

# CONTINUITY NEWS

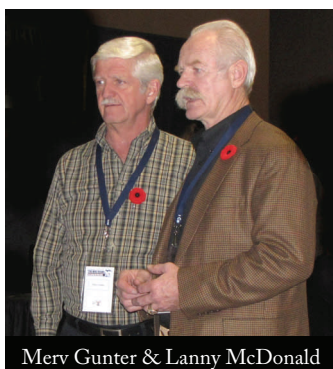
Supporting families in Manitoba to plan for an enriched quality of life for their family member with an intellectual disability

JANUARY 2011

## Mike Keane Celebrity Hockey Classic Scores Big



The inaugural Mike Keane Celebrity Hockey Classic was held on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Over 250 local hockey enthusiasts played on 16 teams, each captained by a former NHL pro who were selected by the teams at the Draft Night held on November 11<sup>th</sup>. This was an opportunity for players to rub shoulders with their favourite hockey greats including; Lanny McDonald, Wendel Clark, Brad Park, Laurie Bauschman, Dave Babych, and of course, Mike Keane. The next day each team played 3 games, putting their skills and endurance to the test. The top fundraising team was the J.R. Pioneers, led by their top fundraiser, Sandy Riley. Their team played against the pros in the final game of the day.



Merv Gunter & Lanny McDonald

Merv Gunter, one of Continuity Care's Board Members sponsored a team – The Frontiers North Adventurers. Their draft pick was Dave Gagner and notable players on this team were John Gunter (*Merv's son*), Dan Swanton (*husband of Suzanne - E.D.*), Brian Coughlin (*Board Member*) and John Leggat (*husband of Board Member, Karen*). This team was ranked 7<sup>th</sup> overall.



The Frontiers North Adventurers



The funds raised from this event will be directed to our Endowment Fund and operating expenses, which in turn will allow us to continue to provide services and supports to our current members and reach out to more families. We will also be directing a portion of the proceeds to fund future expansion of the Sharing Circle of Support program.

Special thanks to Mike Keane, Mark and Jeff Chipman for their leadership in the creation of this spectacular event; the Manitoba Moose Yearling Foundation for partnering with Continuity Care; Marnie Strath and Andrew Jackson and their team of staff for their organization of the event; to the businesses that sponsored teams and the event; to the players and last but not least, to the many people who made donations to support a player or team.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

RDSP News	pg 2
Agency Awareness	pg 3
Resource Library Additions	pg 3
Endowment Fund Update	pg 4
From the Office	pg 4
Facilitators Wanted	pg 4

# RDSP NEWS

On March 4, 2010, the Government of Canada, through its Budget 2010, announced two enhancements to the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP), grant and bond. The legislation to enact these changes received Royal Assent on December 15, 2010. The 'carry forward' and 'roll over' provisions will provide Canadians with disabilities and their families with more flexibility when saving for the future.

## **What is the carry forward?**

As people with disabilities and their families may not be able to contribute regularly to their RDSPs, the carry forward allows beneficiaries to claim unused grant and bond entitlements for a 10-year period (starting from 2008, the year RDSPs became available). In order to claim unused grant and bond entitlements, the beneficiary must be eligible to receive the grant and bond (at the time of the claim, the beneficiary must be aged 49 or under).

Grant and bond entitlements are based on the beneficiary's family income. The grant amount also depends on how much is contributed to the RDSP. For unused grant entitlements, the matching grant rate will be the same as what would have applied in the year the entitlement was earned.

## **When does the carry forward come into effect?**

The carry forward comes into effect on January 1, 2011.

As it will take time to develop the electronic system to process these transactions, the functionality to administer the carry forward will not be available immediately. Therefore, 2011 carry forward entitlements are expected to be paid into RDSPs in early 2012.

## **Is there a special application form for the carry forward?**

Whether an individual already has an RDSP, or opens an RDSP in January 2011 or thereafter, a special application form will not be required for the carry forward. Grant and bond entitlements will be calculated automatically.

## **What is the roll over?**

The proceeds (or a portion thereof) from a deceased individual's Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP), Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF), and Registered Pension Plan (RPP) can be rolled over, tax free, into the RDSP of a financially dependent child or grandchild with a disability.

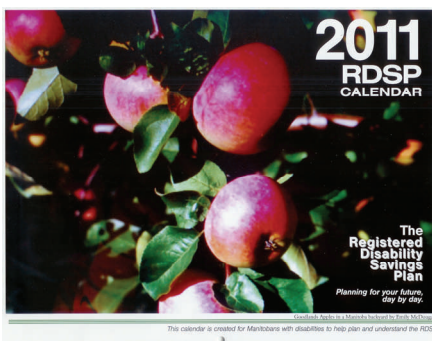
The amount of money rolled over into an RDSP will form part of the \$200,000 lifetime contribution limit. For example, if there is already \$50,000 in private contributions in an RDSP, the amount rolled over from an RRSP, RRIF and RPP cannot exceed \$150,000.

A matching grant will not be paid on RRSP, RRIF and RPP contributions.

## **When does the roll over come into effect?**

The roll over comes into effect July 2011. This measure will be effective for individuals who pass away after 2007.

*(Source : News Release from the Government of Canada – RDSP Grants and Bonds Team)*



**2011 RDSP Calendars are now available at the Continuity Care office.**

This calendar has been created for Manitobans with disabilities to help plan and understand the RDSP.

# Agency Awareness

In each edition of our Newsletter, we will be profiling an agency or organization that provides services and supports to people with intellectual disabilities. We hope that this information will assist you to become more familiar with what is available in Winnipeg and surrounding areas. It is our intention to provide information and create awareness only, not to endorse or promote one agency above another.

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**TRAILBLAZERS LIFE CHOICES INC.** is a non-profit day service organization that is committed to providing day services for adults living with disabilities.

## Mission Statement

Trailblazers seeks to maximize the full participation of persons with disabilities in all segments of the community.

## Philosophy

All individuals, regardless of need, have a right to meaningful inclusion within the community. All individuals deserve the opportunity to live and work in their community of choice.

## Our Goal

To assist people living with a disability enhance their quality of life. All individuals deserve the opportunity to attain their personal potential.

## Programs

**T.L.C.** – This program was developed for individuals who are not employment ready but still have needs and interests with the community. It includes life skills training, literacy, arts, crafts, community recreation and exercise programs.

**S.W.E.P.T. Program** – This program works towards and assists in the development of a participant owned and managed cooperative.

**S.A.G.E. Program** – This job-ready program was designed to promote self-help in participants in their search for employment.

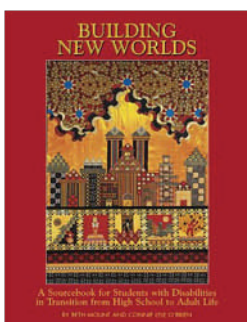
**E.T.C. Store**- The E.T.C. Store provides real life, real time, on-site work experience and paid employment opportunities for participants.

For more information about these programs, as well as information about their new Residential Services, please contact Trailblazer's Head Office at (204)257-0813 or visit their website at [www.tlcwpg.ca](http://www.tlcwpg.ca)

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## New to the Continuity Care Resource Library

Did you know that with your Continuity Care membership, you can access our Resource Library? Call the office at 779-1679 if you are interested in borrowing this book or any other item from the library.



**Building New Worlds** - A Sourcebook for Students with Disabilities in Transition from High School to Adult Life

Building New Worlds describes the transition process that students with disabilities and their allies are creating to assure that they will be active participants in family and community life upon graduation from high school. The book chronicles the lives of many students as the valued citizens they are becoming in the face of the many limitations they encounter.

# Endowment Fund Update

Our Endowment Fund held with The Winnipeg Foundation was established in 1998. A goal of 2 million dollars was set by the Capital Campaign Board of Directors to sustain the basic operation of our organization in perpetuity. Each year, we receive quarterly payments from the interest earned on our fund based on the spending policy set by the Winnipeg Foundation. As of November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010, the market value of our fund was \$1,834,858.21.

Continuity Care does not rely on government funding. We need your assistance to make us financially secure and a donation to our fund will help sustain our organization.

Donations can be made by credit card at [www.wpgfdn.org](http://www.wpgfdn.org) or cheques can be made out to Continuity Care's Endowment Fund and mailed directly to:



The Winnipeg Foundation  
1350 – One Lombard Place  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 0X3

## From the Office

Happy New Year! The holiday season has come and gone and 2011 has now begun. New Years can be a time of celebration, but may also be a time of quiet reflection; looking back on the events of the past year and wondering what lies ahead in the coming year. It's the time of year when you get to take down the old calendar from the previous year and pick out a new one. Do you choose one that has beautiful pictures or one that has large spaces to write down activities and appointments? Whether you choose to make resolutions or not, the New Year is a great opportunity to start fresh, feel inspired and think about what you hope to achieve.

At the Continuity Care office, we are also making plans for 2011. Scheduling workshops, inviting speakers for the parent groups and continuing to develop and maintain the circles through our Sharing Circle of Support Program. The Board Members are also continuing their work on Continuity Care's Strategic Plan; setting goals and developing action plans that the organization will work on achieving in 2011.

Cheers to 2011 and may it be a year filled with hope, good health and happiness.

### Facilitator Wanted

Continuity Care is currently looking to hire a Facilitator for our Sharing Circle of Support Program in the Selkirk area

#### What is involved?

One year contract  
Flexible schedule mainly evenings & weekends  
Approx. 3-5 hrs per month, per circle  
Approx. 2-3 circles per Facilitator  
Training and supervision provided  
Criminal Record & Child Abuse Registry checks  
Ability to work independently and as a team

For more information, please contact Suzanne at (204) 779-1679 or by email at [contcare@mts.net](mailto:contcare@mts.net)

Executive Director

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