



Continuity News

Helping families in Manitoba plan a safer and more secure future for their family member with an intellectual disability

APRIL 2008

BUILDING SUPPORT NETWORKS

As you may already be aware, in 2006 Continuity Care embarked on a pilot project about Support Networks. This project has been funded through grants from the Winnipeg Foundation and Community Living Manitoba.

The first phase of this project was the completion of a literature review. This review has resulted in an excellent resource for our organization, as well as others who may have an interest in this area.

This document is currently available to borrow from our Resource Library. Contact our office @ 779-1679 for more details.

The next phase of the project, which is currently underway, involves developing three new support networks for individuals with disabilities. Two of the individuals (and their families) live in Winnipeg and the third individual is from Selkirk. We are exploring different models of support network facilitation and maintenance with each of these networks. Of particular interest is the model involving a paid facilitator. As part of the project, Continuity Care has hired a facilitator on a contract basis to work with one of the families.

We are also offering workshops in Winnipeg and in rural communities on the topic of "Building a Support Network". To date, we have presented to different parent groups and organizations in Winnipeg, Pinawa, Selkirk and Beausejour. There are upcoming presentations in Winkler (April 15th), Brandon (May 13th) and coming back soon to Steinbach. The remainder of the presentations will be offered to various groups in Winnipeg and will also be offered as one of Continuity Care's regular workshops.

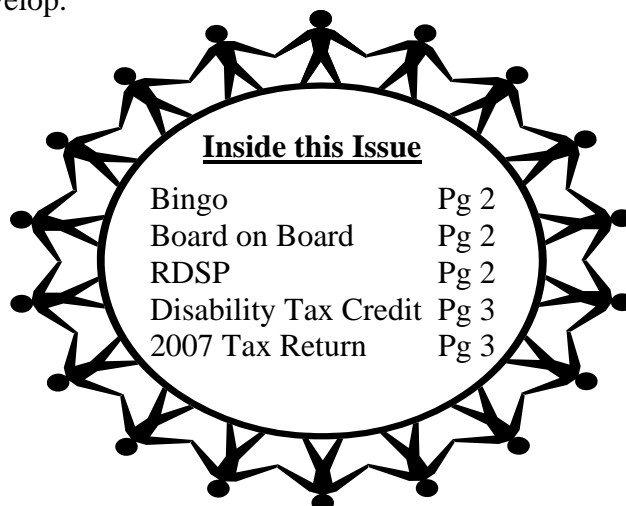
If you are part of a group or organization and are interested in hosting a presentation on Support Networks, please contact our office at 779-1679 to make arrangements.

The goals of this project are:

- Hear from Manitoba families about their needs and the model(s) that would be of interest
- Explore and evaluate the different models of support network facilitation
- Determine the amount of time and costs involved in support network development and maintenance
- To share what we have learned about support networks

As a result of this project, we will also be developing resources and best practices guidelines that will assist families and organizations in developing support networks for individuals with disabilities.

Continuity Care is currently utilizing what we are learning from the project to develop a service model that we can offer to individuals, families and organizations to assist in developing support networks. We will be providing more information on our project and plans for this future service as they develop.



BINGO NIGHT

Thank you to all the wonderful people that volunteered to help us with our Bingo night on Sunday March 16th at Club Regent. We have another Bingo night coming up on Tuesday April 22nd at McPhillips Street Station. Proceeds from these events will be directed towards our operating expenses. We would like to thank Manitoba Community Services Council Inc. for providing us with these opportunities.



Suzanne, Art, Linda, Karen, Jane, Lorinda, Marilyn, Trevor, Liz and Ray

OUR BOARD IS ON BOARD!

The Board of Continuity Care has been participating in a pilot project sponsored by the Winnipeg Foundation to test out a new on line Board Self – Assessment tool. Urban Edge Consulting Inc. is the company that has designed the website and online tool called “Spider Sense”.

The Board members were asked to complete a series of 36 questions/statements related to Boards of Non-profit organizations; such as board structure, decision making, responsibilities, leadership, management and operations and performance monitoring. The results are then compiled into spider charts (*hence the name of the website*) and we are also provided with a written report.

These results will assist our Board in understanding their strengths and challenges and identify areas for improvement. This will assist our Board to become even stronger and more effective, which is of great benefit to Continuity Care and our members.



REGISTERED DISABILITY SAVINGS PLAN (RDSP)



The RDSP is a new plan that will allow funds to be invested tax-free until withdrawal. The plan structure is similar to a Registered Savings Plan (RESP). This plan is a way of assisting parents and others to save for the long term financial security of a family member with a disability.

The Federal Government has drafted the regulations and they are currently under review. Once the regulations have been approved, the financial institutions will be able to adapt their systems in order to begin offering this plan. You should be able to open a Registered Disability Savings Plan by the end of 2008.

Continuity Care will stay involved and informed as to how the RDSP will be implemented in Manitoba. We will be sharing this information through future newsletters and we hope to offer this topic as one of our future workshops.

Who will be eligible for a RDSP?

To be eligible for a RDSP, the individual **must qualify for the Disability Tax Credit** and also be a resident of Canada.



If you would like to be able to set up a RDSP for your family member, it is important to make sure that your relative files a 2007 Tax Return, even if they did not earn income or pay tax during the year. The individual's 2007 income will determine their eligibility to receive the Canada Disability Savings Grant or the Canada Disability Savings Bond in 2008.

The Canada Disability Savings Grant (CDSG) is a program designed to augment funds in the RDSP. The government will contribute, in the form of a grant, matching funds at rates of 100, 200 or 300% up to a maximum of \$3500 annually, depending on the net income of the individual or the beneficiary's family if they are under the age of 18.

The Canada Disability Savings Bond (CDSB) is a program designed to help low-income individuals or families save. A CDSB of up to \$1000 a year can be paid to a RDSP where the individuals or families net income does not exceed \$20,883.

DISABILITY TAX CREDIT (DTC)

The disability amount is a non-refundable tax credit that reduces the amount of income tax you have to pay and is available for individuals who have a disability.

Applying for the Disability Tax Credit

To qualify for the Disability Tax Credit a person must have **“an impairment in physical or mental functions which is both severe and prolonged”**.

To apply for the DTC, you must complete the **Disability Tax Credit Certificate T2201 Form** from the CRA (Canada Revenue Agency). There are two parts to the T2201 form. Part A is the personal information that must be completed by the individual or their representative and Part B must be completed by a “qualified professional” who will certify the effects of the impairment.

You will be responsible for any fees that the qualified practitioner may charge to complete this form. However, you may be able to claim these fees as medical expenses on line 330 of your tax return.

Once completed, the T2201 form needs to be submitted to CRA for approval (in Manitoba it can be sent to the Winnipeg Tax Centre). If approved, the individual will receive a letter of approval and the letter will state how long the certificate will be valid for and when they would need to re-apply. You can send this form to CRA at any time in the year.

To get a copy of the T2201 Form or for more information about the Disability Tax Credit, visit CRA website at www.cra.gc.ca/disability or call 1-800-959-2221

From the Continuity Care Library

Now in One Book!

From Behind the Piano &

What's Really Worth Doing and How to do it
(A book for people who love somebody labeled disabled)

WHAT'S NEW FOR YOUR 2007 TAX RETURN

Line 367 – Amount for children born in 1990 or later

You can claim \$2,000 for each of your children who are under 18 years of age at the end of the year. If the child resides with both parents throughout the year, either you or your spouse can claim this amount.

Line 365 – Children's fitness amount

You can claim to a maximum of \$500 per child, the fees paid in 2007 that relate to the cost of registering your child in a prescribed program of physical activity. The child must have been under 16 years of age at the beginning of the year.

Children with disabilities – Under proposed legislation, if the child qualifies for the disability amount and is under 18 years of age at the beginning of the year, an additional amount of \$500 can be claimed provided that a minimum of \$100 is paid on registration or membership fees for a prescribed program of physical activity.

Line 453 – Working income tax benefit (WITB)

You may be able to claim this new refundable tax credit that is available to low-income individuals and families who have earned income from employment or business. To find out if you qualify, see Schedule 6 in the forms book.

QUICK REFERENCE

Child care expense	Line 214
Disability supports deduction	Line 215
Amount for an eligible dependant	Line 305
Amount for infirm dependants age 18 or older	Line 306
Caregiver amount	Line 315
Disability amount (for self) – from T2201 is required	Line 316
Disability amount transferred from a dependant	Line 318
Tuition, education and textbook amounts	Line 323
Amounts transferred from your spouse or common-law partner	Line 326
Medical expenses for self, spouse or common-law partner And your dependant children	Line 330
Allowable amount of medical expenses for other dependants	Line 331
Children's fitness amount	Line 365
Refundable medical expense supplement	Line 452
Working income tax benefit (WITB)	Line 453

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Baby Boomer Café

We're a group of baby boomers who like to have fun. But our celebration has a serious purpose. As our parents pass away, our siblings with a disability need relationships and friends more than ever. The Baby Boomer Café is a place where we and our siblings can build relationships and community. Come and join us. There will be another gathering coming up in late April or May. Call Ben or Heather Friesen @ 889-3806 for more information.

Continuity Care's Endowment Fund

This fund, administered by The Winnipeg Foundation, was established in October 1998 to sustain the basic operation of our organization in perpetuity. A goal of 2 million dollars was set out by the Capital Campaign board of directors and we are almost there. **As of January 31, 2008 we have raised \$1,809,639.85. We have reached 90.5% of our goal.**

Donations can be made online by Visa or MasterCard at 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, Wpg, MB R3B 0X3 The Foundation has years of experience managing donations and will issue you a charitable tax receipt.

Continuity Care's operating expenses

You may choose to donate directly to our organization. This donation will be used towards our general operating expenses. Visit our website at www.continuitycare.ca and a donation can be made online by Visa or MasterCard through CanadaHelps.org or cheques can be made out to Continuity Care and sent directly to our office @ 2-120 Maryland Street, Wpg, MB R3G 1L1 and we will issue you a charitable tax receipt.

United Way – Donor Choice Program

This is a program set up by your employer that allows contributors to direct their gift to a specific organization through payroll deductions. If Continuity Care Inc. is not listed, you can fill our name out under "other" and your donation will be directed to us.

It's Membership Renewal Time!

Don't forget to renew your membership with Continuity Care Inc.

1 Year Family Membership \$20
Lifetime Family Membership \$250

With your membership enjoy free workshops during the year, one to one planning and a copy of
The Circle of Life workbook.

(See attachment or insert for renewal form)

Continuity Care's Annual General Meeting

Please note that our **AGM** will be taking place in **June.**

Date, Time and Location to be announced

Did you know that Continuity Care offers this newsletter and any other publications electronically?

If you would like to receive future correspondences by email instead, please contact our office at **779-1679** or by email at **contcare@mts.net**

Continuity Care Inc. provides information for the benefit of the readers and does not endorse any particular organization, company, firm or service. Advice and strategies in this newsletter are general guidelines and families should consult professional legal and financial advisors when developing plans.