

Continuity News

S U M M E R 2 0 2 3

Message from the Office

Summer has officially arrived and with that brings the hot, sunny days, thunderstorms, flowers in full bloom, fresh garden vegetables and longer days to enjoy the many outdoor activities and festivals that our province has to offer.

For us at Continuity Care, summer means that our groups and workshops will be taking a break over the months of July and August. Watch for our Fall 2023 newsletter for what we have planned for the months of September, October and November. We will continue to offer these opportunities to connect both in person and virtually by Zoom.

Summer also is a time where our staff will be taking some time off to rest, relax and recharge. Our office will remain open as we have planned our vacation schedules, to ensure there is someone available to respond to your phone calls, emails and offer support, resources and assistance when needed. Please note our office will be closed to observe the Statutory Holidays on July 3rd, August 7th and September 3rd.

We would like to take this time to thank those who participated in our Spring Shelmerdine's Fundraiser. We hope you, and those who received them, have fun shopping at their greenhouse and shop filled with many treasures.

We hope that you find ways to enjoy the summer months, on your own or with friends and family – whatever brings you joy, peace and hopefully some rest and relaxation too.

Warm wishes from,

Suzanne Swanton
Executive Director

Inside This Issue

VPA Amendments	2
Summer events	2
MDC Update	3
Bill C-22 Update	3
Baby Boomer Café	4
Save the Date	4



The VPA Task Force report titled “Pathways to Dignity: Rights, Safeguards, Planning and Dignity” included recommendations in 16 theme areas and was released in November 2021 by the Manitoba Government, along with their implementation plan.

Bill 23: The Vulnerable Persons Living with a Mental Disability Amendment Act was passed on May 30th, 2023 and includes the following amendments:

- 1. Updates to wording** including the following:
 - a. “Vulnerable Person” to become “adult living with an intellectual disability”.
 - b. The new title is “The Adults Living with an Intellectual Disability Act”.
 - c. Definition of “mental disability” replaced with “intellectual disability”.
 - d. “Vulnerable Persons’ Commissioner” changed to “Commissioner for Adults Living with an Intellectual Disability”.
 - e. Supported Decision Making changed to Assisted Decision Making.
- 2. Updates to the principles of the Act** which include references to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. There is also a statement added that assistance in decision making should be guided by the adult’s wishes, values and beliefs.
- 3. Mandatory legislative review of the Act to ensure it remains effective over time** within 5 years and every 10 years thereafter. The review includes consultation with the public, in particular adults living with intellectual disabilities and their families.
- 4. Updates to the definitions of abuse and neglect** which includes:
 - a. Removal of “serious” harm as a threshold for both abuse and neglect
 - b. Wider definition to allow for substantiated findings of abuse in more situations
 - c. Keeping a narrower threshold for referral to the Adult Abuse Registry Committee
- 5. Increased notice and inclusion of victims and their support network members when an abuse investigation is held.**

Work on Phase 2 of the proposed amendments is currently underway, which includes the Community Based Assisted Decision Making pilot project led by the partners of the 120 Maryland group.

No cost summer events

Facebook link to Free Winnipeg Events

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/780470281973292/>

For the adventurous in Manitoba

<https://www.travelmanitoba.com/events/>

In Winnipeg these two sites have lots of free events to partake in.

<https://www.tourismwinnipeg.com/things-to-do/free-activities>

<https://wpgforfree.ca/events-calendar/>

Manitoba Development Centre (MDC) Closure & Settlement Update

A recent report from Manitoba Developmental Centre and Adult Disability Services states “As of June 1, 2023, thirty-two residents have transitioned from MDC to the community, while eighty residents continue to live at and receive supports from MDC. Alternative supported living arrangements in the community have been identified for all eighty residents remaining at MDC.”

The closure of MDC is a historical moment for our province, joined with the recent settlement of the class action lawsuit against the Manitoba government, filed in 2018 by former resident of MDC, David Weremy. Manitoba has agreed to a settlement of \$17 Million for compensation to class members, which includes former residents who resided at MDC between July 1, 1951 and May 29, 2020, and were alive as of October 31, 2016. In addition, the province has agreed to other reconciliation initiatives, including a public apology by Premier Heather Stefanson which took place on June 1st, 2023 in the Manitoba Legislature and a memorial will be constructed at the cemetery at the Manitoba Developmental Centre. We hope that this starts a journey of healing.

If you or a loved one lived at MDC during the time listed above, and you feel you may be eligible for the settlement money please visit [Manitoba Developmental Centre Class Action - Koskie Minsky LLP \(kmlaw.ca\)](#)

For further information or if you are a class member:

Toll-free: 1-800-286-2266

Email: mdcclassaction@kmlaw.ca

Bill C-22 Update

June 20th, 2023 is a historic day for people with disabilities in Canada, as Bill C-22: The Canada Disability Benefit Act was passed in Parliament with all party support. The purpose of this Act is to reduce poverty and support the financial security of working-age persons with disabilities.

It has taken several years for this important legislation to come to fruition, as it was first introduced back in 2021, but it was set back due to the federal election. It was introduced again on June 2, 2022. It has gone back and forth between the House of Commons and the Senate since that time for review, discussion of proposed amendments and was finally passed last week. Bill C-22 received Royal Assent on June 22nd, 2023 and it will come into force no later than one year after this date.

The next step in the process is the drafting of the regulations, which will outline the details of this new benefit, including who will be eligible and the monetary amount of the benefit. Advocacy efforts will need to continue at both the federal and provincial levels. But for now, it is a time to celebrate this historic achievement and to thank the many individuals with disabilities, their families, advocates for their tireless efforts and to thank Minister Carla Qualtrough, the many parliamentarians, MP's and Senators for their support of this important legislation.

Baby Boomer Café

On Sunday, June 11th I ventured out to the Baby Boomer Café picnic at St. Vital park. This was my very first café. I had an idea of what to expect but you never know until you attend. When I arrived I was warmly greeted by Gisela Runge who's turn it was to organize this event.



I was a bit late and came when everyone was eating. Lots of food and what an assortment!!! Ray & Barb Hignell did an excellent job barbequing for 53 people. No one was going home hungry. Prior to my arrival there were a few games played of bean bag toss and a scavenger hunt. I was sorry to have missed those.



I chatted with families I knew and families I did not know introduced themselves.

After dinner, everyone settled into chairs for the sing-a-long and before I knew it a song book was



put into my hands. Bob Hanley led the group into song. I looked over the group and saw some singing, some dancing, some chatting with friends, entertaining toddlers and everyone content with the day. The candlelight ceremony is short and sweet. Those who wish, get a chance to mention something about a loved one they

miss. Lots is planned for the day but in the end its go with the flow. Slowly people began to leave and what I came away feeling is that this is a comfortable, accepting space for everyone to have a lovely day in the park.



Enjoy your day!

Patti Makinson, Office Administrator for Continuity Care

The Baby Boomer Café invites you to their next outdoor picnic at Kildonan park on **Sunday, September 10th**. So if you have been thinking of coming out to an event, you would be warmly welcomed. More information to come by email.

Save the Date!

Continuity Care's
Annual General Meeting
September 13th 2023
Venue: 120 Maryland Street
5:45 - 7:45pm
More information to come by email



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

One-year family membership \$25
One-year agency membership \$50
Lifetime family membership \$250
Leave a Legacy

Continuity Care Inc.

2-120 Maryland Street, Winnipeg, MB R3G 1L1

P: (204) 779-1679

F: (204) 786-6766

info@continuitycare.ca

www.continuitycare.ca



Stay up-to-date by following us on
Facebook and Twitter at:



[facebook.com/contcare](https://www.facebook.com/contcare)

[Twitter@care_continuity](https://twitter.com/care_continuity)