

Continuity News

Winter 2022

Message From The Office

Happy New Year and welcome 2022! I hope that you enjoyed the holiday season. There was a lot to navigate during this year with the rising COVID cases, changes in restrictions, winter weather and road conditions, if you were travelling during the holidays. I hope that you found moments of peace, joy and also some time to rest, relax and recharge.

December has been a busy month with the hiring of our new Member Support & Outreach Facilitator, Jayda Taylor. We have been making preparations for our new strategic plan which will be happening in March 2022. Also, there were some grant applications to submit before the end of the year.

We were able to celebrate the holiday season with our colleagues at 120 Maryland at our annual holiday potluck. It was nice to visit with everyone again (in person and by Zoom) as we all have been working remotely for so long.

Our board held our first hybrid board meeting on November 26th – some in person at 120 Maryland (all fully vaccinated and following the guidelines) and some by Zoom. It was great to see everyone again and was a good opportunity to test out some new technology.



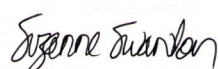
We were hopeful that we would be able to resume meeting in person in the new year, however with the rising case counts and Omicron variant, we will be continuing to offer our groups, workshops and meetings virtually for the next few months. As we will continue to monitor the provincial updates, stay tuned to our emails and website for more information on what we have planned for Winter months.

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We wish you and your families all the best for 2022. Let's keep each other healthy, safe and connected. Please know that we are here to assist you – even if it's just a friendly phone call to check in and chat for a bit.

Cheers from the team at Continuity Care – Patti, Jayda and Suzanne.



Suzanne Swanton - Executive
Director



UPDATE ON BILL 72 AND MANITOBA'S NEW DISABILITY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Continuity Care has been involved in advocacy efforts regarding the new Bill 72 – the Disability Support Act and amendments to the current Manitoba Assistance Act. Suzanne Swanton has been meeting with other advocates from disability groups and organizations in Manitoba and also presented to the Standing Committee on October 12, 2021. Following the passing of Bill 72, this group met with representatives from EIA for a briefing and update as to the status of the new program, which was a mutually beneficial conversation.

Here is a brief update provided for us by EIA representatives:

Bill 72, *The Disability Support Act and Amendments to the Manitoba Assistance Act*, received Royal Assent in October 2021.

The Disability Support Act provides the legislative framework for the new income support program, which is currently expected to launch in late 2022.

The new program will be separate and distinct from Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) and will be tailored to meet the needs of persons with severe and prolonged disabilities.

The Act can be found online here: <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/42-3/b072e.php>

The Department of Families is planning to provide additional updates on the new program in early 2022.

Individuals who would like to be advised of opportunities to receive updates and provide feedback can send their contact information to disabilitysupport@gov.mb.ca.

We will continue to stay informed and advocate on this important issue in the new year and provide further updates when they are available. If you have questions or comments, please contact EIA directly at the email above or you can share with us to bring forward.

PROVINCE RELEASES FINAL REPORT AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN OF VULNERABLE PERSONS LIVING WITH MENTAL DISABILITY TASK FORCE

On December 3rd, 2021, the Manitoba government released the final report and implementation plan of the Vulnerable Persons Living with a Mental Disability Task Force. The final report, titled *Pathways to Dignity: Rights, Safeguards, Planning and Decision Making*, includes recommendations in 16 theme areas, including: the Establishing an Advisory Council, Developing a Comprehensive Training Strategy, Recognizing and Promoting Assisted Decision Making, Strengthening Abuse and Protection Policies and Seeking Improvements for Families. To view the full report and implementation plan, click on this link:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/vp-task-force-report.html>

We want to advise you about a change in our Member Support & Outreach Facilitator position. Chanique Phillips, who was in this role for nearly 2.5 years has moved on to another organization effective November 12th. We want to take this opportunity to wish Chanique well in her new role and future endeavors and acknowledge the valuable contributions she made during her time with us.

We are pleased to announce that we have hired Jayda Taylor and her first day was December 13th. We are in the process of providing her with orientation and training this month and she is eager to get started in her new role and getting to know our members.

Please join us in welcoming Jayda to Continuity Care. Jayda can be reached by email at jayda@continuitycare.ca and by phone at (204)979-6967.



“Hello, my name is Jayda Taylor. I am the new Member Support and Outreach Facilitator with Continuity Care. I have 20 years of experience in disAbility services which has given me a passion for supporting people to live their best lives, a desire for a more inclusive world, and an ability to advocate with those whose voice has not been heard. I look forward to hearing the stories of those connected to Continuity Care, stories that undoubtedly tell of strength, advocacy, determination as well as a tremendous amount of love! I live in Ste. Anne Manitoba with my husband and our two beautiful fur babies! In my spare time, I enjoy cooking, baking, hiking, canoeing, and walking my dogs.”

Welcoming Our New Board Member Nick Paulley

We are pleased to announce that Nick Paulley has joined the Continuity Care board in November 2021. Nick is a CPA and works in the role of Accounting Supervisor with Richardson International Ltd. He will also be joining our Finance Committee.

“For as long as I can remember, my cousin Gladys has been synonymous with our family gatherings. From her love of Elvis, to sharing her favourite cutouts from magazines, to the endless hugs she provides, it just would not feel like Christmas without her. Seeing the support that Continuity Care has provided not only to Gladys but my cousin Jane and her husband Brian, demonstrates how valuable the services, opportunities, and connections are for individuals, families, and our community as a whole. That is why when I was presented with the opportunity to join the Board, I felt extremely honored. In the coming months, I look forward to learning more about the organization, participating in volunteer events, and providing assistance in financial and accounting matters where possible.”



On Sunday, September 26, 2021, we had tremendous turnout with twenty fully vaccinated people, from all ages, attending a very successful Baby Boomer Fall Café at Kildonan Park. It was an unusually beautiful, warm and sunny day. It felt so nice to finally have an opportunity to see, chat, and get together safely with one another! A fun time was indeed had by all! Highlights were playing games, listening to each other's special stories during the sharing circle, Mike's famous scavenger hunt, all the yummy food and we had a great time taking the group photo. The event ended with our sacred bonfire with toasted marshmallows, inspirational guitar music and the traditional sing-along with Maestro Bob. Special appreciation to Chef Sharon and Chef Chris for the delicious grilled chicken and hotdogs and to everyone who contributed food, dessert, and snacks for our picnic. A very special thank you to Suzanne, and Patti for all their assistance and support.



Albert Yanofsky & Gisela Runge for the Baby Boomer Café

A Tribute to Aaron Sommer



On Sat. Nov. 6, 2021, our friend, Aaron Sommer, passed away unexpectedly at the age of 64. Aaron was a regular member of the Baby Boomer Café. Aaron always looked forward to and immensely enjoyed participating in all of our events over the past decade. He often told me how much fun he had meeting and connecting with everyone, the good food, and the group sing-alongs. He really relished playing cribbage, especially with Mike and Gisela, who always put up quite a friendly battle. Aaron described the Baby Boomer Café as a very warm, family-like, and caring community! We will miss his enthusiasm and infectious smile!

Save the Date

Continuity Care is planning a very special double anniversary event. It will be a celebration of Continuity Care's 25th anniversary and the Baby Boomer Café's 20th Anniversary. Please save the following date in your calendar:

Tuesday, May 31st, 2022
Stay tuned for more details.



**We invite you to become a
Continuity Care member**

One-year membership \$25

One-year agency membership \$50

Lifetime membership \$250

Leave a Legacy

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