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# ***COMMUNIQUÉ***

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



**Spring Edition 2011**

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*Ce bulletin est disponible en français!*

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## Chairperson's Message



Over the course of the past two years that I have served as Chairperson of the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons, I have had the pleasure of working closely with the Council, staff members as well as many citizens of the province as we move toward improving the lives of persons with disabilities residing within New Brunswick. I am especially pleased to announce the recent appointment of two new members to the Council as Provincial Association Representatives, and we look forward to working with both Courtney Keenan, Chairperson of Ability New Brunswick, as well as Lynn LeBlanc, Executive Director of Saint John Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. On behalf of the Council and staff members, I would like to welcome Courtney and Lynn to the team!

Since our last newsletter, the Premier's Council has continued to increase its involvement within a wide range of areas that fall under its broad mandate. With current economic restraints, many New Brunswickers are feeling the impact financially and are as well further constrained by the diminished availability of much needed programs and resources. It is apparent now more than ever that we need to ensure that persons with disabilities are not left behind. We are hopeful and optimistic that the new government will present new opportunities to help us resolve ongoing issues. The Council will continue to work closely with both government and community stakeholders to move forward on current initiatives. We have come a long way, but there is always room for improvement.

Together we can make a difference. Please contact the PCSDP office with any suggestions that you may have to move forward toward creating a society of full inclusion for all citizens – and just as the slogan says, together..... “Yes we can!”.

“Nothing great was ever done without much enduring.” – Saint Catherine of Siena

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## Executive Director's Message

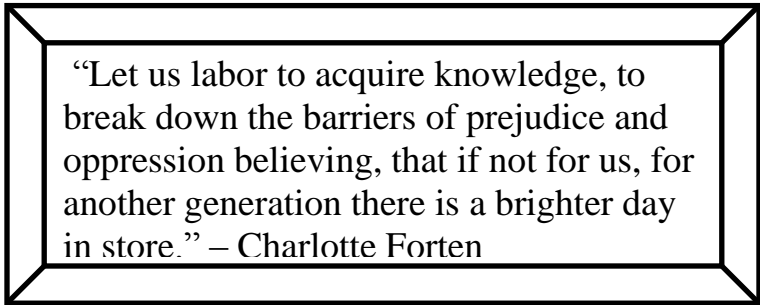
In December the Premier's Council released *Status Report #3 and Report Card - December 2010 - Responses to Date on the Recommendations from the Disability Action Plan Strategy - The Path to Self-Sufficiency and Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities*.

This report represents over four years of effort in providing government with suggestions in advancing social policy



towards equitable and appropriate program delivery for persons with disabilities. The report highlighted nine objectives identified in 2007 by community stakeholders. These are:

- a) Full Citizenship
- b) Disability Supports
- c) Poverty
- d) Education
- e) Employment
- f) Housing
- g) Universal Design/Barrier Free Access
- h) Transportation
- i) Recreation/Wellness



The report is available on the Premier’s Council website at [www.gnb.ca/council](http://www.gnb.ca/council) or can be made available upon request.

Much of the work done on the recommendations received an “A” from the Council. These included the provincial role out of the disability supports program, establishment of a provincial strategy to better respond to the needs of persons who require ventilators and/or other assisted breathing supports and changes to the annual disability supplement. At the same time, “F”s were given concerning the government’s handling of policies on environmental sensitivities and the lack of a strategy on serving persons who have survived brain injuries.

**Next Steps:**

The Council will be bringing together provincial stakeholders to revisit the 100 recommendations outlined in the status report. See the article on the **Disability Stakeholders Summit**.

Finally, I would like to thank Council members and staff for what has been a busy and productive year. I look forward to another year of engaging government in moving the disability agenda forward.

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## **Disability Stakeholders Summit**

**May 30-31, 2011 - Fredericton**

The Disability Stakeholders Summit is a two-day event in response to the 3<sup>rd</sup> status update release of the *Disability Action Plan Strategy - The Path to Self-Sufficiency and Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities*. The Premier’s Council will be bringing community stakeholders together wherein persons with disabilities, community agencies, service providers and families will be asked to identify outstanding issues and bring forward new challenges or opportunities for government to tackle.



There is no cost to attend the event and seating is limited, so interested participants are asked to contact the Premier's Council to reserve a seat. We can be reached by phone/TTY at (506) 444-3000, toll-free at 1-800-442-4412, or by e-mail at [pcsd@gnb.ca](mailto:pcsd@gnb.ca). For any participant requiring disability related accommodations, please be sure to let us know in order that these can be made available. Limited funds are available to assist with transportation and accommodation costs.

“What concerns everyone can only be resolved by everyone.” – Friedrich Durrenmatt

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## Man in Motion to Inspire Many in Motion with Rick Hansen 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Relay



Twenty five years following his legendary Man In Motion World Tour, Rick Hansen's journey to realize his dream of a world inclusive and accessible to all, continues. Building on a lifetime of extraordinary accomplishments, Rick believes his best work is still in front of him; challenging us to dream extraordinary dreams, to focus attention on accessibility and to remind everyone that when we remove barriers, anything is possible.

On August 24<sup>th</sup>, a cross-Canada relay will begin in Newfoundland. This relay will be an opportunity for persons with any disability to participate as medal bearers on any of 7,000 legs of the journey. Any person with a disability is encouraged to apply online at the Rick Hansen Foundation website: <http://www.rickhansen.com/>. The **deadline for submitting an application will be June 1<sup>st</sup>** for the Atlantic provinces. The relay will visit New Brunswick sometime in mid to late September or early October 2011. Participants can walk, roll or cycle as they see fit.

“The distance is nothing. It's only the first step that's important.”  
– Marie Anne de Vichy-Chamrond

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## Report on A Centre of Excellence for Children and Youth with Complex Needs

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, Bernard Richard and Shirley Smallwood released their report on services available to youth with complex needs. The report was requested by the departments of Health, Education, Public Safety and Social Development in order to determine how best to proceed with the establishment of a centre of excellence for children and youth with complex needs.

“A handful of New Brunswick youth have obtained residential support outside of the province, but at an exorbitant public expense,” said Mr. Richard. “We need a centre of excellence that will provide the intensive treatment required by some children, and that can also co-ordinate a network of services located all over our province.”

The report is available from the office of the Ombudsman or online at <http://www.gnb.ca/ombudsman/>.

Contact:

Telephone: 506-453-2789 / Toll-free: 1-888-465-1100

E-mail: [nbombud@gnb.ca](mailto:nbombud@gnb.ca)

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## **FIA Guide for the Disabled Traveler using Parking Permits, Cards and Placards Around the World**

Planning a trip abroad? Not sure what parking for persons with disabilities is available?

<http://www.fiadisabledtravellers.com/>

This website gives information to travellers in more than 130 countries and states on whether and under which conditions they are allowed to park with their parking cards/ placard abroad.

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## **Disability Awareness Week 2011**

**May 29<sup>th</sup> to June 4<sup>th</sup>  
“Yes We Can!”**

2011 will mark the 24<sup>th</sup> year in which a province-wide campaign strives to increase awareness of the challenges and opportunities which exist for persons with disabilities. Started as a result of Rick Hansen’s Man In Motion tour 25 years ago, DAW has become an annual campaign throughout New Brunswick.

Much has changed throughout the past quarter century. Students with disabilities now have greater access to a wide range of supports throughout their academic career, communities are becoming more inclusive and reflective of society, more and more public places have become accessible and participation in all aspects of New Brunswick society by persons with disabilities has grown. Technology has been at the forefront of much of the change enabling opening doors to what were previously unimaginable opportunity. Mobility devices have become increasingly more common on city sidewalks, augmentative input devices have given a voice to those unable

to speak and much more. Individuals and governments at all levels have worked hard at raising the bar of economic and social inclusion; in this province, throughout Canada and around the world.

In 2010 Canada joined over 100 other countries in ratifying an international treaty recognizing the economic, social and political rights which persons with disabilities hold.

Despite these nontrivial successes, much remains to be achieved. Transportation, access to affordable housing, employment and reasonable disability related accommodations continue to be a daily struggle for over 120,000 New Brunswick residents. The rapid adoption of technology has both been a monumental advance but has excluded many. Website designers often fail to take into account anyone who may not be able to use a conventional mouse or read a computer screen. For these reasons alone, DAW remains an opportunity for all persons with disabilities to share their experiences and help others better understand the challenges a disability creates.

Several events are being planned by the provincial organizing committee and the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons. These include a "Famous Persons with Disabilities Quiz Contest", Walk and Roll events, a draw for a mobility scooter and a provincial recognition award. These contests are all aimed at creating awareness of the challenges facing persons with disabilities.

To help promote the campaign, the Premier's Council has made available a variety of promotional items for sale. These can be found on the DAW website.

Join the New Brunswick Senior Citizens Federation on Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup> in Moncton as they kick off Disability Awareness Week 2011. The event will take place on Sunday May 29<sup>th</sup> at the Moncton Holy Family Golden Age Club located at 52 Falkland Street.

For more information contact the Senior Citizens' Federation:

Jeannette LeBlanc

(506) 857-8242 - 1 (800) 453-4333

For details on events, contests and other information on Disability Awareness Week, please visit [www.gnb.ca/council](http://www.gnb.ca/council).

**Provincial Award Program – Deadline is April 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**Famous Persons with Disabilities Quiz Contest – Deadline is May 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Scoter Give-Away Contest – Deadline is May 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Registered Event Contest – Entries received prior to May 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**Walk and Roll Challenge**

## Resource Guide Launched to Support Volunteerism

Volunteer driven community based not-for-profit organizations have always been at the centre of effecting policy change throughout the disability movement. These organizations face considerable challenges both in the recruitment of volunteers and obtaining the resources necessary to deliver their programs.

A 48-page guide has been created in partnership with the Alberta Government and with volunteer centres in New Brunswick that helped adapt it for use in this province. The guide contains a variety of tips and information on encouraging community involvement, planning and organizing events, issuing public service announcements, dealing with the media, communicating with sponsors and project partners, and recognizing volunteers.

The guide is available online at [www.gnb.ca/volunteer](http://www.gnb.ca/volunteer) in the publications section of the website.

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### Understanding the tourism, travel and hospitality experiences of people with hearing impairments

This research is being conducted for the New Zealand National Foundation for the Deaf by the New Zealand Tourism Research Institute, Auckland University of Technology.



Results of this research may be used in journal, conference, or other publications. A summary of the research will also be available on [www.nztri.org](http://www.nztri.org) in early 2012.

To complete the survey visit <http://www.tourismandhearingsurvey.co.nz/>

For further information about this research contact:

Project coordinator: Sandra Rhodda, New Zealand Tourism Research Institute, AUT University. Email [sarhodda@aut.ac.nz](mailto:sarhodda@aut.ac.nz); Phone +64 3 762 6033.

Team leader: Simon Milne, New Zealand Tourism Research Institute, AUT University. Email [simon.milne@aut.ac.nz](mailto:simon.milne@aut.ac.nz); Phone +64 9 921 9245.

“Have the guts to change things if you find that necessary.” – Emory Bullard

## PCSDP is now on Facebook & Twitter!

How people share ideas, stay in touch and collaborate has been revolutionized since the introduction of FaceBook and Twitter. To join the FaceBook group simply visit [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons (English) or CPMCPH (French).

Using this and other social media tools, the Council hopes to further engage persons with disabilities and those who are working towards a more inclusive New Brunswick.



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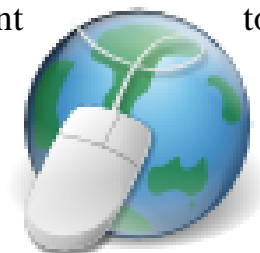
### What's on the Website!

The Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons maintains an internet presence as a way of disseminating information to New Brunswick stakeholders. Copies of current and past Council publications are available in both languages as are current copies of the various directories produced by the Council. There are also links to the Disability Awareness Week website, Community Events Calendar listings and items being offered for sale or donation. In addition, various brochures, statistics, resources provided by disability related organizations from across the country and much much more are only a click away!

The Community Events Calendar, launched in the spring of 2010 is a free service to any organization serving persons with disabilities to help get their message out there. We would ask that where ever possible, information to be posted be provided in both official languages. The Council reserves the right to edit content and in its discretion not to post information.

Looking for adaptive equipment? If you have a lift for a van, elevator systems that are no longer needed? Visit us online and click on the "Disability Related Items for Sale or Donation" link for hard to find used disability related items. See the website for terms and conditions.

We are always looking for new and relevant information to post on the site so please feel free to share any comments, suggestions or content which may be relevant to issues faced by persons with disabilities.



## Sign Interpretation for Christmas@theplayhouse

On Saturday, December 18, 2010, as part of the annual presentation of Christmas @theplayhouse, the Fredericton Playhouse presented a special sign interpreted performance of *Carol of the Bells* to area members of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.

In partnership with the Saint John Hearing Society and with financial support from the City of Fredericton, preparation for this first-time initiative began in October when sign interpreters Becky Schirato and Carly Jones joined the Christmas @theplayhouse team to begin rehearsing. Working closely with the creative team, cast and production crew, Becky and Carly reviewed the script and attended the rehearsals, learning the music, text, dance, and sometimes challenging verse from Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* scene.

That Saturday afternoon, approximately 50 members from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community attended the performance, and experienced the joy and magic that comes with this annual holiday tradition for almost 4000 Fredericton residents. Special seating, lighting and staging ensured the community felt welcome and included, with the 100+ cast members ending the production by signing "Merry Christmas" to them from the stage.

This initiative was part of the Fredericton Playhouse's Education and Outreach Program. Under this umbrella, the *Arts Are For Everyone* program partners with community organizations to identify and remove barriers to participation at the Playhouse. We at the Playhouse were deeply moved by the support from the community, cast members, sign interpreters, and organizations in making this performance a success for all.

The Fredericton Playhouse has an Infrared Listening Assistive Device that is available for all productions. Information is available by the box office at 458-8344 or 1-866-884-5800 on performance night in the lobby coat check.

Amani Wassef  
Education and Outreach Director  
The Fredericton Playhouse



## At Home/Chez Soi Project

The At Home/Chez Soi project is based on a *Housing First* approach. A total of 2285 homeless people living with a mental illness will participate. 1,325 people from that group will be given a place to live, and will be offered services to assist them over the course of the initiative. The remaining participants will receive the regular services that are currently available in their cities. Participants will have to pay a portion of their rent, and be visited at least once a week by program staff. The project is all about choice, and people will be able to choose housing within a number of different sites within their cities - including apartments and group homes.

The overall goal is to provide evidence about what services and systems could best help people who are living with a mental illness and are homeless. At the same time, the project will provide meaningful and practical support for hundreds of vulnerable people. Data from this kind of extensive research does not currently exist in Canada. The MHCC project is unique and the largest of its kind underway in the world right now.

**Moncton Research Demonstration Project - As of March 7, 2011 - over 180 people have become project participants, and over 96 now have homes.** The Moncton research project will study the availability of services for homeless people in English and French speaking communities.

Moncton is officially bilingual. Its greater region is composed of three communities with distinct French and English components. The City of Moncton is 33% French and 63.1% English. The City of Dieppe is 80% French and 20% English. The Town of Riverview is 90% English and 10% French. Collectively, these three cities are the fastest growing in Atlantic Canada.

Many people commute to Moncton for work and services, and this growth has brought an increasing number of social problems including homelessness. However, the majority of the homeless are from areas outside of Moncton, possibly attracted by the perceived access to social services such as soup kitchens and mental health services. These social service- agencies are experiencing an ever-increasing demand.

Governments and the non-profit sector are supportive of the MHCC project, and discussions are underway regarding the possibility of collaboration in a number of areas.

There are elements unique to the Moncton project:

- (1) A sub-study will look at the rural homeless population living with a mental illness, since it is known that a significant problem also exists in rural areas.
- (2) Because this project is investigating both English and French communities, services will be provided in both official languages.

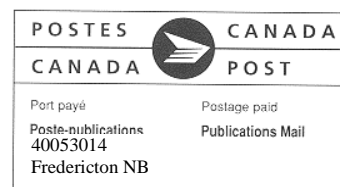
A comparison between different Housing First approaches and “care as usual” is being studied in all cities (Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg).

Please see the website for further details:

<http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/Pages/homelessness.aspx>



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Layout/Design: Kristin Colwell



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



## NOTICE

The September 2010 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\**