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# **COMMUNIQUÉ**

**A publication of the  
Premier's Council on the  
Status of Disabled Persons**



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*Ce bulletin est disponible en français!*

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## New Chairperson Named for Premier's Council



We are pleased to announce that Michelle Horncastle of New Maryland has been recently appointed for a three-year term as the new Chairperson of the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons.

Ms. Horncastle is employed as the Manager of the Recreation Division for the City of Fredericton.

Michelle has been a long term advocate for inclusive recreation opportunities for persons with disabilities and has been an active volunteer with many groups and programs providing supports to citizens with different disabilities.

Michelle has said that she is looking forward to continuing the excellent work of the Premier's Council by providing leadership with the other Council members and staff.

One of her priorities will be monitoring the progress being made by government in the implementation of the recommendations from the Council's *Disability Action Strategy - The Path to Self-Sufficiency and Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities in New Brunswick*.

Michelle Horncastle's term of office will run until March of 2012.

“And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.” – *Abraham Lincoln*

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### Executive Director's Message



I am very happy that Michelle Horncastle has been appointed as our new Chairperson. Michelle is highly respected for her many years of service in the field of disability and inclusion. She will be an effective leader with the other twelve Council members and our small staff team.

The recent provincial budget has created some anxiety in our stakeholders as to the potential negative impact on certain social programs. Despite the difficult economic situation, we do not want to see a loss of momentum on progress being made to address disability issues.

We are pleased that an announcement was made for a new program to provide supports for persons who are ventilation dependent. Details of the one million dollar program will be provided during the spring sitting of the legislature.

The Premier's Council will continue to work on the recommendations of the *Disability Action Plan Strategy Report*.

Randy Dickinson, C.M.  
Executive Director

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## **New Brunswick Report on Mental Health Services Available**

The provincial task force that reviewed mental health services in New Brunswick has completed their work under the direction of the Hon. Judge Michael McKee.

His final report "*Together Into the Future: A Transformational Mental Health System for New Brunswick*" dated February 2009 can be found online at:

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/Promos/MentalHealth/NBMHS-e.pdf>

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## **Designated Parking Spaces for Persons with Disabilities**



Our office continues to receive complaints about drivers who are abusing the parking spaces reserved for persons with a mobility disability who must have a registered disability parking permit and have a placard displayed on their rear view mirror.

The Department of Public Safety has provided us with a new supply of updated information notices that can be left on the windshield of vehicles that may be abusing such parking spaces. These bilingual notices are available free of charge by calling the office of the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons toll-free at 1-800-442-4412. They can be viewed on our website at [www.gnb.ca/council](http://www.gnb.ca/council) under the "Resource Material" section on the right hand side.

The Premier's Council is working on further efforts to improve this program for better screening of applicants and better enforcement of the spaces.

"We can't do everything at once,  
but we can do something at once. –  
*Calvin Coolidge*

## N.B. Disability Awareness Week 2009

There will be a number of projects, activities, media spots, contests, promotional items and special events undertaken to help celebrate the annual N.B. Disability Awareness Week leading up to the May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 6<sup>th</sup> dates.

More details are available online by going to the Premier's Council website at [www.gnb.ca/council](http://www.gnb.ca/council) and clicking the link to the Disability Awareness Week webpage.

“Believe you can and you're halfway there.” – *Theodore Roosevelt*

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### Christyne Allain Receives Promotion

We are pleased to confirm that Premier's Council staff person Christyne Allain has been promoted to the title of Assistant Executive Director to reflect her transition to higher levels of work assignments now that she has successfully completed her probationary period and on the job training since joining the Council team over a year ago.



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### Health Care Directives Legislation

The Premier's Council made a submission concerning the Proposed Health Care Directives Legislation in response to a public discussion paper released by the Standing Committee on Law Amendments.

Our submission was dated February 2009 and is available on our website at [www.gnb.ca/council](http://www.gnb.ca/council) or by calling the Premier's Council Office toll-free at 1-800-442-4412.

# Disability Supports Program for Adults with Disabilities

The two pilot projects in the Fredericton and Edmundston regions for the Disability Supports Program for Adults with Disabilities were made permanent last year by the Minister of Social Development. A commitment was made to roll out the program to all other regions by 2010.

As of writing this newsletter we have not received a specific timeline for when the other regions will be phased in.

We are concerned about the lack of adequate budget resources to meet the identified needs for all of the clients in the original two regions and how this will affect the program delivery as the initiative rolls out to the other regions.

We will continue to monitor this program.

“If you don’t paddle your own canoe, you don’t move.” – *Katherine Hepburn*

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## New Mental Health Hospital in Campbellton

The government is moving forward with the planning and construction process to replace the provincial mental health hospital in Campbellton.

Our Council, along with other stakeholders, is working to encourage the planning and delivery of appropriate community supports so that a significant number of long-term patients could be discharged back into the community at large. This process took place when the Centracare provincial mental health hospital in Saint John was replaced with a new and smaller facility some years ago.



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## Bicycle Safety



As the spring and summer seasons arrive, we see many more bicycle users out on the streets. Please remember to wear a bicycle helmet at all times when riding your bicycle as required by law. You not only avoid a possible fine but you may prevent a serious brain injury by wearing your helmet.

# Financial Assistance for Students with Disabilities

As the public school year draws to a close and students with disabilities confirm their plans for post-secondary education or other options for further training, we would remind people to check out our *Directory of Financial Assistance for Students with Disabilities*.

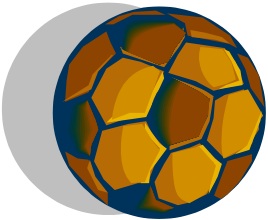
This information covers student aid, scholarships, bursaries, etc. with specific details on how and when to apply and what are the required eligibility criteria.

The directory is available online at the Premier's Council website at [www.gnb.ca/council](http://www.gnb.ca/council) or by calling our office toll-free at 1-800-442-4412.



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## Recreation Your Way



Recreation Your Way is a one day event for people with disabilities, their friends and families to participate in various sport, recreation and leisure activities.

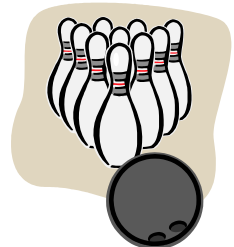


Recreation Your Way will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2009 in the greater Fredericton area.

Participants will be introduced to many new and exciting activities throughout the day and experience them first hand.



For more information contact Laurie Muise at Recreation New Brunswick in Fredericton at (506) 457-1939 or send an email to [programs@recreationnb.ca](mailto:programs@recreationnb.ca).



“The first step to getting the things you want out of life is this: Decide what you want.” – *Ben Stein*

## **ACHIEVES Employment Skills Program**

Sponsored by Schizophrenia Society New Brunswick, Miramichi Chapter. Funded by Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour and Mind Care NB.

ACHIEVES stands for Accomplishing, Community, Hope, Independence, Education, Volunteering, Employment, Self-Sufficiency.

The ACHIEVES program is a job readiness program that was developed in 2004. It is an essential “bridge” to employment, independence and self-sufficiency. Over the past five years the program has had many changes and continues to grow yearly through networking/awareness. ACHIEVES now includes access to computer skills/mock interviews/guest speakers from the community and businesses to speak on variety of topics and opportunities. The Coordinator organizes tours and resources in the community which helps to broaden awareness and accessibility for the participants as well as helps alleviate anxiety.

ACHIEVES is a free seven-session employment skills program that assists participants who are recovering from a mental illness and are ready to enter the workforce. The participants receive opportunities to access their skills and abilities while looking at the place they need to start to be successful on their road to self-sufficiency. Many times the participants need to first start volunteering to rediscover some of the skills that may have lost through the trauma. This in turn helps them in their journey back into the community.



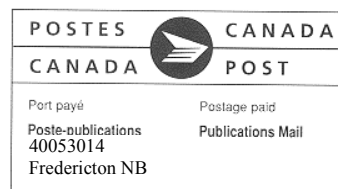
The program training is offered on the one-on-one basis or in small groups and runs at different times throughout the year. The Employment Skills Coordinator continues to offer support throughout the year as requested by the participant through their participation in the program whether it is through volunteering, further education, or employment.

The Coordinator started a peer support group called “Job Wrap Club” in November to help provide the participants of the program added support from each other in their journey. The agenda is set up to help provide motivation, inspiration and sharing in a monthly group setting.

Patsy Martin  
Employment Skills Coordinator



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**We welcome submissions for our newsletter on any topic relative to persons with disabilities. This newsletter is available in alternate formats. Please circulate the Communiqué within your office and with friends.**



## NOTICE

The recent 2008 edition of the *Directory of Services Offered to Persons with Disabilities in New Brunswick* is available. If you wish to receive a copy, please fill out the following and return to our office by fax or mail.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Language: English \_\_\_\_\_ French \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to:** Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons  
440 King Street, Suite 648, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5H8  
Fax: (506) 444-3001 E-mail: [pcsdp@gnb.ca](mailto:pcsdp@gnb.ca)

*\*Updates are available upon request throughout the year\**