ILNS Annual Report

June 2015

Photo Credit: Lynn Fleming

ILNS supports consumers (people with disabilities) to:

- Live their lives the way they want;
- Stay in control of decisions that affect them;
- Find the services and contacts they need;
- Get information that is useful and clear;
- Break through barriers that are in the way; and
- Develop their skills.

Independent-Living-Nova-Scotia

@ILNS2014

www.ilns.ca

independent living NOVA SCOTIA

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Our Team

Sherry Costa	Executive Director
Randy Reede	Information & Outreach Coordinator
Ria Steenweg	Accountant
Jennifer MacNeil	ACEE, Program Manager
Marian Bulley	ACEE, Career Exploration Facilitator
Lindsey MacDonald	Literacy Numeracy Facilitator, assigned to ACEE by Halifax Regional School Board
Carrie Ernst	ACEE, Job Developer
Lori Edgar	Assigned to ACEE by Affirmative Ventures
Nicole McDonald	Festival Coordinator
Stephanie MacWhirter	Fund Developer

ILNS moved from the Bloomfield Centre to the Bayers Road Shopping Centre. We are excited to be sharing our office space with Nova Scotia Interpreting Services and close to so many community partners!

Board Members

Julianne Acker-Verney	(2015)	
Mike Coady	(2014)	
Sarah Dubé	(2009)	
Steve Estey	(2007)	Retired 2015
Robert Ganong	(2011)	Retired 2015
Patricia (Pat) Gates	(2011)	Retired 2015
Louise Gillis	(2011)	
Karla Graves-Smith	(2015)	
Brian Hennen	(2006)	Retired 2015
Sheldon Higdon	(2014)	
Jeremy MacDonald	(2011)	
Lois Miller	(2012)	
Murray Vandewater	(2007)	Retired 2015
Jenna-Leigh Wilson	(2015)	

New ILNS Faces

Carrie Ernst, **ACEE Program – Job Developer** joined the Independent Living Nova Scotia staff in March 2015. Carrie holds a Bachelor of Commerce and certificates in Adult Education and Human Resource Management for Non Profits. Having worked in the career development field over almost 19 years has given her strong insight to the delivery of employment supports needed to fall in line with the ILNS philosophy for our clients. “I strongly believe in a system and structure that allows for excellence in a system that gives our youth the foundational skills that will carry forward in their lives today and believe that each and every one of us has the ability to achieve continuous improvement and independence. My life work has allowed me to work towards the principles of accountability and equitable opportunities and that we must embrace and accept diversity of each and every Nova Scotian.”

Stephanie MacWhirter has joined the Independent Living Nova Scotia team as the **Fund Developer.** She received a Bachelor degree in Public Relations from Mount Saint Vincent University in 1997. Since that time, she has worked for various organizations in the not-for-profit sector in Halifax and Ottawa. Stephanie’s roles have included both public relations and all forms of fundraising including special events, annual giving, major gifts, planned giving, donor stewardship, and everything in between. She specializes in conducting organizational audits and providing recommendations and plans to enhance all aspects of each organization for which she works. She is eager to lead ILNS in increasing its fundraising capacity. Stephanie sits on the board of her neighborhood homeowners association as well as the Nova Scotia Cultural Initiatives Society and in her spare time enjoys gardening, traveling with her husband, and spending quality time with family and friends.

Nancy Walker has joined Independent Living Nova Scotia to run the **Adolescent/Young Adult Autism Summer Program.** Nancy recognized the need for summer programming many years ago when her son Ben, who is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, did not have any meaningful summer opportunities. The original camp she started is now the Ben James Summer Camp run by Autism Nova Scotia. Ben still requires fun and meaningful interactions with others during the summer months, so she has continued to run a program for older individuals on the spectrum. Nancy currently works at the Dalhousie School of Physiotherapy and sits on a variety of committees, such as the Community Homes Action group and Autism Nova Scotia. She looks forward to the partnership with ILNS.

Nicole McDonald is very excited to have joined the Independent Living Nova Scotia team as the **Festival Coordinator** for the 2015 Art of Disability Festival. Nicole employs a workplace attendant, Takara Bond. Nicole is currently attending NSCC, enrolled in the social services program. She attended Acadia University to help implement the Axcess Acadia program. Nicole is determined to enhance the quality of life for persons who have disabilities by informing them about programs and services that are available, as well as creating programs and services for them. Nicole is also determined to show people who do not have disabilities what those who have disabilities can achieve. Working as the Festival Coordinator allows Nicole to achieve her goal by organizing the festival and giving persons who have disabilities the opportunity to highlight their abilities.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Sherry Costa

In 2014 – 15, Independent Living Nova Scotia, ILNS, rose to the challenges presented to us. The move from the Bloomfield Centre to our new location at Bayers Road marked an historic milestone as we moved into an agreement to share space and services with our new partners, Nova Scotia Interpreting Services, NSIS. This partnership continues to lead to opportunities that never would have been realized had our organizations remained in separate locations. We're pleased to include a backgrounder on NSIS; Executive Director, Ann Cochran and dispatcher Angie Neary in this report. The cost-sharing between our organizations increases our capacity to deliver programs and services.

At almost 25%, Nova Scotia has the highest number of consumers in the country. Faced with growing demands, and as the only provincial Independent Living centre in Nova Scotia, we have a pivotal role in providing information, programs, and services. We are pleased with our progress to keep pace with the needs of our diverse and rapidly growing demographic.

ILNS was identified as the lead organization for the delivery of the Workplace Attendant Program, which builds on our established Self-managed Attendant Care programs. "Self-managers" as ILNS uses the term, refers to the process by which persons with a disability take on the responsibility and full decision-making about their attendant services.

We are happy that our 20+ years of experience in delivering Self-managed Attendant Care was recognized and to have been selected to provide this important new program in 2014-2015. This program provides persons with a disability with the workplace supports to have meaningful employment in line with their post-secondary education and augments the student self-management program ensuring that the investment in our youth continues beyond graduation.

We successfully implemented an integrated social media platform to engage consumers and supporters around the province and are now seeing the rewards of our efforts beginning to pay off with people in countries as far away as Britain, Russia, and Africa taking an interest in our organization. We've included our Social Media numbers later in this report.

As always, we continued to increase our service capacity by maximizing, and making efficient use of, the resources available to us. We maintained our record of strong fiscal management and continue to refine our financial reporting. While we accomplished much and continue to embrace new challenges within a system that is constantly evolving, there is still much to do.

Executive Director's Report

Guided by our end statements, our priorities for the near future are clear:

- Expand and enhance partnerships and alliances that add value to consumers' services and programs within the province;
- Improve consumer linkages to community resources and opportunities;
- Explore partnership opportunities to expand the ACEE Program provincially;
- Source a new, permanent location for ACEE in Halifax;
- Establish capacity for data-driven planning and decision making;
- Increase fund development initiatives; and
- Raise the public profile of Independent Living Nova Scotia.

Clearly, our greatest challenge is to develop new revenue streams. To this end, ILNS hired a Fund Developer to provide leadership in this area.

On the horizon, ILNS will begin the accreditation process for Imagine Canada's Standards Program. This Program, launched in 2012, includes the fundraising and financial-accountability standards as well as standards on board governance, staff management and volunteer involvement. The non-profit sector has embraced the Standards Program that takes about 12 months to become accredited. However, as a member of Imagine Canada's Ethical Code Program, ILNS already has many of these requirements in place. In going through the accreditation process it will allow us to identify gaps and further reduce organizational risk. Other benefits include more effective board governance, increased public trust and an improved ability to manage change. We are optimistic in this transformational journey.

2014 – 15 also marked changes at the board level with Dr. Brian Hennen stepping down as co-chair after serving on the board since 2006. Co-chair and IL Canada representative, Jim Arnott stepped down earlier in 2014 after serving on the board since 2008. Thank you to both Brian and Jim for their dedication and commitment to ILNS. Changes continued at the board level as we welcomed Steve Estey and Sarah Dubé in their new roles as co-chairs while Sheldon Higdon, Mike Coady and Jenna-Leigh Wilson joined the board as new directors. As of the writing of this report, Murray Vandewater and Steve Estey will have completed three consecutive terms on the board and will be retiring as board members. Also stepping down are Robert Ganong and Pat Gates. It has been a privilege to work with you and you will be missed.

ILNS' most valuable asset is our staff—a wonderful team of professionals committed to providing exemplary service for our consumers. A huge thank you to our dedicated Board, volunteers, donors and staff.

Everyone at ILNS derives strength and motivation from the knowledge that we are supporting persons with a disability to make informed choices and to chart their own course.

Co-Chairs' Report

The co-chairs of the ILNSA Board report on the 2014-2015 year's activities.

At ILNSA, we support persons with disabilities to make informed choices about how they want to live their lives. We provide this support by offering programs and services that promote independent living.

Our Association is one of twenty-five Nationally accredited Independent Living Centres across Canada, and there are many more in the United States, Europe, Asia and Latin America—Independent Living is truly a global movement!

ILNS has relocated to new headquarters at 7071 Bayers Road, Halifax. The space is shared with Nova Scotia Interpreting Services, leading to shared costs and opportunities to be involved in new partnerships and networking.

ILNS members enjoyed the popular social programs such as the Christmas Gala, the Dance-a-thon, and the Summer Art Festival, again this year.

The Board's 22 November 2014 retreat considered **Fund Development** and **Advocacy**.

Fund Development

We are working towards wider provincial recognition and outreach. Website development, media contacts, regional partnerships and fund development are part of this.

A new fund development committee has been appointed, and the search for a fund development officer is under way.

Advocacy

Our commitment to self-advocacy remains firm. ILNS hopes to increase visibility in order to promote further awareness, and advocacy work.

The Board welcomes Michael Coady, Jenna-Leigh Wilson, Julianne Acker-Verny, and Karla Graves-Smith as new Directors.

The Board bids a fond farewell to Murray Vandewater and Steve Estey as they conclude their term of service on the Board. Patricia Gates and Robert Ganong are also retiring from the Board. You will all be missed!

Your Board continues to work on our members' behalf. Please advise as to how we can best serve your needs.

Thank you for the privilege of co-chairing your Board.

Sarah Dubé and Steve Estey

Co-chairs

Board of Independent Living Nova Scotia Association

Auditors Report for FY 2014-2015

Independent Living Nova Scotia

Treasurer's Report

Annual General Meeting

180615

Fiscal Year April 01 2014 to March 31 2015

Our Independent Auditor Mitchell Miller Incorporated prepared the financial statements based on an analysis of our accounting records.

Total assets were about $ 224,439. Cash and securities were approximately $ 213,506. HST recoverable was about $ 10,005. There was $ 83,527 in deferred income for projects for which we have received the funds but the projects are not completed. There was about $ 18,544 in Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities. Accounts Receivable was about $ 523.

Total revenue was about $ 804,443 and total expenses were about $ 773,044. There was a surplus of about $ 31,399. No other financial issues were identified. All accounts had been balanced and reconciled.

Our "wind up" reserve was increased by $23,000 out of surplus funds increasing it to $65,500. This increase was to recognize increased liability related to our employee termination requirements and lease obligations should we be unable to carry on. All payroll remittances to Revenue Canada are submitted through the payroll system and were up to date. All HST remittances have been made.

Respectfully submitted,

V.M. Vandewater, Treasurer

Nomination Committee Report

Report of the Nominating Committee
June, 2015

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, I am pleased to submit this report to the Annual General Meeting of Independent Living Nova Scotia Association.

First, we thank our retiring board executive members, Steve Estey, co-chair, and Murray Vandewater, treasurer. In accordance with our bylaws, Steve and Murray are retiring after completing the last year of four two-year terms. Steve and Murray have brought wisdom and a sense of vision to this organization, and we will miss their leadership.

Second, we thank retiring board members Robert Ganong and Pat Gates, both leaving the board after their second two-year terms. Robert and Pat have enriched our board decision-making by sharing their skill and life experience. We thank these four retiring board members and send best wishes for their future endeavours.

Third, the committee recommends these persons for election at this AGM:

- Sarah Dubé, going into the first year of her fourth term
- Louise Gillis and Jeremy MacDonald, going into the first year of their third terms
- Michael Coady, Jenna-Leigh Wilson, Julianne Acker-Verney and Karla Graves-Smith, who have been appointed by the board during the past year
- Allan Wands, who has recently applied to join the board

Lois Miller will continue in the second year of her second term, and Sheldon Higdon in the second year of his first term.

If you want to volunteer for the board, or know someone else who wants to volunteer, please contact Lois as the continuing member of the Nominating Committee: loisemiller45@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Estey
Lois Miller

AGM Agenda 2015

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

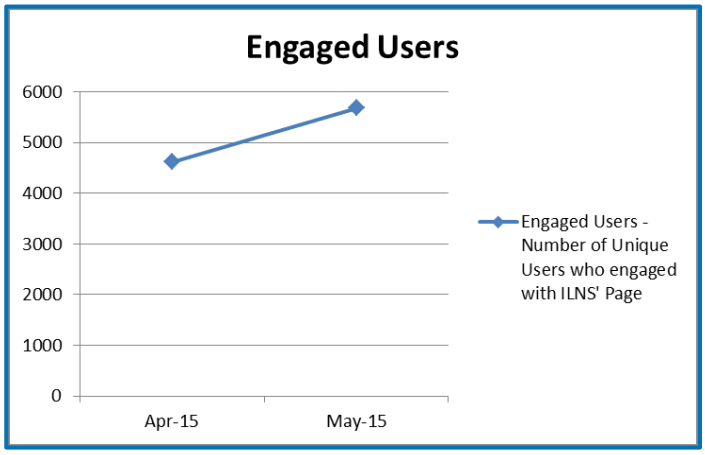
JUNE 18TH, 2015

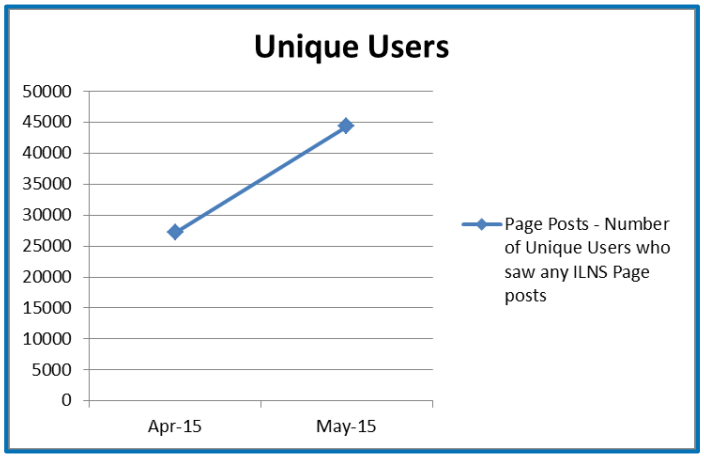
Independent Living Nova Scotia Association

BUSINESS MEETING

5:00 p.m.	Welcome: Sherry Costa Attendance; regrets
5:15 p.m.	Pizza is served
6:00 p.m.	Recognition of Outgoing Board Member – Murray Vandewater Recognition of Outgoing Board Member – Steve Estey Recognition of Outgoing Board Member – Pat Gates Recognition of Outgoing Board Member – Robert Ganong
6:15 p.m.	Call to order and approval of agenda
6:20 p.m.	Minutes of 2014 AGM – printed in annual report Errors and Omissions Business Arising from Minutes – None
6:25 p.m.	Auditor's report Motion to appoint auditor for 2015-16
6:40 p.m.	Nomination committee report ED Report Presentation of reports printed in annual report
6:50 p.m.	Other business and announcements
6:55 p.m.	Adjournment – Board of Directors' Meeting Immediately Following
7:00	Notice of Board of Directors' Meeting Election of Officers Date of Next Meeting
	Dessert, coffee and tea

2015 First Quarter Social Media Numbers





Website Sessions: 1822

Twitter Followers: 76

Lois Miller Tulip Award

The Lois Miller Tulip Award has been designed to recognize a person, group, or organization that exemplifies the spirit of independent living in providing contributions to enable persons living with disabilities to have control and informed choice over their lives. This may be exemplified by an innovative and creative program, service, or supportive environment that supports persons living with disabilities to live independently. Independent Living Nova Scotia has developed the Lois Miller Tulip Award to be presented annually.

Lois Miller's Legacy: Lois Miller served as the Executive Director of ILNS for 13 years before she retired early in 2011. She brought to the position her varied experience in non-profit organizations – as teacher, public relations officer, fundraiser, municipal politician, and literacy program coordinator. Lois received an MA in English from Queen's University, an Honours BA from the University of Kings College, and from Dalhousie University both a B. Ed. and a certificate in Non-Profit Sector Management. The Lois Miller Tulip Award is to honour her tireless and active leadership on behalf of people living with a disability. ILNS would like to welcome you to nominate an individual or a group for the Lois Miller Tulip Award.

The Honourable Kevin Murphy, Speaker of the House, accepted the Lois Miller Tulip Award on behalf of the James McGregor Stewart Society at the 2014 Christmas Gala, presented by Sherry Costa.

AGM Meeting Minutes 2014

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JUNE 26TH, 2014

Independent Living Nova Scotia Association

5:45 p.m. Welcome:

Sherry Costa (Executive Director) welcomed those in attendance and thanked everyone for their generous support of Randy Reede (Admin/Outreach Coordinator) in his efforts to fundraise for ILNS through the Bluenose Marathon again this year. We raised $4,000, $500 more than Randy's goal.

Sherry introduced the Board of Directors who were present: Brian Hennen, Co-Chair; Jimmy Arnott, outgoing Co-chair; Pat Gates, Robert Ganong, Steve Estey, Murray Vandewater, Lois Miller, Sheldon Higgins; Sherry Costa (Executive director – staff), Margaret Fraser (minute-taker to the Board)

Regrets: Sara Dube, Louise Gillis and Jeremy MacDonald, who is on a leave of absence.

Sherry indicated regrets from invited guests:

Robert Chisholm, MP, Dr. Henry Bishop and Megan Leslie, MP.

Brian Hennen called the meeting to order.

Minutes of 2013 AGM – as printed in annual report – acceptance moved by Jimmy Arnott seconded by Wade CARRIED

Auditor's report – Murray Vandewater, Treasurer, presented the Draft audited report.

Motion to accept DRAFT auditor's financial statement for discussion – MOVED Murray Vandewater, SECONDED Lois Miller

Notes: Murray spoke to our lean financial situation, which is reflected in an on-going deficit position, and is akin to many other non-profit organizations. Unfortunately, we have less funding coming from Independent Living Canada (ILC).

All of our accounts are balanced and reconciled and the auditor is satisfied with our position.

Murray asked for questions. There being none, the motion was called and carried.

Motion to approve Mitchell L. Miller as auditor for the 2014-2015 fiscal years:
So moved: Murray Vandewater, seconded by Jane CARRIED

AGM Meeting Minutes 2014

Presentation of reports as printed in annual report:

Brian indicated that the general reports will be spoken to, and then a motion to accept as the final report will be put forward.

Sherry spoke to her Executive Director's report:

Sherry acknowledged the staff, board members, and volunteers who provide services to the ILNS clients. She added that ILNS has weathered some storms this past year and will continue to do so successfully.

Brian thanked Sherry for all her work behind the scenes on behalf of ILNS.

ACEE – Jennifer McNeil spoke to the ACEE report: the new location at APSEA is working well, although it has meant some adaptation by the group. She also thanked Dave Wareing for his support in the transition. 26 participants started the program and 17 graduated. Jennifer thanked Affirmative Ventures for their partnership in the work experience field. There are 26 participants ready to attend next year.

Randy Reede had no additions to his Outreach Report, but again thanked everyone for their support during the Bluenose Marathon.

Lois Miller referred to her report on page 16 of the Annual Report regarding the Transformation Committee. She has been delighted to be part of this group and believes that the outcomes and reports will make a huge difference in the lives of disabled Nova Scotians in the years to come.

Brian spoke to the Co-Chairs report on page 5. 2013/14 has seen so much change both locally and nationally, creating enormous challenges. There is still a need for more inclusion and acknowledge of a change of attitude in our society, but this is improving all the time. Brian thanked Jimmy Arnott for his work with Independent Living Canada, adding that Jimmy has been a real rock for ILNS. Jimmy is stepping down from the Board as of today.

Lois spoke about the conference in Winnipeg that she and Steve Estey attended. This was hosted by the Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD). Shuaib Chalklen of South Africa is the Special United Nations Rapporteur on Disability. He spoke on the rights for people with disabilities and he was an excellent speaker and is a very interesting person.

Discussion on how to have CCD and ILC better work together in the future will continue. There are three options: a) do nothing; b) merge both organizations under one or the other umbrella c) create a new organization from both. An options paper report will be circulated in the next few months.

AGM Meeting Minutes 2014

Lois presented the nomination report. She thanked Steve Estey for working with her on this.

Lois is entering her second term on the board; Sheldon Higgins is entering his first official term, although he has attend the last few board meetings; all other current board members remain in their current terms, so do not need to be elected at this time. She also thanked Jimmy and Brian for their work as co-chairs. (Please see page 19 of the annual Report)

Brian asked for a motion to accept the Annual Report as presented so moved: Jimmy Arnott, seconded Murray Vandewater CARRIED

Other business and announcements.

Sherry again thanked all of the staff who contributes so very much to the work of ILNS throughout the year.

She also recognized the following partners who work closely with ILNS:

Bertram Tulk from APSEA: Anne Macrae, Disabled Persons Commission; Janis Ainsworth, Teamworks Cooperative; Judy Turner, Workbridge; Dorothy Kitchen and Wendy Lill, who contribute on many committees and advocate strongly for persons with disabilities in this province.

Presentation of Recognition Awards:

Claridon Robichaud is the recipient of the 2013 Tulip Award: Claridon spoke to his appreciation of mentors through the years and the importance of employability.

David Wareing was presented with a certificate and small token of appreciation for his work over almost a decade with the ACEE program. David noted that he does not see a disability; he sees a person, a colleague, and a friend.

Brian and Jimmy were presented with thank you gifts and certificates for their work as co-chairs of ILNS.

Brandon Smith was introduced as the first ACEE ambassador. Brandon thanked the ACEE program, the staff and the agency as well as many others in his life who have enabled and encouraged him to reach this stage. He is looking forward to his new role.

Sherry thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and invited us to enjoy pizza and dessert.

Meeting adjourned at 7.15p.m.

Message from the Minister of Community Services' Advisory Panel on Accessibility Legislation

Creating and enacting legislation on accessibility is work of extraordinary significance and promise for Nova Scotia and its citizens. From the beginning, the panel members realized that a fully accessible Nova Scotia will help maximize and retain the human resources needed for a prosperous Nova Scotia. All citizens stand to benefit from this effort to define enabling legislation.

Recognizing both the importance and urgency of the need for and benefits of a fully accessible province is the easy part. We are pleased that, through a consultative process, consensus emerged from a variety of perspectives and that a way forward has taken shape. One small but very relevant piece of this consensus is the notion that this legislation is about access and fairness. Keeping access and fairness as our lens will lead us to the desired outcomes.

Drawing on the experiences of other jurisdictions, we have outlined the components of effective legislation. It is uniquely Nova Scotian, acknowledging citizens' rights, embracing the practical, valuing the individual, and fostering the community.

We expected that concerns would be raised concerning the costs of implementing the legislation. Here is an example from an online submission:

> *Imposing these requirements on businesses without taking size, scale, and circumstances into account will result in unfairness and reduced economic activity.*

On the other hand, we had some gracious, constructive, and, frankly, inspiring comments. Perhaps one of the best was this:

> *The Retail Council of Canada members support efforts to create a more accessible province. Not only do retailers believe that it is the right thing to do, they also know the importance of creating a welcoming customer and employee experience to succeed in what is an intensely competitive retail sector. Whether it be through their in-store or online offerings, retailers are continually evaluating their client service, the physical structure of their stores and their vicinity and even the public transportation systems that help move customers and employees. Improving accessibility to retail business gives retailers better access to potential customers. More customers usually means better sales and thus, RCC is supportive of reasonable measures that will improve accessibility across Nova Scotia.*

This practical mix of fairness and self-interest is the foundation of a good public policy upon which to build compelling legislation.

We anticipate the next stage eagerly and perhaps a bit impatiently.

Executive Summary

The Minister of Community Services' Advisory Panel on Accessibility Legislation was established on June 24, 2014, with the intent to consult with Nova Scotians on what should be contained in new enabling accessibility legislation for the province.

The panel committed to presenting findings and high-level detail on the legislative content to the Honourable Joanne Bernard, minister of community services/minister responsible for the Disabled Persons Commission Act, on or before February 13, 2015. From the outset it was determined that the legislation should address access issues related to the following:

- information and communication
- employment
- the design of public buildings and public spaces (the built environment)
- attitudes and public education/awareness
- transportation
- client services
- housing

Early in the fall of 2014 the panel developed an accessibility legislation discussion paper and invited Nova Scotians to provide their input. This discussion paper was the result of significant efforts of the panel members and the committees established by the panel.

The public was offered the opportunity to participate in 11 consultation sessions held across the province and to submit their written feedback through letter, e-mail, or web-based options. Submissions could also be made verbally, by telephone. Close to 250 individuals attended the public sessions, and more than 100 Nova Scotians submitted feedback.

Overall, the discussion paper's legislative proposals were well received and supported by Nova Scotians. The specific nature of the vast majority of the feedback responses related more to eventual outcomes leading from the enacted legislation than to what the legislation should contain. Although not surprising, it did validate what the panel and its committees provided as a legislative framework in the discussion paper. Many of the public respondents provided thoughtful recommendations applying to standards development, which will be addressed after the legislation has been drafted and enacted.

Press Release: UN Human Rights Council Endorses II Position on Article 19

Press Release: UN Human Rights Council Endorses II Position on Article 19

For immediate release

1 April, 2015

UN Human Rights Council Endorses Inclusion International's Position on Article 19

On 27 March, at the UN in Geneva, Switzerland, the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) approved a resolution on the right of persons with disabilities to be included in the community.

The HRC, which heard from Inclusion International Council member and self-advocate Quincy Mwiya at their annual debate on the rights of persons with disabilities, echoed Inclusion International's report on Article 19 with the recognition of the link between the right to live in the community and the right to make decisions. Further, the HRC explicitly supported the need for deinstitutionalization.

The joint resolution, introduced by Mexico and New Zealand, and co-sponsored by 50 other states, reflects the position in II's Global Report, Inclusive Communities = Stronger Communities. Specifically, the report, issued in October 2012, highlighted the need for people with intellectual disabilities to have choice; support and community inclusion. Choice about where and with whom one lives; supports for individuals and families and communities (education systems, health systems, recreation, transportation etc) organize themselves in inclusive ways.

II applauds the HRC for their understanding on what is required to secure the right to live and be included in the community and welcomes the resolution.

Inclusion International's Global Report Inclusive Communities = Stronger Communities can be viewed online at http://inclusion-international.org/living-in-community/

ACEE 2014-2015 Summary

Ten Years of ACEE

Submitted by Jennifer MacNeil, ACEE Program Manager

I want to begin this year's ACEE report by celebrating the existence of ACEE in HRM for the last ten years. ACEE is a one-year transition program, which is premised on the Independent Living Philosophy of persons with disabilities having the independence to make their own choices and having control of their own lives. Participants are youth who are between the ages of 18-21 and have graduated high school who have cross disabilities and are not quite ready for employment or post-secondary education. Participants participate in skill building workshops for two days per week, and in a work placement with our delivery partner Affirmative Ventures for two to three days per week. The year is spent building and developing the necessary skills to move forward either in gaining community employment or furthering their education. Participants are also provided with opportunities to explore different careers, and can get assistance with job searching with our career facilitator and job developer. Participants also are engaged in their community by participating in community job placements, or volunteer opportunities, as well as attending outings during the ACEE year. Further to the development of skills, participants of the program leave ACEE with better social skills, further independence, and friends who last a lifetime. ACEE has grown and evolved over the years, and would not have been able to flourish like it has without the support of our funders, Service Canada, Department of Education, and the Department of Community Service. We would also like to thank our delivery partners Affirmative Ventures and Halifax Regional School Board for being a supporter of ACEE for the duration of the program.

Left: 2014 ACEE Graduation
Above: 2014 ACEE Ambassadors Ashley & Ryan

ACEE 2014-2015 Summary

Ten Years of ACEE

ACEE recently moved from Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Akerley campus, to our current home at APSEA. We would like to thank APSEA for their willingness to share their space with us.

Over the past ten years, ACEE has seen approximately 200 young people graduate from the program. Many of these graduates are involved in volunteering, community employment, other programs in the community, and furthering their education. ACEE is proud to be such a strong stepping-stone for all of these individuals.

To celebrate ACEE's ten-year anniversary we will be having a ten-year reunion meet and greet and dance on Thursday June 25 from 6-9 PM. This event will provide an opportunity for past participants to get together, as well as for current participants to meet other past participants. The event will also be celebrating all of the contributions from employers and individuals in the community who have given their time and support to ACEE.

ACEE will continue to evolve and flourish and we look forward to celebrating once again ten years from now. Without the support of all of the ACEE staff over the years, the program would not be where it is today. First and foremost, we would like to thank ILNS Executive Directors Lois Miller and Sherry Costa for overseeing the program, and providing support. We would also like to thank program coordinator Cathy Waite, Program Managers David Wareing, and Jenn MacNeil for their support in the program as well as Lori Edgar and the job coaches from Affirmative Ventures who have worked with the participants over the years to develop strong employment skills in our participants. Thank you to everyone who worked within the program, without their support, the program would not be where it is today.

ACEE Participants

For the 2014-2015 year, we had 32 individuals apply, with 26 individuals being accepted to the program. One individual declined their acceptance, leaving two individuals on the wait list. We were able to take one of the individuals from the wait list and accept them into the program. We had three individuals who were not accepted into the program. During the year, we only had four individuals exit, leaving us with 22 individuals who will be graduating on June 29. We are very proud of all 22 individuals as they have grown and matured a great deal, and have made huge strides toward their goals.

ACEE 2014-2015 Summary

ACEE Presentations and Workshops

ACEE participants had the pleasure of being visited by several different presenters throughout the year. They were able to complete their first aid through St. John's ambulance, had presentations on occupational health and safety, and WHMIS. They were also visited by the Mayor who provided the class with tickets to a Halifax Mooseheads game, which everyone enjoyed.

Other presenters included CEED, The Youth Project, Keshan Goodman Library, Rotary Club, The Club, Options Work Activity Program, Youth Live, and many more. Some workshops that were provided to participants included diversity and disclosure, healthy relationships, interview skills, cyber bullying, and many others.

Participants also attended several outings including a visit to the Halifax Central Library, Canada Games Center, CEED, and Job Junction, cooking at Superstore, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, nutrition training at Sobeys, and the skills competition at NSCC Waterfront Campus. ACEE participants also attended events during Access Awareness Week including the Flag Raising and the Proclamation ceremonies at Province House.

ACEE Volunteering and Job Shadow Opportunities

Several participants have been involved with volunteering this year at ACEE. We have had participants volunteer at the APSEA cafeteria, with APSEA Maintenance staff, Museum of Natural History, Christmas Gala, Halifax Connects, and with planning of the ACEE tenth anniversary. We have also had several participants involved with job shadowing at APSEA cafeteria, a local pet groomer, FX101.9, Hope for Wildlife, Keshan Goodman Library, a local Doctor's office and others. These opportunities have provided a glimpse into what the careers they are interested in are like.

Left: Marian Bulley and Jennifer MacNeil at the 2014 Transition Fair. Right: ACEE Participants, Chad and Ryan.

ACEE 2014-2015 Summary

Education and Career Exploration

Several of our participants are very interested in taking part in different programs and educational opportunities within the community. We have one individual who is applying to the Nova Scotia Community College. We have several participants who have applied to the Options Work Activity program. We also have two individuals who are interested in the Youth Live Program as well.

We have had participants take test drives of a number of programs both at the Nova Scotia Community College including Music Arts, Pipe Trades, Information Technology, and Youth Care Worker. We have also done test drives at St. Mary's University in the Computer Science program, Youth Live, Options Work Activity program, Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank, and Nova Scotia College of Early Childhood Education. We also had four participants participate in the Digital Boot Camp at the Da Vinci College.

Test Drives for ACEE

Test drives for the ACEE program were held during the month of March. We had eight test drives from a total of eleven schools with 45 individuals. Current ACEE participants were provided the opportunity to speak with the test drive attendees and tell them about their experiences in the program. They also provided advice on the interview process. They showed great leadership during this event.

ACEE Ambassador

This year we had two co-ambassadors Ashley Latham and Ryan Rehberg. Both were elected by their peers during the month of November. The ambassadors have attended several events to represent the ACEE program. Ashley attended the Halifax Regional School Board Transition Fair on November 25. Both individuals attended the ILNS Christmas Gala, and gave a brief speech. They both also attended the Flag Raising and Proclamation ceremonies at the Province House. Both will be attending the ILNS AGM, and will also be giving a speech at their graduation and the ACEE anniversary. Both individuals will also be attending the Art of Disability Festival, which will be taking place during the Natal Day weekend. We would like to thank both Ashley and Ryan for being the 2014-2015 ACEE Ambassadors.

Self-managed Attendant Programs

Submitted by Sherry Costa

With funds from the Department of Health, ILNS began the self-managed attendant pilot program in 1994 with 10 consumers with a high level of physical disability. These consumers took on the responsibility for making the decisions about their own attendant services. The flexible and individualized services have brought them greater independence, heightened self-esteem, more active social lives and increased mobility. The student self-managed program, dedicated to consumers attending post-secondary, is based on the success of the pilot. These programs have been proven to be effective in meeting the needs of consumers. They have also been shown to be efficient in providing high-quality service at a reasonable cost.

2014 ILNS Christmas Gala

Far Left: Consumer, Katie Isenor receiving her gift.
Left: Katie with her gift.
Above: 2014 Christmas Gala Dance.

Nova Scotia Interpreting Services

Ann Cochran, Executive Director
Angie Neary, Dispatch Coordinator

We are a membership based non-profit offering in-person and telephone interpreting services in over 40 languages. The majority of our face-to-face work is done in Halifax hospitals, government departments and the private sector; we also offer telephone interpreting throughout the Maritimes.

Non-English speaking clients face linguistic and cultural barriers to appropriate health, legal, or community services. Interpreters ensure that clients get the information they need to understand their rights within different institutional settings and make informed decisions. Use of an interpreter offers service providers the ability to understand their clients and know they are being understood.

Angie and I are enjoying being a part of this larger office and sharing resources. Our previous office was in an older building in the North end. This is so much better in more ways than we can count. Having other staff around to share and learn from is proving very enjoyable and beneficial.

Nova Scotia Interpreting Services

Left to Right: Angie Neary and Ann Cochran with NSIS, Randy Reede and Sherry Costa with ILNS

Information and Referrals

Submitted by Randy Reede

A large part of the information piece of my work continues to be the distribution of information to our member and partners. Rather it is information on our programs, events or general information in the community that would be an interest to our members and partners. A fair amount of the inbound contacts received is directly related to our social media. We now receive information inquiries through our website form as well as inquiries on our website and Facebook page. Our presence on social media has a correlation to our continuing growth in membership.

Access Awareness Week

Submitted by Sherry Costa

In 1987, Rick Hansen's Man in Motion Tour brought issues of ability and access into the national spotlight. In response, National Access Awareness Week was born. The "national" scope of the week diminished over time but provincially, the spirit of Hansen's quest lives on. Held at the end of May, the week aims to celebrate achievements made both by and for people with disabilities in the areas of accessibility, transportation, housing, employment, recreation, education, and communication. Sherry Costa, Executive Director of ILNS, served as Chair on the PAANS committee for eight years and stepped down when the 2015 Access Awareness Week wrapped up on June 5th. PAANS was created by NSLEO to oversee the planning of the week's events ensuring it continued to be both vibrant and relevant to the needs of the province's citizens. Mission: To promote the inclusion of all Nova Scotians with disabilities as full citizens within our communities. Through public awareness, community partnerships, and education, we aim to foster an environment of equal participation for persons with disabilities within Nova Scotia.

Left: PAANS Scholarship Luncheon. Right: Noah McNeil, speaking about his experience at NSCC after receiving a scholarship

Adolescent/Young Adult Autism Summer Recreation

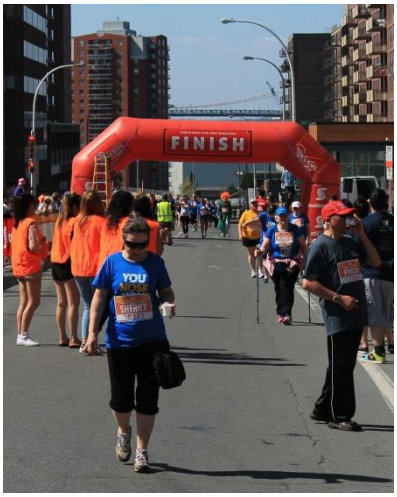
Submitted by Sherry Costa

Although this program has been in the community for 8 years, ILNS is pleased to be offering it for the first time this summer. The older population of youth (18 -21 years) with ASD are individuals who do not have access to programming or work experience due to their significant challenges. This program offers them a busy, recreational experience, keeping them engaged in appropriate physical and social activities throughout the day. Participants have support staff to facilitate their activities and we look forward to offering some vocational opportunities as well.

ILNS at the Bluenose Marathon

Submitted by Randy Reede

This year we had 12 individuals walk and run to collect funds for ILNS. Because of the hard work of our participants, we were able to surpass our fundraising goal of $5,000. We would like to thank everyone on *Team Independent*: Logan Benoit, Helen Clevett, Sherry Costa, Marcus Jamieson, Jennifer MacNeil, Jamie Newman, Debbie Nelson, Mark Nelson, Samantha Nelson, Claire Piccinin, Stephane Piccinin, and Judy Turner for their kind support. We also would like to thank everyone who generously donated to help us achieve our goal; all funds raised will go to ILNS programs and services.



All photos: Team Independent Living at the 2014 Bluenose Marathon.

In Memoriam

We would like to acknowledge the passing of the following supporters of ILNS and thank them for their support:
Carol Killeen: former participant in consumer events
Richard (Dick) Sircom: early volunteer with then-MRCIL, usually accompanied by his late wife Eunice

COMMUNITY SOCIETY TO END POVERTY-NOVA SCOTIA

Invites You or a Representative of Your Group To

A Special One Day Workshop/Strategy Session

THE EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT AND INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ESIA):

WHAT'S REQUIRED FOR *REAL* TRANSFORMATION?

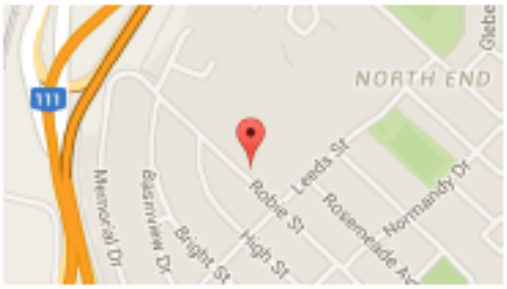
Friday June 26, 9.30a.m - 3.30.p.m.

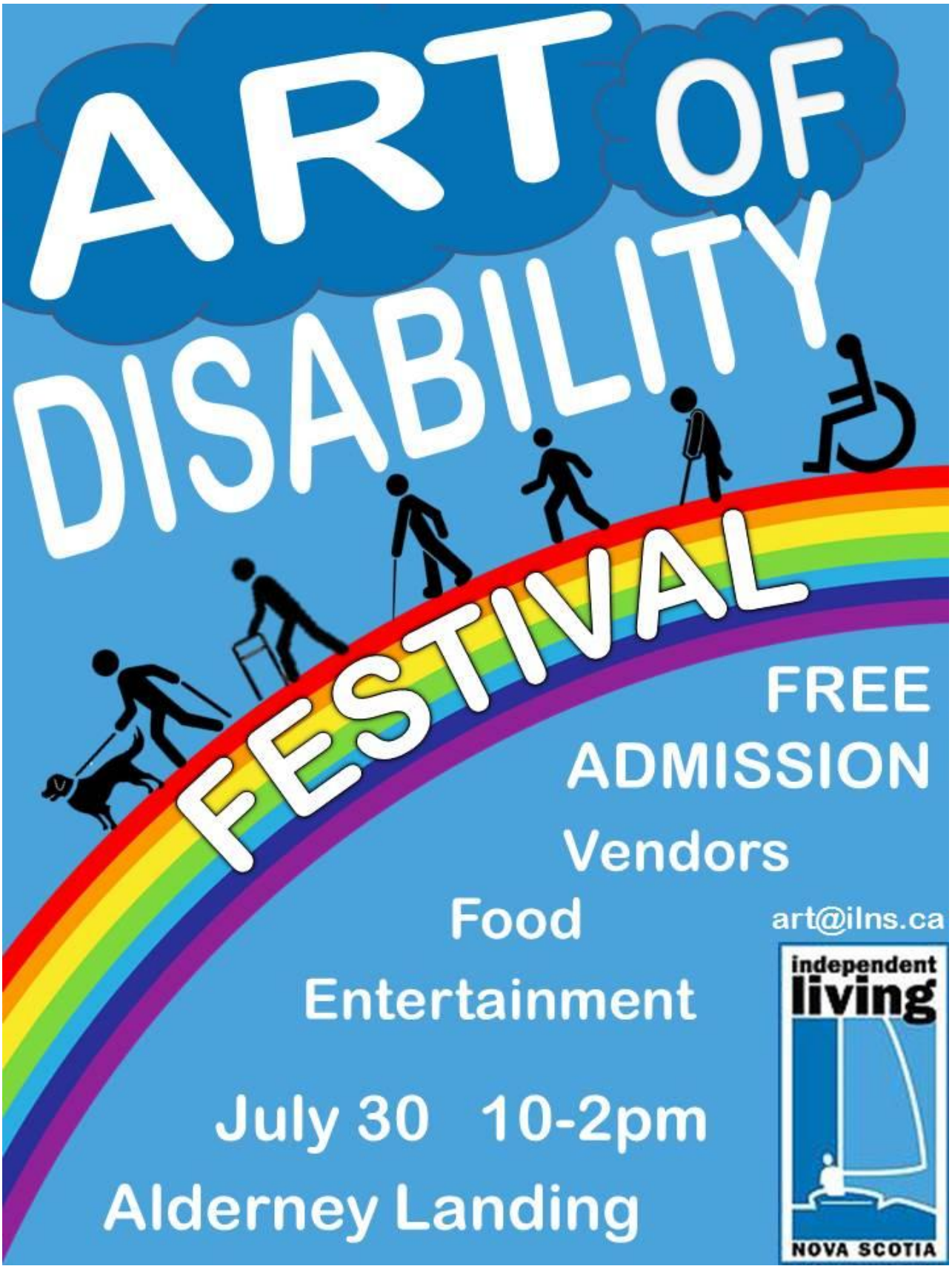
St. Margaret's of Scotland Anglican Church Hall, 3761 Robie Street, Halifax
(Church is half a block north of Leeds. Hall entrance is via the path at north side of the church.
Park in church parking lot; or #7 bus to Robie and Leeds. Hall is wheelchair accessible)

Agenda:

- ✓ *Discuss concerns and impacts of ESIA and other program cuts/changes on people in various regions*
- ✓ *Get up-to-date on what is known about ESIA transformation (goals; consultation process; timeline etc.)*
- ✓ *Identify what needs to change and workshop ideas for how to influence the ESIA reform agenda*
- ✓ *Share information about what various groups around the province are doing to address poverty*
- ✓ *Learn what CSEP has been up to and engage in a discussion about our proposed mission statement*
- ✓ *Socialize and meet like-minded people working on issues we all care about*

There is no registration fee for this event. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.
However, drop us a line if you plan to attend so we can ensure we order enough food:
Please contact: Lords@eastlink.ca or phone 902 477 0094

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Alderney Landing
independent living
NOVA SCOTIA

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