

SUMMER
2018

THE STAR



Developmental
Disabilities Association

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PROVINCIAL BUDGET 2018 – KEY HIGHLIGHTS

BY ALANNA HENDREN

The budget announced on February 20, 2018 had lots of good news for people who are served and employed by the Developmental Disabilities Association:

- \$1 billion over 3 years for child care
- \$1.6 billion for Housing
- \$1.5 billion for Healthcare
- \$409 million for K-12 Education

New taxes include:

- 20% foreign buyers' tax
- 9.3% increase in property tax revenue
- 1-2% payroll tax
- \$834 million in new carbon tax revenue
- An increase of 1% will also be applied to the corporate tax rate.

The B.C. minimum wage will increase by 11% to \$15 per hour over 3 years.

The distribution method for child care funding has not yet been determined. MCFD representatives admit they don't have a concrete plan in place. This will be a difficult exercise since they will be moving child care from a 'free enterprise' model, where providers are small and large, union and non-union, licensed and unlicensed, non-profit and for-profit, a model where no central organizing body exists, and write a policy regarding how new funds will be distributed. At present, there is a Minister of State for Child Care and funds will flow from the Ministry of Children and Families, but there is talk that an emphasis on early learning by this government will move child care/pre-school closer to the Ministry of Education. The emphasis will be on early childhood development rather than just child care.

Once providers register for the new fee reduction program, agencies will receive up to \$350 per month per child with the expectation that these funds will reduce costs correspondingly for parents. We are assuming that increased benefits will continue to come from individual family subsidies, which are up to \$1,250 per eligible family.

Another goal of the child care program will be to increase the number of spaces provincially by 22,000, so additional child care will also be available. The province will support unlicensed providers to become licensed and offer assistance for recruitment and training for early childhood educators, as finding staff will be a significant challenge. There is also a 10-year, \$153 million commitment by the federal government to fund the B.C. government's three-year action plan for early learning. This plan has a line item specifically for children and youth with special needs. This line will get an increase of \$20 million for 2018/2019 and 10 million for 2019/2020. There is also a lift of \$8 million of new funding for Early Intervention Therapies, Infant Development and other foundational programs.

Many of our families are invested in Registered Disability Savings Plans. One problem with these plans is that many adults with developmental disabilities do not have the capacity to enter into legal contracts. In these cases, the Income Tax Act requires that the plan holder be the individual's legal representative, but obtaining legal guardianship is an expensive and lengthy process that removes virtually all rights from the individual. The legal representative requirement was waived until 2018 to allow for qualifying family members to hold the RDSP if there was no legal representative. The federal budget has now extended this temporary measure to 2023.

For those of our clients who work for pay, the Working Income Tax Benefit, which supplements the earnings of low-income workers, has been increased to 26% of each dollar of earned income in excess of \$3,000 to a maximum benefit of \$1,355 for single people and \$2,335 for couples starting in 2019. The benefit will be reduced by 12% of net income in excess of \$12,820 for single individuals and \$17,025 for families. This applies to people who also receive the Disability Tax Credit.

The Medical Expenses Tax Credit has also been expanded to include costs related to "animals that are specifically trained to help individuals cope with severe mental impairments" (but not just for comfort or emotional support) and will apply to expenses incurred after 2017.



INTRO TO BAKING AND CAKE DECORATING CLASS WITH FRASER PROGRAM

BY SONIA CRAMER

This new activity at the Fraser Day Program was initiated by two CSWs: Bereket Besufekad and Carol Smith. It has been an activity where staff leaders and class participants are learning together and exploring different techniques for making cakes, icing, and decorating cakes.

So far, this group's accomplishments are a cake they made for Fraser's Canada Day party and a cake they made for a retirement party (both pictured above). On the retirement cake, each flower and leaf was made separately and then transferred to the cake once it was iced.

Carol and Bereket are planning the next learning objectives for this activity, and how to teach the more intricate aspects of cake decorating including using various piping tips to create flowers, rosettes, and leaves to use for decorating.

From Staff:

We learned and taught individuals in our Baking Class to explore different cake recipes, different types of icings, learn techniques, and practice with different icing tips. It made staff and individuals feel a sense of accomplishment by looking at the results and tasting the cakes that the baking team made. This class helped the staff to be more aware and creative in finding different tools and techniques to include all individuals according to their abilities.

From Clients:

RORY

"With the staffs' help, Baking Class is a great way to improve my skills. It is helping me to learn to plan what we are going to bake the following week. I got a chance to learn how to decorate a cake with chocolate icing and decorative edible flowers."



ANN

"Baking Class is fun and exciting because we get to bake with our staff, Carol and Bereket, and eat it with the group afterwards. I learned how to work with a group and adaptive ways of doing things."



SHIRLEY

"To be in a Baking Class is great. It makes me feel like a chef because I get to participate in the entire process of baking according to my ability. We also got to take our favourite recipes home."



MICHELLE

"In the Baking Class I learned the baking process and skills that I didn't have before with the staffs' support. I got a chance to learn how to decorate a cake with chocolate icing and decorative edible flowers. It is a great opportunity to work in small group and experience patient and great friendship throughout the process and try and feel happy about the result together."



MAY

"In Baking Class I learned, most of all, the greatness of helping each other to practice and learn together. I liked cake decorating with chocolate icing and understanding the process."



JOBS WEST SPOTLIGHT

Bob at the Georgia Straight BY MCKENZIE HANNEWYK

Since 2016, Bob has explored his vocational goals and interests through Jobs West which has resulted in multiple work experiences. Bob's strong work ethic and dedication to his commitments has been evident in all of his positions such as Kitchen Helper, Daycare Cleaner, Senior Centre Assistant, and Gym Cleaner. These opportunities assisted Bob in building a platform that he could use to gain new skills, learn more about his strengths and add to his resume. With some wonderful references under his belt and a drive to succeed, Bob secured paid employment as a Courier for the Georgia Straight in January. Through the cold, rain, and sometimes snow, Bob has displayed great attitude and determination as he learned his new paper route. As of March this year, Bob has been independently delivering newspapers to the Marpole neighbourhood with a smile and has yet to miss a shift. Great work Bob!

DDA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

BY ALANNA HENDREN

After over two years of discussion about the future constitution of the DDA Board of Directors, which culminated in a targeted recruitment process, we recently welcomed three outstanding new members to our Board team. You can meet them at our upcoming AGM, but until then, here are their bios:



SANDRA REIDER

CPE, President and Founder, Vertical Bridge Corporate Consulting Inc. and Health Bridge HR. Sandra is a driving force within the Human Resources community and every other challenge that comes her way. Besides

her expertise in the area of human resources best practices and leadership in her industry, Sandra continues to be voluntarily involved with her professional association, the Human Resources Management Association, the Eastside Movement for Business and Economic Renewal Society (EMBERS), Room to Read Canada, Covenant House, the Association of Canadian Search, Employment and Staffing Services, the Foundation for Fighting Blindness, and our own Developmental Disabilities Foundation. We are happy to welcome Sandra back!



DEVINDER SEKHON

Devinder Sekhon started his professional life as a Chartered Professional Accountant and Certified General Accountant, then went on to get a Masters of Health Administration degree from U.B.C. and became a Certified Health Executive. He has significant professional experience in the private,

government, and non-profit sectors that continues to this day – Devinder holds a senior-level executive position with a non-profit, charitable organization that provides housing, health and social services to marginalized populations. Prior to that, he held a variety of senior executive roles within the federal public service. He has also operated his own small business and provided accounting and business consulting services.

Devinder is driven by his passion for social justice and quality of life causes. He has been so successful serving on the boards of community non-profits that he was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002 for his involvement in charitable and community service activities. We are very grateful to Devinder for deciding to spend his spare time contributing to DDA's mission.



TED BRUCE

Ted has retired from over forty years of high level experience in various policy development, planning and leadership positions in the public sector, working provincially and with Vancouver Coastal Health. He held senior executive positions in Population Health, Primary Health Care and Systems Development and Performance, in addition to spending ten years at the Registered Nurses' Association of B.C. developing and managing New Directions in Health Care, and consulting with the Alberta Ministry of Advanced Education developing health professional education. Ted was also an Adjunct Professor of Clinical Practice at Simon Fraser University and in the UBC Faculty of Medicine School of Population and Public Health.

While professionally impacting the future of Health Care in B.C., Ted also held voluntary leadership positions with the Public Health Association of B.C., the B.C. Poverty Reduction Coalition, the Canadian Institutes for Health Research, the Public Health Agency of Canada Collaborating Center on Healthy Public Policy, the Canadian Center for the Analysis of Regionalization and Health and the Institute of Public Administration of Canada.

In his spare time, Ted likes to go cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.



All of our board members serve DDA voluntarily, contributing their time, energy, experience, and expertise to ensure that our organization lives out its values – integrity, respect, expertise and conviction – to realize our mission to ensure people with developmental disabilities can reach their full potential. Corporate boards repay their shareholders in profits, but DDA repays our members, clients and funders in dividends of human development. Sandra, Ted and Devinder have joined the board to help represent the community by ensuring that we provide the maximum social dividends possible, as manifested in the improved abilities and lives of the infants, children, teens, adults and seniors with developmental disabilities who we support.

**YOU'RE
INVITED**



Developmental
Disabilities Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please Join Us!

WEDNESDAY JUNE 20, 2018 @ 7PM

AT Developmental Disabilities Association Head Office
Suite 100 — 3851 Shell Rd, Richmond, BC V6X 2W2

TIME Registration from 6PM to 7PM
AGM to start at 7PM sharp

RSVP Kindly RSVP Before June 6, 2018
T: 604 273 9778 E: RSVP@develop.bc.ca

NOTE Refreshments will be served.



REFLECTIONS ON OUR EMPLOYEES

BY ALANNA HENDREN

DDA will be going through its sixth accreditation review in mid-May so we are all busily preparing for CARF surveyors to visit each site and report on DDA's compliance with CARF standards. Accreditation offers us an opportunity to review our work over the last three years and reflect on where we need to evolve to more fully realize our mission. Helping people realize their full potential is hard work that runs all the way through DDA!

Our excellence is thanks to the dedicated staff who work for DDA. Remarkably, many have worked with us for over 10, 20, 30 and in a couple of cases, 40 years. We have childcare workers who have supported and taught almost two generations of children. Residential staff who have become like family to the people with whom they work. Vocational and community support staff who have motivated and supported many people to reach their goals and become more independent. Truck drivers who have braved snow, rain and repaired vandalized clothing bins that help us raise money to enhance DDA services. Everyone who has ever worked at DDA, and there have been thousands since 1952, has left their mark on the people and culture of our organization.

The first employee at DDA was a school teacher. Families who did not place their children in institutional care at the "Woodlands School" had nowhere to

“
Everyone who has ever worked at DDA, and there have been thousands since 1952, has left their mark on the people and culture of our organization.
”

send their children to learn. Some policy makers thought people with developmental disabilities could not learn. To prove that community was for everyone, these families formed the first Board of Directors, with Bea Purdy as President. They found church basements where they could teach a small group of children, while moms took turns picking up and driving kids to school and teaching classes. After a few years of this, they finally got a grant and hired one qualified, trained teacher, and very soon afterwards, hired another.

Eventually, these families founded the Oakridge School – which is still well remembered by some of our older clients. Eventually Oakridge School was incorporated into the Vancouver School District and then integrated education came to all regions of British Columbia.

Once groups of graduates left the Oakridge School, they needed jobs or some sort of work to occupy their day. This resulted in DDA's Sheltered Workshops opening and operating throughout the city for several decades. Some of our current staff can still remember working in Sheltered Work. Once the *Employment Standards Act* was changed to include people with developmental disabilities and required all people to be paid minimum wage for work during the final years of the last millennium, DDA closed our Sheltered Workshops and, after meeting with every Workshop participant

to find out what they wanted to do next, we opened all our current day program sites. Some folks did want to work and they found employment in the community or at Starworks. Others wanted to learn life skills, participate in recreation activities, or volunteer in the community without the pressure of a paid job. Deanne Ziebart and her team did a great job of finding new locations, designing new programs and individualizing all services.

Once students left school, parents wanted them to live regular lives in the community, so DDA opened group homes to welcome adults who wanted to live away from their families but not necessarily alone. The famous Garry Street group home was large and understaffed, but it did provide an opportunity for folks to learn life skills and become more independent. Respite and supported apartment services were also initiated so people at all levels of independence could be accommodated. DDA opened only a couple of group homes in response to the closure of Tranquille and did not participate in the closure of Woodlands, but rather developed housing for folks in the community who needed more support. In the 1970's, Arlington was developed. Every staff member who worked in residential programs added to the diversity and comprehensiveness of residential services. In the early 2000's, with a change in government and a change in philosophy, the province formed CLBC and suggested that agencies close their group homes in favour of home share. At DDA we decided that, although group homes were not for everyone, a small percentage of people with developmental disabilities would need more support than home share or apartment living could offer. Under the leadership of Danielle White, our residential services changed to become more efficient and effective. By 2010, we were already utilizing advanced technology to plan for residents and assistive technology to help adults become more independent.

Child care at DDA started at Berwick, when families wanted specialized services to ensure their children developed along typical milestones. In Partnership with U.B.C. and community donors, Berwick became a special needs child care center visited still by professionals and students from all over the world. As the number of special needs children in Vancouver grew, DDA responded by developing more specialized programs until the province developed a policy of integration and a rule that only 25% of any given center could have a disability. Teachers and staff adapted and created new methods of teaching that maintained their high standards while welcoming all children from the community. With Andrew Roets at the helm, DDA teachers and assistants maintained high educational qualifications and continue to produce some of the best special needs childcare environments in the Lower Mainland.

Very proudly, the Infant Development Programs operating throughout the world started at DDA. Dana Brynelson, a DDA employee, took a special interest in early infant development and supported by the DDA Board, developed the first IDP methods and processes. Dana partnered with U.B.C. to develop a body of research that supported IDP development throughout the province, the rest of Canada, the United States, Europe, and in some parts of Asia. With the help of our IDP consultants and U.B.C. academics, it has been exciting to see IDP develop in previously communist countries in Eastern Europe and East Asia.

Throughout these developments, the commitment of all the DDA boards of directors and employees is evident and has grown. From those early days with only two employees compared to today's roster of about 500, everyone who had worked here has contributed to the lives of the infants, children, families, adults and seniors who are served by DDA. They have saved lives, expanded horizons and added quality to the development of all our services. Without our staff, we are only dreamers with goals but no way of reaching them. Without our Board, we are only workers with a job but no sense of purpose. Together, we make a dynamite organization.



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD — LOUD AND CLEAR.

BY RASIKA AKLUJKAR

It is not considered offensive to speak up for yourself, especially when someone hurts you badly. Making your voice loud and clear does not mean shouting out profanities - it means you do your part to stop the danger you have been put into.

Your voice is a good self-defence method that protects you from harm. If you have been hurt or taken advantage of, like I have, you are not alone. People with disabling conditions need to be treated with the same amount of respect that others get treated with. What is considered rude behavior is using profanity, hitting and strangling the person who is hurting your feelings. If you insult someone, this is rude as well.

Reference books that speak about anger highlight rudeness much more insightfully. Everyone feels anger. It is expressed through our tone of voice and actions. We can be in tears and feel angry. We need to express our anger and displeasure of being mistreated, harassed or bullied. When we get furious, we are likely to get aggressive - it's easier to express ourselves when we are kind, sweet and assertive. This does not mean we like the situation or the person, we are just being civil.

'Anger Management for Dummies', written by Charles H. Elliott and Laura L. Smith, describes civility as being respectful of other people, not insensitive. For us, that means speaking up with respect.

Just because we have visible shortcomings it does not mean we have to be constantly mistreated. People think that we should tolerate mistreatment because we are too disabled and dumb. We have to show them our talents. When our rights are not being taken seriously, and we are facing a bully, we are bound to feel stressed out. The BC Health Guide predicts emotional symptoms of stress and anxiety, poor concentration and excessive worrying. Physical symptoms include headache, dizziness, fatigue, insomnia and muscle stiffness. Having a team effort between you, your boss at work, family, and family doctor makes your quality of life better.

In conclusion, freedom of speech and freedom of expression are our legal rights. We need to feel listened to and we should work in a stress-free workplace.

NEW WHITE CLOTHING BINS

THANK YOU to our new bin hosts for supporting DDA

Be sure to drop off your donations at any of our white clothing bins!



Gerry's Automotive
6480A Riverside St,
Abbotsford



Budget Brake & Muffler
26361 Fraser Hwy, Aldergrove



Sandliner Trucking Ltd
3365 264 St, Aldergrove



Olympic Distributors
4098 McConnel Dr, Burnaby



Skyland Bldg Supplies Ltd
4415 Dawson St, Burnaby

Jot Farm
6081 Riverside St, Abbotsford

Car Avenue
31695 South Fraser Way,
Abbotsford



A & J Motorsports
685 Loughheed Hwy, Coquitlam



Payless Tire Used & New
901 Brunette Ave,
Coquitlam



Dogtopia
822 Brunette Ave,
Coquitlam



Martin's Furniture
816 Roderick Ave, Coquitlam



Voltz Automotive
1124 Falcon Dr, Coquitlam

Pacific Prehung Doors
265 Schoolhouse St,
Coquitlam

Brookmere Investments
115 Schoolhouse St,
Coquitlam



Pro Oil Change
5797 200 St, Langley



A-1 Autobody
20090 Logan Ave, Langley



C-Rich Auto Centre Ltd
19887 Fraser Hwy, Langley



Patio-Pool-Spa
20771 Langley Bypass,
Langley

Good Knight Inn
5796 200 St, Langley

A&A tire Inc
20340 Logan Ave, Langley

Elmwood Property
211 11th St, Richmond

SSB Landscaping & Demo Ltd
3600 No 6 Rd, Richmond



Cape Group
633-5960 No. 6 Rd, Richmond



IKidz Learning Centre
6651 Elmbridge Way,
Richmond



JR Furniture
11938 Bridgeport Richmond



Sleep Shop
12540 Bridgeport Rd,
Richmond



BC Brick Supplies Ltd
3100 No 5 Rd, Richmond



Daniel Woodward
10300 Seacote Rd, Richmond

Tomsett Elementary School
9671 Odlin Rd, Richmond

Walter Lee School
9491 Ash St, Richmond



Townline Dry Cleaners
6540 No 3 Rd, Richmond



Steveston Hotel/
The Buck & Bear
12111 3rd Ave, Richmond

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www.develop.bc.ca



7-Direct Furniture & Mattress
13147 76 Ave, Surrey



Bellson Lighting
8278 120 St, Surrey



Canopy West Truck
13285 King George Blvd,
Surrey



Harji's Fireplace
Manufacturing Ltd
1-12335 83A Ave, Surrey

Best Automotive Ltd
101 8642 128 St, Surrey

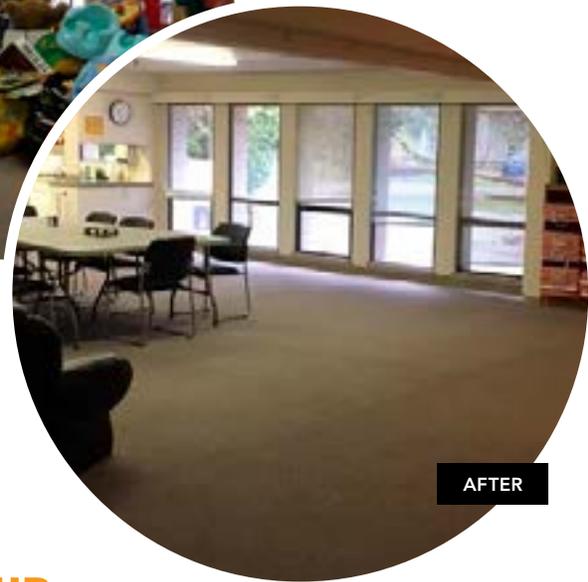
Autozone Diagnostic
Repairs
6460 King George Blvd,
Surrey

Eminata Shopping Centre
11125 124 St, Surrey

Diamond Car Care
12117 86th Ave, Surrey

Evergrow Greenhouse
7072 152 St, Surrey

Fraserview Court Apts
10138 Whalley Blvd, Surrey



KASLO SITE SPRING CLEAN UP

BY ANDREW ROETS

On April 4th, all staff of our Kaslo site came together to give the area a much needed clean up. This day was a long time coming, as the accumulation of stuff for the past 12+ years was impacting many aspects of the site and programs housed there. Old and broken equipment was removed and replaced or just discarded. Staff are excited with their revitalized work and common areas, with plans to continue bettering our Vancouver Children's Hub.

Kaslo houses DDA's Vancouver Infant Development program, Fostering Early Development program, Family Support program, ICN, Respite Services and Leisure Services.

LEISURE FAIR 2018

BY SHIXIN GAO

After several months of preparation, Leisure Fair 2018 was held at the Trout Lake Community Centre on April 3. Around 90 people came through the doors to meet and talk with representatives from 23 recreation and leisure organizations. This was my first time attending the event. I had so much fun and learned a lot. There are so many amazing adapted activities to do throughout the Lower Mainland.

Leisure Fair is about recreational activities for children, youth, and adults with disabilities. Each participating organization provides various programs of adaptive physical activity for clients. These programs help to empower children, build self-confidence, mentor respect for others, increase life skills, and enrich lives. From my understanding, the goal of the Leisure Fair is to believe, participate, inspire, and grow.

I look forward to attending the next Leisure Fair in 2019 at our new location! We'll be at the Sunset Community Centre. It will be an even bigger event with more organizations, athlete demonstrations, and more FUN. I hope to see you there.





LEISURE FAIR 2019

SAVE THE DATE: LEISURE FAIR 2019!

Explore Lower Mainland recreation activities for children and youth with disabilities.



WHERE: **Sunset Community Centre (Gym)**
6810 Main Street, Vancouver, BC, V5X 0A1

WHEN: Wednesday, April 3rd, 2019

FROM: 6:00pm to 8:00pm



Developmental
Disabilities Association





LOOKING FOR
INCLUSIVE
SPORTS & RECREATIONAL
ACTIVITIES?

ORGANIZATION	EMAIL ADDRESS	WEBSITE
Adapted Sports Development	mike.lesyk@adaptedsd.com	www.adaptedsd.com
BC Blind Sports	info@bcblindsports.bc.ca	www.bcblindsports.bc.ca
BC Wheelchair Basketball Society	info@bcwbs.ca	www.bcwbs.ca
Blazin' Soccer Dogs	abbegates@gmail.com	www.soccerdogs.ca
Blind Beginnings Society	shawn@blindbeginnings.ca	www.blindbeginnings.ca
CanAssist, University of Victoria	info@canassist.ca	www.canassist.ca
Canucks Autism Network		www.canucksautism.ca
City of Surrey, Access. and Inclusion Program	inclusion@surrey.ca	www.surrey.ca
Club Aviva Recreation Ltd.	info@clubaviva.ca	www.clubaviva.ca
CP Association of BC	info@bccerebralpalsy.com	www.bccerebralpalsy.com
Disability Foundation	info@disabilityfoundation.org	www.disabilityfoundation.org
Down Syndrome Research Foundation	info@dsrf.org	www.dsrf.org
Easter Seals BC	camp@lionsbc.ca	www.eastersealscamps.ca
Leash of Hope	info@leashofhopeassistancedogs.com	www.leashofhopeassistancedogs.com
Music Therapy Assoc. BC	info@mtabc.com	www.mtabc.com
North Shore Girls Soccer Club	clubadministrator@nsgsc.com	www.nsgsc.com
Power for All Adventure Therapy	powerforallats@gmail.com	www.powerforallats.com
Sirota's Alchymy	info@sirotasalchymy.com	www.sirotasalchymy.com
Southlands Therapeutic Riding Society	stars@ponies.ca	www.therapywithhorses.ca
Special Olympics BC - Vancouver	registration@sobcvancouver.org	www.sobvancouver.org
Sportball Vancouver	vancouver@sportball.ca	www.sportball.ca/vancouver
Synchro BC	info@synchro.bc.ca	www.synchro.bc.ca
Theatre Terrific	info@theatreterrific.ca	www.theatreterrific.ca
Van. Parks & Rec	access.services@vancouver.ca	www.vancouver.ca
Vancouver Public Library Renfrew Branch	info@vpl.ca	www.vpl.ca
Western Society for Children	info@wsfc.ca	www.wsfc.ca
Yoga It Up	info@yogaitup.ca	www.yogaitup.ca
Youth In Action	youthinactiontlcc@gmail.com	www.troutlakecc.com
Zajac Ranch for Children	info@zajac.com	www.zajacranch.com



VICTORIA'S RELAXATION ROOM

BY TARA WILKINSON

Think less, feel more. This is the experience that we try to provide for our clients in the relaxation room. The relaxation room came about over many conversations because of the open-concept layout at Victoria Day Program. The Victoria Day team was looking to utilize the space efficiently while considering a sun-lit, busy street view and most importantly, creating a warm and relaxing escape for clients to enjoy as part of their day. Our problem was: how do we create a space where the clients can relax, when noise can sometimes be an issue?

With the layout of the relaxation room, whether it's the start of the day, after lunch, or the end of a busy day, the Victoria Day team can provide an alternative environment that many of the client's use to settle their mind, escape with an iPad or indulge in the sensory and tactile objects dispersed throughout the room.

The benefits of this room are vast. Sometimes, we play relaxing or meditative music quietly in the background, which has helped drown out all the other

distractions within the day program. We have found that the music provides different clients space for calm and peaceful down time.

The multi-sensory environment provides a variety of stimulation to help enhance concentration, attention, and alertness with some of our clients. The sensory stimulating objects, quiet activities, and comfortable furniture encourage our clients to explore their environment without feeling overwhelmed. Although this is a quieter space, we also use it as a space for social interaction in smaller groups. Interacting and communicating with their peers gives clients a greater opportunity to strengthen and develop their social skills.

The result? The relaxation room has improved the overall environment at the Victoria Day Program and the well-being of each client that visits this new space. This room has become part of a daily routine for some and an occasional exploration for others. Regardless of the purpose, this space is being used by participants for their individual needs and we are seeing benefits in many different ways.

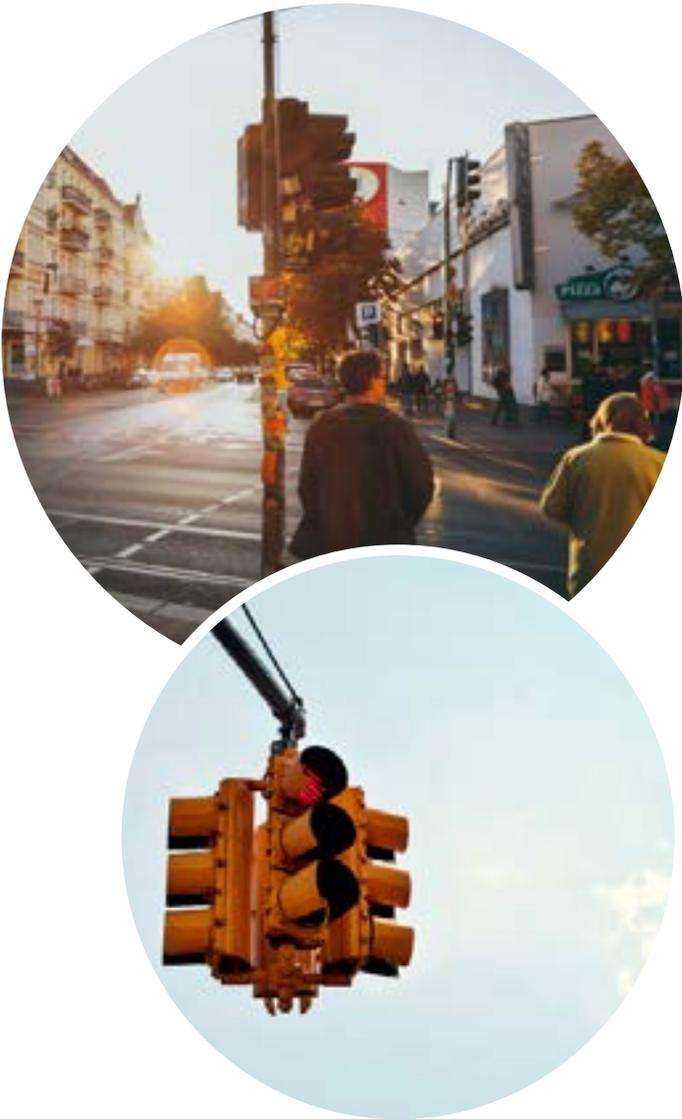
STREET SAFETY AWARENESS AND TIPS FROM SELF-ADVOCATES

WRITTEN COOPERATIVELY BY: THE DDA SELF ADVOCACY GROUP

When we were young, our parents or guardians taught us how to cross the street safely, but that is just one aspect of street safety. There are many dangers in the community that we can educate ourselves on to further protect ourselves. Here are just a few things that we can do to access the community safely and securely:

1. Stay focused. Do not lose concentration.
2. Keep your head up and observe your surroundings.
3. Wear light colored or reflective clothing during the evening.
4. Always cross at a corner.
5. Try to cross at controlled crossings (signal lights) when possible.
6. Obey traffic signals and signs.
7. Always look & listen both ways before crossing.
8. Extend your arm out to indicate to drivers that you are crossing.
9. Walk in well-lit and travelled areas.
10. When possible, travel with a friend.
11. Let family or friends know where you are going.
12. Never go between cars when crossing the street.
13. Walk - never run across the street.

These simple steps above can ensure your safety and security in the community. Please share your newfound wisdom with your family, friends and colleagues. The more we are educated, the safer we are.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER!

Kevin Chan graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, with a double major in Communications and English, from Simon Fraser University. Prior to joining the DDA, Kevin has several years of experience working in the public sector and for non-profits, as well as consulting services in the private sector.

Outside of work, Kevin trains and competes locally in Olympic weightlifting, and enjoys spending Sundays cheering on the Pittsburgh Steelers.

In his new role, Kevin is looking forward to furthering the DDA's marketing and communications initiatives. Next time you are at the office, please introduce yourself!





Developmental
Disabilities Association



Night @ the Nat Bailey Stadium

JOIN THE DDA SPONSORED 11TH ANNUAL

VANCOUVER CANADIANS GAME!



FIRST
500
GUESTS

Wins an official DDA/Vancouver
Canadian's Drawstring Bag!



VS



LOCATION	Nat Bailey Stadium 4601 Ontario Street, Vancouver
DATE	Wednesday June 27, 2018
TIME	Gates open at 6:00pm. First pitch at 7:05pm
CONTACT	Sukhbir Kang at 604-233-5421 or skang@develop.bc.ca
COST	Tickets are \$13.50 each. Please make cheques payable to the Developmental Disabilities Trust.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 27, 2018



STORY TIME AT RENFREW LIBRARY

BY BEN CLEMO

Who doesn't love a story? Books allow our minds to wander and take a brief escape from our daily routines, and Renfrew Library allows for us to get involved in all they have to offer.

Located at 2969 East 22nd Avenue, Renfrew Library offers a story time program that runs every two weeks on Thursdays from 10:00am to 11:00am. The audience is greeted with a collection of stories, music, dancing and visuals. Story time also provides engaging games, riddles and themes that fit with what's happening in the world. A few examples include Chinese New Year, Spring, Valentine's Day and Animal Day.

Peter Kurliak, staff member at Grandview Day Program says:

"It's great to see the clients engage in a fun and thoughtful environment, it is one of the highlights of the week."

Usually hosted by Sheneree, a staff member of the library, story time provides a fun and social environment which engages the audience and sparks their imagination. Clients based at Grandview Day Program find story time a highlight of their day, a chance to socialize with other programs and a great way to be a part of the community.

Story time is free and located in the meeting room of the main library.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

contact Renfrew Library at [604.257.8705](tel:604.257.8705) or online at www.vpl.ca and search for "Renfrew Branch"

JDQ SPOKE ON AETHER AT 2018 BCTECH SUMMIT

Jon Morris, from JDQ's 3Spheres™ Robotics Project, presented at the BCTECH Summit and highlighted the progress that Aether has been making to help people with developmental disabilities achieve greater independence.

In partnership with the Developmental Disabilities Association (DDA), JDQ and Mitacs researchers at University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University have been developing a robot that can help residents live independently and give support staff an extra set of eyes. This robot is named Aether.

Aether is currently based out of Richmond's Camsell House. Aether is not intended to replace group home staff, but to provide extra help by serving as a 'smart' assistant. Some of the robot's tasks will include detecting falls or seizures, turning lights on and off, giving medication reminders and more.

As a first-of-its-kind 'collaborative service' robot, this project is emerging as a leader in the complex world of artificial intelligence and machine learning. It is hoped that a working prototype and commercialization plan will be ready by June 2019.

The BCTECH Summit was held at the Vancouver Convention Centre on May 15-16, 2018.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

read our press release on our website at www.develop.bc.ca > News & Publications > Press Release



STEPHEN'S VOLUNTEERING

BY KELLY NEALE

Stephen Haynes has been proudly volunteering at Collingwood Community House for over 10 years. While volunteering, a few of Stephen's responsibilities include helping out at the front desk with folding/cutting brochures, organizing office supplies, greeting people who enter at the front entrance and helping run the senior bingo classes every Monday.

Earlier this month, Stephen was invited to a dinner at Collingwood honouring all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication. Stephen received a certificate of appreciation for his dedication and enjoyed a night of good food, socializing and entertainment. One of Stephen's highlights of the night was a quote read out by Collingwood's Executive Director,

"Volunteers don't necessary have the time; they just have the heart."
-Elizabeth Andrews

When Stephen was asked how he stays so committed to his volunteering over the years, he replied, "I just love the feeling of helping people out."



DDA ART SALE

AT GRANVILLE ISLAND FARMER'S MARKET
Join us for our client artwork display and sale!

**THURSDAYS: JUNE 21 // JULY 5 & 19
AUG. 2, 16, 30 // SEPT. 6 & 20**

TIME: 10AM to 3PM
(Market hours from June 7th to Sept. 27)

PLACE: Triangle Square at Granville Island
1680 Johnston Street

DDA ART SHOW AT THE UNITARIAN CHURCH

June 4 to June 30

TIME: 9:30AM to 2:30PM Monday Thru Thursdays.
Please call 604-261-7204 to arrange a time with the church office

PLACE: Unitarian Church – 949 West 49th Avenue
Sanctuary and Fireside Room

OPENING NIGHT: Friday, June 15th 5:30PM–8:30PM
Refreshments provided.

FREE ADMISSION



SHIAMAK SPRING FUNK

BY TASIA ALEXIS

The Shiamak Spring Funk was held on March 17 at the Bell Performing Arts Centre in Surrey. This year's theme was Carnival.

The DDA performance was bigger than ever! Over 40 participants (including staff) were on the stage and performed in their beautiful, new traditional clothes. Everyone looked amazing! You could see the pride on their faces and feel the excitement in the air as they performed. They are all superstars! When the dancers began their performance you could hear loud cheering of approval from the audience.

The Bollywood Dance Team are supported through the Shiamak Victory Foundation. The Foundation is wonderful to us. The instructors are passionate, dedicated and come to our program once per week to teach Bollywood lessons.

The Shiamak Victory Foundation was founded in 2009 to make dance available across age, gender and ability. The VICTORY Foundation uses the power of dance as a therapeutic medium to bring joy to individuals and makes Bollywood dancing accessible to everyone!

Stay tuned for more information about our next performance at Shiamak Summer Funk!





THE BUSY LIVES OF EAST 55TH

BY ANGELA GAGNE

At East 55th, we participate in a variety of activities and programs throughout the week. We have an in-house Day Program that runs Monday to Friday, as well as an evening and weekend program that encompasses all types of activities.

Five days a week, we make our own juice. After juicing, we use our home gym to help our bodies stay active and healthy. On Mondays, we have an in-house cooking program, and attend a creative arts class in Richmond.

We are proud to say that on Tuesdays, the East 55th seniors turn into heroes and heroines by volunteering with the Meals On Wheels Program, delivering lunch to seniors with mobility issues. On Tuesday evenings, we enjoy going to the movies and playing pool. We have developed a relationship with the owner of one of the billiard halls in Vancouver, and have seen his business change a lot over the past couple of years.

On Wednesdays, we participate in DDA's Bollywood Dance program. In the evening, we also attend a community choir in Kitsilano.

On Thursdays, we exercise at many of our local community swimming pools. We work our upper bodies with aqua weights, do leg stretches, and 10 walking laps around the lazy river. We enjoy playing basketball or volleyball in the pool too. We also have a photography club on Thursday afternoon. We take our iPads and walk around a variety of parks and neighbourhoods throughout the Lower Mainland. Our next session will be to the wall murals on Main Street. We love to find the beauty in our community.

On Fridays, we start the day by participating in DDA's Performance Arts group. After lunch, we go shopping for fresh, fragrant and delicious fruits and vegetables for our daily juicing program. We like to try different markets around town such as Granville Island and our local produce market on Fraser Street. We are so fortunate to have so many local markets right on our street. We can support local businesses, and know we are getting the freshest and most nutritious produce possible – it's all about farm-to-table cooking! While we look way younger than our BCIDs say we are, we are aging and want to make sure we age as strongly as we possibly can. Shopping at the Fraser markets also enables us to get to know our neighbours, and feel safe and secure in our neighbourhood.

Our fun continues through the weekend - we enjoy playing golf, going snowshoeing and hiking, and attending the many festivals and multicultural events the city has to offer. If you would like to join us one day, please call us at East 55th and we'll make it happen!



LEISURE CHALLENGE

BY NAZLI KARAMI

Leisure Challenge is an afterschool program for youth. Our recreational program's purpose is to support teens in accomplishing life skills-related goals that will help them become as successful as possible after graduation. We spend a lot of time in the community and have tons of fun as a group doing leisure activities which include: bowling, going to the library, skating, grocery shopping, baking, cooking, working out, and cleaning the streets through our adopt-a-block program.

When school is out, our program runs for the full day! This past Spring Break, teens at Leisure Challenge had a fantastic time spending their days at the program. Highlights include learning about different types of birds and plants at Bloedel Conservatory, exploring Ambleside Park, exploring Fort Langley, facing our fear of heights to cross the Lynn Canyon suspension bridge, and learning how to make tacos and Vietnamese salad rolls! We learned about dog and stranger safety, the different types of native animals and insects in BC, how people lived in older settlements, the various exotic species of birds and plants in the tropics.

The teens are really excited about our upcoming Summer Program this year with the staff. Our group would like to wish you all the best summer ever. We hope your days are full of sun, ice cream, beaches and laughs!

STARBURST

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.

MEETING: 3rd Saturday of the month from 6:30 to 8:30pm (no meetings in July and August)

PLACE: 4948 Fraser Street, Vancouver

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

CONTACT: knowledgeaction@gmail.com

YOUTH IN TRANSITION

Support information for transition to adulthood.

MEETING: Saturday June 2 at 10:30am

TOPIC: Summer Programs at the Vancouver Resource Society, 2006 West 10 Avenue Vancouver

CONTACT: Liz Cochrane at 604-733-6252 transitionparents@gmail.com

THE BREAKTIME GROUP

Support to families of all cultural backgrounds and languages.

MEETING: Second Thursday of the Month, 6:30pm to 8pm (no meetings in July and August)

PLACE: 4948 Fraser Street Vancouver

CONTACT: Shixin Gao 604-301-2831 sgao@develop.bc.ca

VIETNAMESE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Support to Families in Vietnamese

MEETING: Second Thursday of the Month 6:30pm to 8pm (no meetings in July and August)

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 from 6:00 to 9:00pm

LOWER MAINLAND JAPANESE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

General support to Families in Japanese

MEETING: TBD (no meetings in July and August)

PLACE: 3455 Kaslo Street Vancouver

CONTACT: Chigusa Barnes at chishebarnes@msn.com

FIRST STEP JAPANESE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

General support to Families in Japanese

MEETING: Saturday June 16, 2018 10:30am to 1:30pm Workshop Entitled "What is Speech Language Pathology?" workshop in Japanese!" (no meetings in July and August)

PLACE: 3455 Kaslo Street Vancouver

CONTACT: Nobuko at nobuneedesu@hotmail.com



VOLUNTEER WITH DDA

CANADA DAY PARADE JULY 1

PRIDE PARADE AUG 5

DDA is currently seeking volunteers to help and participate in our Canada Day and Pride parade events!

If you're interested and capable of walking for a couple of hours at walking pace, please contact Rhea RVillavicencio@develop.bc.ca (604-233-5418) for details and to register!

VISIT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

TO FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING AT DDA AND IN YOUR COMMUNITY.



FACEBOOK: facebook.com/dda604



TWITTER: twitter.com/dda604



YOUTUBE: youtube.com/dda604

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We welcome your comments and feedback. Kindly direct all comments and submissions to communications@develop.bc.ca.