

FALL  
2017

# THE STAR



Developmental  
Disabilities Association

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**WHO CARES? -  
SENIORS WITH  
DISABILITIES LIVING  
IN VANCOUVER**

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# WHY WE CARE

BY ALANNA HENDREN

I read a story the other day about how there have only been 50 units of senior's rental housing developed in Vancouver during the past year and rentals there start at about \$3,000 per couple per month.

These are no doubt far more glamorous units than the Lion's Club senior's housing development where my grandmother lived on Euclid Street near Renfrew and Kingsway during the 60's, 70's and 80's. She was left with one infant and two toddlers when her husband died of tuberculosis in 1935, and she raised her sons on Widow's Pension alone, through the Great Depression. There was no such thing as Income Assistance, Employment Insurance or publicly-funded health care in 1935, but the province did have a very small amount of money available to widows with children. There were no jobs, particularly for women with children. The only option she had was to live in poverty in East Vancouver and focus on raising three sons. As an immigrant from Scotland, she had no family to help out.



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Living on extremely low incomes in one of the most expensive cities in the world, housing inaccessibility is the biggest challenge to independence and community living for increasing numbers of people.  
”

When she got older, my grandmother lived on Old Age Pension and was thrilled to find lovely, subsidized non-profit senior's accommodations provided by the Lion's Club so close to town. Having always lived frugally, she even able to save a few dollars every month to buy gifts for family or go on the odd vacation.

What simple times!

The monetization of everything, combined with privatization, excessive property costs and a consumer society run amok have created a serious uptick in homelessness (worse than the Great Depression), particularly for seniors and people with disabilities or other challenges. Housing and care costs for people living on low incomes or with few savings will continue to escalate rapidly as the population bulge of Baby Boomers rapidly ages and the wealth disparity gap grows ever wider.

Like seniors, people with disabilities sometimes need home modifications that make finding a place to live even more challenging (wheelchair ramps, accessible bathrooms, lower counters). Living on extremely low incomes in one of the most expensive cities in the world, housing inaccessibility is the biggest challenge to independence and community living for increasing numbers of people.

## So who cares?

In every edition of the Star, we are asking you to care about people with developmental and other disabilities. This is a big demand since everyone these days has so many other things to care about – their own mortgages, jobs, finances, friends, families and health – and every time you turn around someone is having a problem with something. Who can even begin to keep up with all these good causes?

The folks we support – through no fault of their own – an accident at birth or just an accident - must overcome challenges that would easily overwhelm most of us. Their courageous families who face these challenges with them (often with no external support, often with less family income due to time spent caregiving) do so in a society of dwindling public resources, extremely scarce affordable rental housing and few support staff willing to work for wages that are too low to survive. Besides the fact that societies can be measured by the way their most vulnerable are treated, you should care because this is about all of us. If you live long enough, you will acquire disabilities, vision impairments, hearing impairments, mobility barriers, memory loss, confusion and other symptoms of aging, which so far has no cure.



We all need to care about the societies and communities we live in, or they become empty and anonymous and we become isolated. It is still the duty of every capable person to offer service to society. If we do not, then the burden falls on those who are less capable – and that could soon be you. Every religion through the history of the ages has told us to practice compassion and help one another. That's why I care and why I believe that by caring about and for others, in the end we care for ourselves.

Housing should not be a dream for only a few. Everyone needs a roof over their head, particularly those who have little else. Our embarrassingly wealthy province and city can do better than this. We need to envision a Vancouver that welcomes all citizens, not just the folks who can afford impossibly high housing costs. Our seniors and our most vulnerable deserve more than bedbug-infested single rooms in buildings that would otherwise be condemned and it's time to insist that our politicians take action. It's time for all of us to care.

## BE THE FIRST TO KNOW!

Subscribe to our newsletter  
by emailing

[communications@develop.bc.ca](mailto:communications@develop.bc.ca)

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# OUR TOP TEXT TO SPEECH APPS



## Text to Speech - Voice Synthesiser

Cost: Free - \$2.99

### Features:

- Easy to use and no internet required
- The ability to adjust the pitch and rate of speech
- An auto expanding text field
- Speak as you type
- Highlight spoken text
- Change the font size
- Copy and paste text from different documents.



## Voice Dream Reader

Cost: \$20.99

### Features:

- Can read content in a variety of voices from a variety of sources
- Variable font size and customizable colour choice for highlighting read words, selected words, and lines
- Built-in dictionary, bookmarks, and search feature
- Sentences rewind/fast forward, a sleep timer
- Ability to type directly
- Adjustable reading speed.



## Aloud! - Text to Speech

Cost: Free - \$3.99

### Features:

- Reads the text for you
- Import plain text, PDF, docx, and Pages documents
- Allows you to share the text by email, message, iCloud Drive, and/or add to Notes
- Available exclusively on iOS devices such as iPhone and iPad
- Recently updated



# WHAT IS RESPITE?

BY TERRY SCHENKEL

Have you ever wondered what the Respite Program does and how respite works?

Respite, by one of the definitions found in the Merriam-Webster dictionary, means an interval of rest or relief. For families served by the Developmental Disabilities Association's Respite Program, it means a brief break from caring for their loved one with a developmental disability. It gives the family some free time to run errands, catch up on sleep, go on a vacation or do whatever they need to relax, or simply get some things done!

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and Community Living BC (CLBC) fund a set number of respite hours for each family annually. The Respite Program recruits caregivers who are screened to ensure they are qualified to work with individuals with developmental disabilities. Caregivers are introduced to families and then matched to according to compatibility and availability. Respite Caregivers are independent contractors.



There are three streams in the Respite Program: Group Respite for Children and Adults, 1:1 Children's Respite Program and 1:1 Adult Respite. Within the 1:1 program, caregivers may provide the individuals with fun activities in the community or at home once or twice a week. Sometimes caregivers will host individuals, while the family goes away on vacation. Group Respite, is set up to provide organized activities for small groups of children and adults, led by an Activity Worker, who facilitates groups and offers opportunities to engage in community-based activities like swimming and bowling together.

Respite, in summary, is a much needed break for the family - and a great opportunity for some fun for their loved one! We are always looking for good caregivers!

## INTERESTED IN PROVIDING RESPITE?

Please contact us at [604.327.9111](tel:604.327.9111) or [respite@develop.bc.ca](mailto:respite@develop.bc.ca)

# PADDLES FOR AFRICA

BY KIM ALMOND

The artwork on this lovely vintage mahogany dragon boat paddle was produced by Wendy Cook, Esther Schmidt, Jane Barrett-Lennard and Loekie Versteg. These artists are participants of the Developmental Disabilities Association (DDA) and led by Art Instructor - Kim Almond.

We are constantly surprised and delighted by what new interests and directions people take in their personal exploration of art and the artistic process, and particularly how a sense of community benefits us all. DDA offers a wide range of programs developed to support, facilitate and enrich the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

This is just the beginning of a much larger project called "Paddles For Africa - 2018", featuring over 30 local artists. Updates will appear on the "Tikun Olam Gogos" Facebook page.



## BEACH ACCESS AT ENGLISH BAY

Mobi-Mat makes English Bay Beach more accessible for people with mobility challenges.

Many of us like to hit the beach in the summer and now it's easier for people with mobility challenges to enjoy the experience, too!

The Vancouver Park Board has launched a pilot program at English Bay Beach bathhouse with the installation of a Mobi-Mat, a non-slip beach access pathway that will allow people in wheelchairs, scooters or walkers to get closer to the water.

The Mobi-Mat has been installed just above the tide line at English Bay and will be removed in the fall. If successful, more mats will be installed at other beaches in 2018.

The pilot was implemented as a result of feedback during the public engagement process for VanPlay (<http://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/vanplay-parks-and-recreation-strategy.aspx>), a guide for creating vibrant parks and recreation over the next 25 years. People asked that beaches be made more accessible.

In addition to beach mats, the Park Board has two beach wheelchairs with inflatable tires that can roll on sand. More chairs will be added next year.

For more information, visit <http://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/accessible-beaches.aspx>.





## TRULY REWARDING EXPERIENCES

BY ALI JAFRI, YOUTH VOLUNTEER WITH DELTA PARKS AND RECREATION  
SPECIALTY PROGRAMS

On June 2nd at the Delta Rotary Youth Awards ceremony, I was very fortunate to have been awarded the Compassion and Empathy award in recognition of the time I have spent volunteering with Specialty programs in Delta. At this ceremony, I had the pleasure of meeting and spending time with the Mayor of Delta, Hon. Lois Jackson, Delta Fire Chief, Dan Copeland, Delta Police Chief, Neil Dubord and North Delta MLA, Ravi Kahlon.

Volunteering with Delta Parks and Recreation's Specialty programs where I assist children with developmental disabilities with sporting programs and camps in Delta has been a very special experience for me. I had signed up for the program 3 years ago when my mom had insisted that do something other than sit around all summer and play video games!

It all started with teaching 8 year old Nicholas how to skate. I was given his profile by the volunteer coordinator and I have to admit, I was a bit nervous at first. However, once I got on the ice with Nick, it was like we had been buddies forever! It wasn't easy at first, as Nick would spend most of the time sitting on the ice. I had to find different ways to engage him and it was awesome to see his progress, as by the end of the 6 month training session, he was standing up and gliding on the ice on his own! Since then, I have volunteered as a 1:1 coach in the Brad Higgs Soccer camp where I taught kids to play soccer as well as volunteered in several other programs.

Just this month, I spent an awesome week with Evan who is a 13 year old with ASD and Asperger's. We had a great time at Playland, Dragon boating at Deep Cove and Paddleboarding at Jericho Beach.

Volunteering with Delta's Specialty program has been a great way for me help out in my community while having fun with wonderful kids who are now my friends!

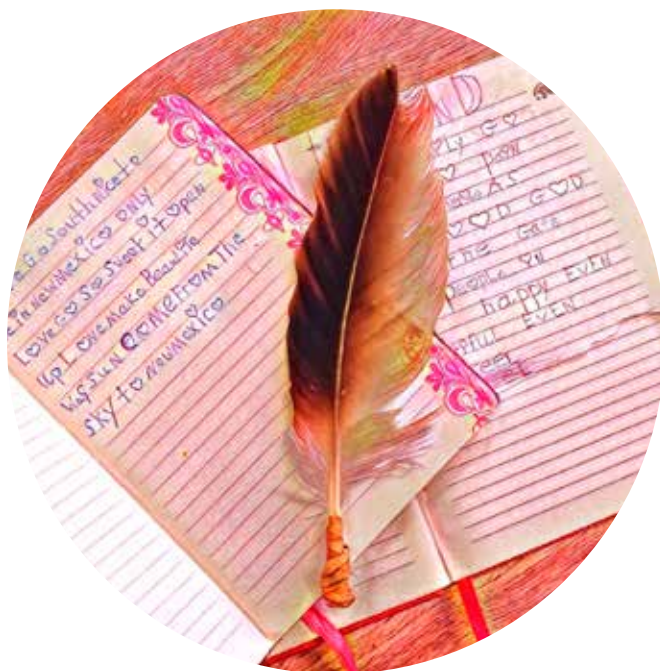
*Editor's note: Ali is Director of Finance, Shazia Jafri's son. We are so proud of his accomplishments and dedication to the community. Congratulations, Ali!*

## ABORIGINAL DAY STAR

BY MICHELLE WALES RYAN, SELF ADVOCATE

I am a Gitxan woman living in Vancouver and a participant of the Fraser Day Program at DDA. The Missing Women's Memorial March in Vancouver held on Valentine's Day every year has been going on for 27 years, a long time. It was not easy how much damage was done to the families and friends of the missing women. We look for justice and we want justice but I feel justice is not happening for the missing women, families and friends.

Over the years, I have attended the Missing Women's Memorial March a few times. It was good to support the cause, but I found it difficult to go to the Missing Women's March and see the families and friends of the missing women so sad and needing closure. I hope that all the people who have lost a love one can find closure in time.



# JOBS WEST SUCCESS STORIES

## JENNY AT STARBUCKS

BY ADRIENNE LEE

We would like to congratulate Jenny, who secured a part-time position as a Cafe Attendant at Starbucks. Jenny's bubbly nature and customer service oriented attitude is an invaluable asset to the team. In addition, Jenny was recognized for her skills and received the Green Apron award! Great work, Jenny!



## RONAN IN RICHMOND

BY ROCHELLE REZANSOFF

We would like to congratulate Ronan on his new position with The City of Richmond. Ronan is currently working part time as an Administrative Assistant. Ronan's attention to detail and hardworking attitude fills a vital role at the City of Richmond. Awesome job, Ronan!



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# HOLIDAY OPTIONS TEAM EXPERIENCES

The Holiday Options Program is a dream job for those who love to travel and are passionate about working with people with disabilities! I had the opportunity to go to Buntzen Lake where we had a picnic and went canoeing. I have gone on week-long trips, such as Salt Spring Island, which allowed me to explore Ruckle National Park and a cheese factory. We have also gone swimming in nearly all the week-long trips and on some of the day trips.

Facilitating clients' holidays has been a wonderful experience for me and I have learned so much! I helped plan itineraries based on the clients' abilities while ensuring an enjoyable trip. I was able to cook nutritious meals that correspond with everyone's dietary restrictions.

Being organized was really important; this ensured that all the medications were administered appropriately and on time.

I have found a lot of joy and satisfaction interacting with youth and adults with disabilities. I got to know them really well and picked up on how I can be of best assistance over time. Each person is so different from each other and a "one-size fits all" approach definitely does not work. I have learned various ways of communicating and supporting numerous needs. The Holiday Options Program is a job like none other and I always looked forward to coming to work!

BY CHARISA YU

Reflecting on the four months with Holiday Options, I realized Holiday Options made my summer special in so many ways. Work never really felt like work, instead it felt like holiday and hanging out with awesome people. When I envisioned my first co-op term, I thought I would be sitting in an office from Monday to Friday sending emails and answering phone calls. Instead, I got to go to places like Harrison Hot Springs, Powell River, Squamish, and Victoria. My experience confirmed to me that people can mean so much to you in a short amount of time. Without my team's encouragement and support, I would not have been able to obtain my class 4 driver's license and of course, our holidays would not have been as much fun as they were. Besides having an amazing team, all the participants made my job so memorable and satisfying. It is true what people say, Holiday Options workers have the best job ever - I wouldn't change a single thing.

BY KYLEEN LEE



# BREAKING THE BARRIERS

BY FATIMA LLARENAS

The summer months at Grandview hold a lot of excitement for the clients. Despite the dreary spring months and indoor activities, the once-a-year adventures are ready to commence!

We may face hindrances in our lives, but the individuals at Grandview persevere with trying out new hobbies and interests. Apart from the weekly bowling outings at Rev's and the bi-weekly visit to Oakridge Library for Story Circle, some of the adults take on Bollywood on Wednesdays to perform their choreography at the Bell Centre! We also began activities such as hiking, and sailing last year, and are now able to take more clients to join the SAILabration.

In addition to these excursions, some of the adults have taken on paddleboarding this year at False Creek, where they are able to paddle near Science World and BC Place Stadium.

In late May of 2015, due to the requests of several participants we decided to start a garden. The Kaslo program offered the use of their garden. It held a lot of promise, since it provided a beautiful, big bed that could accommodate many vegetables and flowers.

The plot took a lot of work! Undeterred, the staff and participants dove in with enthusiasm. Thanks to Helen, Bryan, and Steven, we soon had the weeds cleared out and the bed laid bare. Our next step was to renew the allotment with fresh soil.

By early June, we were ready for planting; we soon had the garden full of flowers and vegetables including lettuce, kale, peas, potatoes, beets, corn and tomatoes. Of course none of it would have been possible without the great work and commitment of the individuals at Grandview who have embraced the garden and made it their own.



# YOUR LOVED ONES ESTATE - WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

BY DAVID CHEN, BSc, BA, CPCA, CFP,  
Lead Advisor - DC Complete Financial

During regular practice, our team encounters all kinds of situations that few professionals know how to solve unless they work with the disability community on a regular basis. Closing up a loved one's estate is an example where, beyond the common issues of inheritances, probate and taxes, there are certain rights that are available to those who had a permanent disability prior to passing.

When a loved one dies, their estate is going to go through a probate and taxation process just like everyone else and having to file tax returns and pay tax liabilities for a loved one with a disability often feels like a final punch in the face. However, there is always a silver lining in every difficult situation. One thing we have found on a disturbingly regular basis is that executors are often paying more tax than they need to because the deceased never had a disability tax credit approved while alive.

Tax law allows us to elect for a variety of tax saving procedures, apply for credits and fix past tax returns for between 1 to 10 years after death. The disability tax credit is no different. Many of our clients are surprised to find out we can apply for the credit after they have passed because, if the deceased was entitled to this disability benefit, this can successfully be applied for and applied to past tax returns from the year of death up to 10 years back (as long as the individual had this condition 10 or more years ago).



“  
... executors are often paying more tax than they need to be because the deceased never had a disability tax credit approved while alive.  
”

That said, time is of the essence because professionals that will have to sign off on the application may be in the process of retiring, making the process more difficult if say the deceased's physician or specialist has retired by the time the executor gets around to completing the application. Another concern is that the longer it takes to apply for the disability tax credit after death, the longer it takes to file the final tax returns and retroactively fix past tax returns, the longer it will take the executor to keep the estate open thereby irritating heirs waiting for their inheritance (RDSP's have to be closed and inherited in the estate process) and resulting in more obligations to file estate trust tax returns in the future. Also the longer this is deferred, the less likely the regular caregiver will have receipts or other documentation to prove their support in the event of the application being red flagged for further scrutiny prior to its approval.

Of important note in this process is that the disability tax credit can also be transferred from the deceased to the regular caregiver who provided significant, regular support for the deceased's regular activities of living, but be prepared for two levels of extra scrutiny including providing dates and descriptions of the regular support and amounts of money spent on supporting the loved one. The second level of scrutiny is to provide proof of support in terms of receipts.

While this looks like an onerous process, this can result in some cases of more than \$15,000 in tax refunds to the estate or to the regular caregiver if the disability tax credit is transferred to them retroactively.

Why I also bring up this process is because eligibility for the disability tax credit is often also applicable to the primary caregiver after they have passed. Frequently, parents or siblings continue to support the loved one with a disability until the day they themselves have passed. Often, the caregiver's health has degraded along the way to the point that they would have been entitled to the disability tax credit but they never applied for it. Such a caregiver's estate is also entitled to go through this post mortem process of applying for unclaimed past tax benefits.

So, even though your family may have suffered the loss of a loved one with a disability or the caregiver of that loved one, please consult a trusted financial planner and explore post mortem tax relief rights as soon as possible.



## AUTUMN 2017 FAMILY SUPPORT & ADVOCACY WORKSHOP

Disability Financial Planning  
What you need to do now,  
what you can do later, and  
what you never have to do!

Speaker:

David Chen, BSc, BA, CPCA, FPSC Level 1

Date:

Saturday, November 4, 2017 from 10AM - 1PM

Where:

3455 Kaslo Street, Vancouver

Contact:

Terry Schenkel at 604-233-5433 or  
[tschenkel@develop.bc.ca](mailto:tschenkel@develop.bc.ca)

## STAFF APPRECIATION

The Developmental Disabilities Association celebrated many staff milestones in 2017! We were fortunate enough to honour nearly 100 staff members for their many years of service, ranging from five to thirty years. We would like to sincerely thank each and every one of our workers as their efforts and skills make the Developmental Disabilities Association possible!

We are also celebrating a very special 35 year anniversary! Danielle White, our director of residential services, was commended by DDA for her hard work and dedication to providing the best possible services for all our residential clients. Thanks Danielle!

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ABOUT DDA AND COMMUNITY  
EVENTS?**

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# SUMMER 2017 COMMUNITY EVENTS

Between April & August over 100 DDA staff, clients & volunteers participated in 21 community events from Squamish to Pitt Meadows. These volunteers distributed over 32,000 DDA fridge magnets at events such as Canada Day 150, the Vancouver Pride Parade, Community in Motion, DDA's Night @ The Nat and many more! Thank you to ALL our volunteers for all your hard work!





# AUTISM INFORMATION SERVICES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

ANNOUNCED BY JONATHAN BARRY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Effective July 4, 2017, the ministry will offer autism information support and services through Autism Information Services BC (AIS BC).

## What services can you expect from AIS BC?

- Autism Information Services BC will be a provincial information centre for autism and related disorders and will focus on providing information and supports to families, service providers, MCFD staff, and community professionals across the province.
- AIS BC will have Information Officers available to assist families, service providers, and community professionals to better understand the range of best practice treatment options for autism spectrum disorder and to find their way through the BC service system.
- To support the continuity and quality of service, MCFD has hired all relevant ACT employees. This will help to ensure families have continued access to the individuals with whom they have developed trusting relationships.



## AIS BC services will be delivered within three streams:

### 1. Supports to Families

- AIS BC staff will assist the growing number of BC families affected by autism who need support in making informed decisions about treatment options for their children. Support will be available through a toll-free line, in-person, in groups at live outreach events, or through the new website.
- In general, AIS BC will assist families by providing information on assessment and diagnosis; best practice treatment options; navigating the Autism Funding Program; finding and hiring professionals; identifying and accessing provincial and local-level community supports and services; and managing transitions across infancy, preschool, school-age and emerging adulthood.
- AIS BC will also be the home of the BC Autism Outreach Program which since 2011 has provided over 30 face-to-face training workshops on Autism Spectrum Disorders to families, caregivers, service providers, Delegated Aboriginal Agencies, and front-line MCFD staff in rural and remote communities across the province.

### 2. Supports for Service Providers

- AIS BC will be a central resource for MCFD staff and related contracted employees, such as Infant Development Program and Child Development Centre staff, so that they are better able to support the families they serve.
- AIS BC will also focus on promoting collaboration and coordination between autism-related service organizations and community support providers across BC, including continuing to work with ACT and the broader autism community, and building partnerships with new initiatives such as the Pacific Autism Family Network, and the network of inter- and cross-ministry services and supports across the province.

### 3. Management of the Registry of Autism Service Providers

- AIS BC will manage and administer the RASP with continued support from the RASP Expert Advisory Panel. The existing online RASP search engine will be hosted on the AIS BC website so that families have continued access to a list of qualified professionals (Behaviour; Speech-Language Pathology; Occupational Therapy; and Physical Therapy).



- There are no changes to the application requirements and procedures. All on-line application forms have been updated to reflect the change in mailing and email addresses so that submissions are now directed to AIS BC.

Effective July 4, 2017, families, service providers, ministry staff, and the general public can reach AIS BC at:

Mailing Address: AIS BC c/o 3688 Cessna Drive, Richmond, British Columbia, V7B 1C7.

Toll Free Line: **1-844-878-4700**

Email – [autisminformation@gov.bc.ca](mailto:autisminformation@gov.bc.ca)

Email – RASP: [RASP@gov.bc.ca](mailto:RASP@gov.bc.ca)

Website: [www.gov.bc.ca/autisminfo](http://www.gov.bc.ca/autisminfo)

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**British Columbia Premier John Horgan has announced the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) rate will increase by \$100 as of September 22, 2017.**



# BOTTLE & BOOK BIN REBRAND

Over the Summer, the Developmental Disabilities Association re-branded our bottle and book donation bins to match our clothing bins - have a look and keep an eye out for a bin near you!



## NEW CLOTHING DONATION BINS IN THE LOWER MAINLAND

THANK YOU to our new bin hosts for supporting DDA  
Be sure to drop off your donations at any of our white donation bins!

**ALLRIGHT**  
LADDER AND SCAFFOLD CO.

Allright Ladder and  
Scaffold Co.  
11481 Franklin St, Vancouver



Valley Golf Centre  
4211 Gladwin Rd, Abbotsford



Spice of Nepal  
13486 72nd Ave, Surrey

**AUGUST JACK  
MOTOR INN**  
SQUAMISH, B.C.

August Jack Motor Inn  
37947 Cleveland Ave,  
Squamish



Frog Hollow Neighbourhood  
House  
2131 Renfrew St, Vancouver



St. Martin's Anglican Church  
195 E Windsor Road, North  
Vancouver



Tireman  
10997 River Road, Delta



Wayland Sports  
Unit 145 - 12417 No. 2  
Road, Richmond

Buswell Apt  
6733 Buswell St, Richmond

Seaward Construction  
10384 120 St, Surrey

Seaward Construction  
10384 120 St, Surrey

Valley Golf Centre  
4211 Gladwin Rd, Abbotsford

MJ Auto Wholesale  
24037 Lougheed Hwy, Maple Ridge

Song Huong Vietnamese Restaurant  
1613 Nanaimo St, Vancouver

Gin's Auto Service Ltd.  
696 Clark Dr, Vancouver

1 Dollar Store  
702 E Broadway, Vancouver

Siahar Auto Spa  
13555 58 Ave, Surrey

NewGen Computing Co.  
3903 Knight St, Vancouver

Metanoia Music Studio  
3058 Kingsway, Vancouver

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NEAR YOU AT  
[WWW.DEVELOP.BC.CA](http://WWW.DEVELOP.BC.CA)

# JAPANESE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP WORKSHOP

Creative Parenting: 2 - Part Workshop on Building attachment with your children with Expressive Arts

MEETINGS: 1st week - Saturday, September 30, 2017

10:00am - 1:00pm (Parents only)

Creative Parenting - *Create what you imagine & power of creativity* - In this workshop, parents will learn what creativity is, why it promotes resiliency and how you can support your children through imaginative play and Expressive Arts.

2nd week - Saturday, October 7, 2017

10:00am - 1:00pm (Parents & Children)

Let's play with Expressive Arts! - *The process to build attachment with your children* - In this experiential workshop, parents will start to build connections with their children through Expressive Arts by using all your senses and imaginative play.

PLACE: Developmental Disabilities Association Kaslo hub  
(3455 Kaslo Street, Vancouver)

PRESENTER: Youki Kato  
M.A., Registered Clinical Counsellor (R.C.C.)  
Certified Expressive Arts Therapist

SEATING: 20 (10 pairs of Children with developmental disabilities and their families)

LANGUAGE: Japanese

ADMISSION: Free

CONTACT: [twinklestars2017@hotmail.com](mailto:twinklestars2017@hotmail.com) by September 23 to register

NOTES: No childcare provided

**RSVP TODAY!**  
**WE LOOK FORWARD**  
**TO SEEING YOU!**



**SAVE 20% - KURIOS BY CIRQUE DU SOLEIL IN VANCOUVER**

DISCOUNT LINK: [HTTP://CIRK.ME/2G5VY9J](http://cirk.me/2G5VY9J)

KURIOS, the most acclaimed Big Top show by Cirque du Soleil will soon be in Vancouver. Save 20% for a limited time on select tickets and treat your loved ones to a unique experience. KURIOS opens October 19th under the Big Top at Concord Pacific Place.

Delve into a world where seeing is disbelieving. Suddenly the visible becomes invisible, perspectives are transformed, and the world is literally turned upside down.

# UPCOMING FAMILY SUPPORT GROUPS

SPONSORED BY THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION

## VANCOUVER CHINESE SUPPORT GROUP

General support for children's and adult's issues in Cantonese and Mandarin.

**MEETINGS:** 3rd Saturday of the month  
(6:30-8:30pm)

**PLACE:** 4948 Fraser Street, Vancouver

**CHILD MINDING:** Available on site when requested at least one week in advance of meeting

**CONTACT:** [knowledgenaction@gmail.com](mailto:knowledgenaction@gmail.com)

## YOUTH IN TRANSITION

Support information for transition to adulthood.

**MEETINGS:** Oct. 4 & Dec. 6, 2017 (6:30pm)  
(3455 Kaslo St., Vancouver)  
First Saturday of alternate months beginning with Nov. 4 (6:30pm)  
(2006 W 10 Ave, Vancouver)

**CONTACT:** Liz Cochrane at [604-733-6252](tel:604-733-6252)  
[transitionparents@gmail.com](mailto:transitionparents@gmail.com)

## THE BREAKTIME GROUP

Support to families of all cultural backgrounds and languages

**MEETINGS:** First Wednesday of the month starting Oct. 4 (3:30pm-4:30pm)

**PLACE:** 4948 Fraser St., Vancouver

**CONTACT:** Terry Schenkel at [604-233-5433](tel:604-233-5433)  
[tschenkel@develop.bc.ca](mailto:tschenkel@develop.bc.ca)

## VIETNAMESE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Support to Families in Vietnamese

**MEETINGS:** Second Thursday of the Month starting Sept. 14 (6:30pm-8:00pm)

**PLACE:** 3455 Kaslo St., Vancouver

**CHILD MINDING:** Available on site when requested at least one week in advance of meeting

**CONTACT:** Nikki Tran at [778-895-2535](tel:778-895-2535) from 6:00-9:00pm

## LOWER MAINLAND JAPANESE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

General support to families in Japanese

**MEETINGS:** September 30 & October 7  
(10:00am-1:00pm)

**PLACE:** 3455 Kaslo Street, Vancouver

**CONTACT:** Chigusa Barnes at [chishebarnes@msn.com](mailto:chishebarnes@msn.com)



**United Way  
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Canadian Publications Agreement Number 40011236

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**Developmental  
Disabilities Association**

The Star is a quarterly external publication of the Developmental Disabilities Association.

We welcome your comments and feedback. Kindly direct all comments and submissions to [communications@develop.bc.ca](mailto:communications@develop.bc.ca).