

> *"Behind every book is a story—and a helping hand."*

A Message From Executive Director

By Tammy Fisher

Spring has arrived, and with it comes a sense of renewal and possibility. I hope you are all beginning to look ahead to the summer months and the opportunities that come with the changing season.

Over the past months, we have experienced a number of changes within WLACL. Change can sometimes feel challenging, but it can also bring growth and new opportunities. I want to acknowledge and thank the many employees who have embraced these changes with openness, professionalism, and dedication. Your willingness to adapt and continue providing quality support to the individuals we serve does not go unnoticed.

As we continue to move forward, I am excited about the direction our programming and services are heading. One of the areas I am particularly hopeful about is the potential expansion of our services, including the possibility of developing cluster living opportunities in the near future.

Expanding the ways we support individuals in our community is an important step toward strengthening the services we provide and ensuring people have access to the supports that best meet their needs.

I also want to recognize the incredible work being done across the organization. The commitment shown by our employees, our administrative team, and our Board of Directors is truly appreciated. It is through this collective effort that WLACL continues to grow and evolve.

I am very optimistic about the future and the direction we are heading. With the dedication and passion within our organization, I believe there are many positive things ahead for WLACL and the people we serve.

Thank you for the work you do every day.

Executive Director

Important Date or Events

What: Community Council Open House
When: April 21st 2026 3-5pm
Where: Opportunity Center
Information : See page 6

Fundraisers- Helping to Support Self Advocates

Fundraising Ideas Wanted!

The WLACL Self Advocates group is looking for creative fundraising ideas—and we want to hear from you!
Fundraising plays an important role in supporting our program. It helps make it possible for self advocates to travel across BC to attend conferences and meetings. These opportunities allow members to connect with others, share their voices, and build a stronger sense of inclusion and community.
If you have any fundraising ideas, big or small, please let us know. Your input can help create more opportunities for self advocates to learn, grow, and be heard. Together, we can make a difference!

WLACL Self Advocates
Thank you, to our
Easter Purdy's
fundraiser supporters,
we raised $172.75 in
donation,
with sales over $600

Thompson Cariboo Community Council

COMMUNITY LIVING BRITISH COLUMBIA

You're Invited to an Open House

April 21st 2026 , 3:00–5:00 PM
WLACL Opportunity Centre
203 N 5th Ave Williams Lake BC

Join us to meet new people and learn about CLBC'S Community Council

What is a CLBC Community Council?

A CLBC Community Council is a group of self-advocates, family members, and community partners dedicated to creating inclusive and accessible communities for people with developmental disabilities.

- Councils meet each month to share resources, exchange information, promote cultural awareness, host workshops and inclusive events.
- Councils play a key role in CLBC's governance, working to achieve community inclusion and full citizenship.
- The CLBC Board of Directors appoints one member from each Council to serve on the CLBC Provincial Advisory Committee.

“Building Belonging: Creating Inclusive Communities Where Everyone Thrives”

Community Inclusion Matters

Community inclusion is more than simply being present—it is about belonging, being valued, and having meaningful opportunities to participate in all aspects of life. For people with diverse abilities, true inclusion opens doors that have too often been closed, allowing individuals to share their talents, build relationships, and contribute in ways that reflect their strengths and passions. When inclusion is real, it replaces isolation with connection, and barriers with possibilities. It affirms that every person, regardless of ability, has inherent worth and a vital role in the fabric of the community.

The impact of inclusive communities reaches far beyond individuals with diverse abilities—it transforms everyone. When we create spaces where differences are welcomed and supported, we foster empathy, creativity, and resilience. Communities become stronger, more innovative, and more compassionate because they are shaped by a wider range of perspectives and experiences. Inclusion challenges assumptions and inspires growth, helping all people feel seen, heard, and respected. It reminds us that diversity is not something to accommodate—it is something to celebrate.

Thriving as an inclusive community requires intentional action. It means removing physical, social, and attitudinal barriers. It means listening deeply to the voices of those who have been excluded and ensuring they are part of decision-making. It involves advocating for accessibility, practicing kindness, and choosing to see ability before limitation. Each of us has a role to play—whether by creating welcoming environments, speaking up against exclusion, or simply reaching out with openness and respect. Inclusion is not a one-time effort; it is a continuous commitment to building a community where everyone truly belongs

When everyone is included, everyone wins.

Heartfelt Thanks to Our Community Supporters

We extend our sincere gratitude to the incredible community businesses and members who have generously donated to our programs. Your kindness and commitment make a meaningful difference in the lives of the individuals we support every day. Because of you, we are able to create more opportunities, build inclusive spaces, and empower people of all abilities to thrive.

Your support is more than a donation—it is a reflection of a caring and compassionate community that believes in inclusion, connection, and possibility. We are truly thankful to stand alongside such dedicated partners and supporters

community supporters

Purdy's CHOCOLATIER

Taseko Gibraltar

Return-It It's Worth It.