

imagine it - live it

the Communicator

Summer 2024



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Performance Measurement 2023 Results

The Community Living Society (CLS) has produced a Performance Measurement Report (formerly called the Outcomes Management Report) annually since 2017. Prior to this date, the information was included in the Annual General Report. This report tracks and summarizes the identified outcomes of CLS programs and services. The information and analysis derived from the Performance Measurement process is used to highlight areas of strengths and identify areas requiring improvements. The annual Performance Measurement Report is part of CLS's continuous quality improvement and Integrated Planning Framework.

The Performance Measurement Plan which identifies the expected outcomes for CLS programs and services, is designed to provide essential information to CLS's management and Board of Directors to allow them to monitor and make improvements to service delivery. It is expected that the outcome results will assist CLS employees to be more responsive to the needs of adults with an intellectual disability and their families who are served by the Society.

The Performance Measurement Plan has been refined over the years; outcomes changed, survey questions updated, measurement indicators adjusted, and processes for collection revised. Our Performance Measurement Plan and the desired outcomes for each program are evaluated and aligned with CLS's articulated values and the internationally validated Quality of Life Framework, developed by Dr Robert Schalock.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE PEOPLE WE SUPPORT

CLS remains relatively stable in the number of people supported. In 2023, 488 represents the total highest number of Supported Individuals in CLS services at a single point throughout the year (an increase of 2% from 2022). Programs such as L.I.F.E., Independent Living and Employment Services seem to be attracting the greatest growth, especially among younger aged people (19-30 and 31-50).

The reasons for the younger generation choosing the above-mentioned services may be:

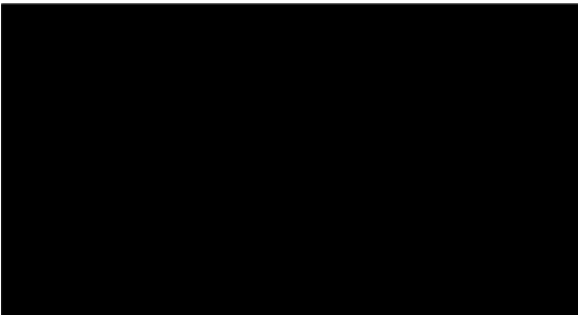
- The services better reflect the choices and preferences of the young generation.
- Funding for these services is more available.
- Over the last five years, CLS has made a concerted effort to develop services to provide a wider repertoire of options for the people we support.

The growth and interest in L.I.F.E., Independent Living and Employment Services, suggests that further development of these services is appropriate. In 2023, CLS acquired additional contracts to expand the L.I.F.E service, and Employment Services have increased capacity with additional funding from several sources. CLS continues to partner with housing organizations to provide increased Independent Living options. In 2023 we were able to provide two new units with New Chelsea Society, and in early 2024 we formed a new partnership with New Vista Society.

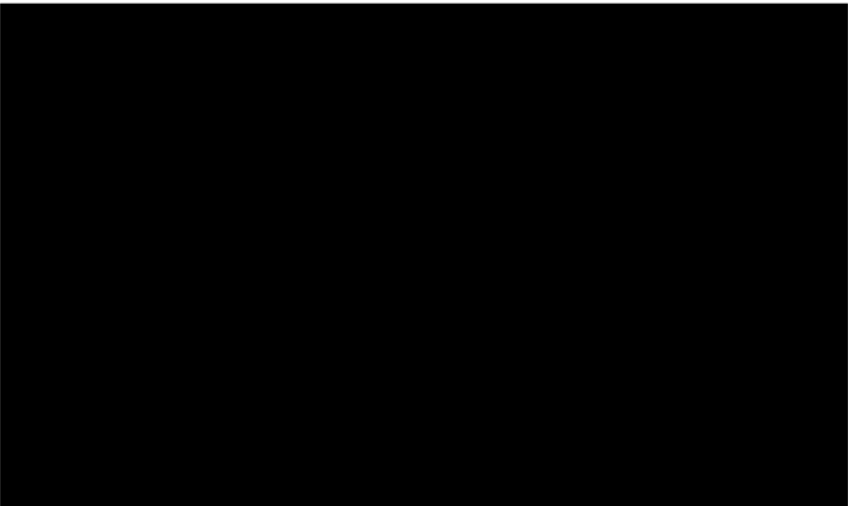
Increasingly, most people living in Staffed Homes are in the later stages of life with 56% of Supported Individuals in Staffed Homes in the age range of 51-70, and 12% above the age of 70. As many of the people we support are aging, further development of resources, support, and guidance for employees to support people in the late stage of their life is appropriate. A Late Life Planning Guide and three policies have been developed and we are modifying the documents to align with CLS policies and practice. Redevelopment and planning for employee training has resulted in the completion of the Training Revitalization Plan in spring, 2024. The Housing Plan also addresses the housing needs for the people we support who are aging and increasingly require accessible housing options.

The majority of the people we support report that they are Caucasian, and English is their first language. This result is consistent with the provincial data on languages spoken in the Greater Vancouver area.

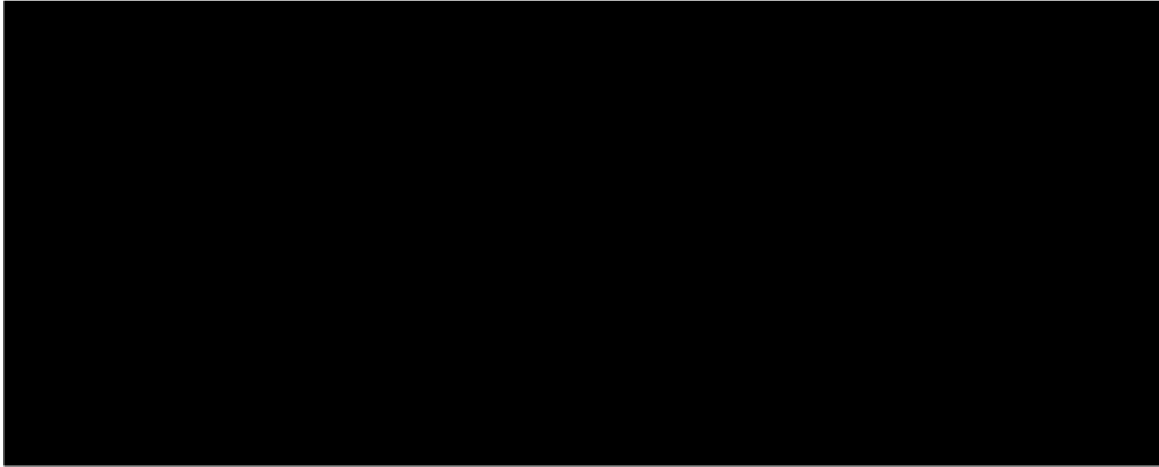
Total number of supported individuals



Total number of supported individuals by geographic location



Total number of supported individuals in each program



STAKEHOLDER SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

The survey results from Supported Individuals, family/personal support network members and external stakeholders, were overwhelmingly positive in 2023. Survey response rates decreased from Supported Individuals to 72% (81% in 2022) and from family/personal support network members to 18% (32.5% in 2022). We will be developing alternative methods of gathering input from stakeholders and family/personal support network members next year.

The survey response rate for external stakeholders (excluding employers) remains low and requires attention. External stakeholders are asked to complete satisfaction surveys from numerous service providers each year. It has become increasingly difficult to maintain a positive survey response rate, even with repeated requests and encouragement. Alternative methods of gathering input may be needed.

In 2022, CLS identified a need to modify the approach to acquiring feedback from employers who work with the Employment Services program. The changes we made have been positive as the 2023 survey response rate increased to 53% from 28% in 2022.

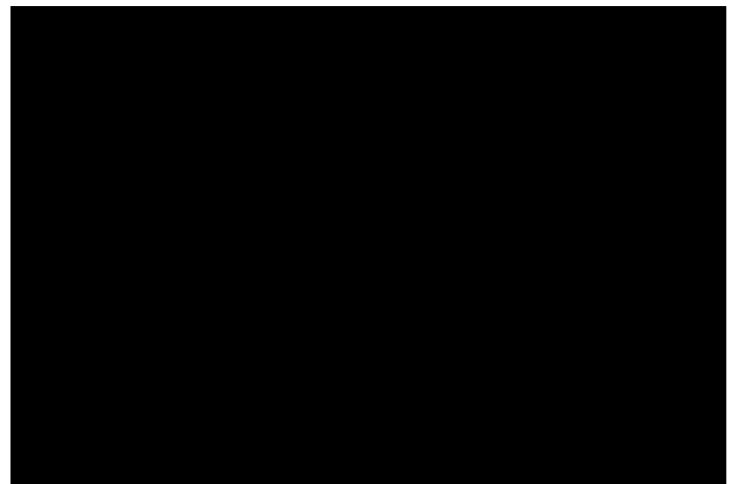
Upon review of the survey results and comments, some themes emerged:

- The results indicated that family/personal support network members believed their loved ones were safe, well cared for and that their rights and choices were honored. Many family/personal support network members commented that CLS employees are caring and professional.

“I like when employees support me to go in community and help me towards my goals.”

- Respondents continued to remark on the challenges related to staffing. Specifically, some family/personal support network members commented that the increased employee turnover is leading to inconsistent support. Similar to other service providers and businesses, CLS has been very challenged to recruit and retain employees. In 2023, after two years of strong advocacy, CLS received funding for significant wage increases for employees which we believe will assist with the recruitment and retention concern. Efforts to increase recruitment and retention of employees will continue to be a priority in the coming years.
- Supported Individuals convey that employees treat them as a unique individual who has strengths, abilities, and value.

Satisfaction Survey Response Rates



COMMUNITY INCLUSION PROGRAMS

CLS programs in the Community Inclusion service area are Day Supports, Individualized Supports, Studios and L.I.F.E. This year, improvements were noted for some outcomes in this service area. Survey results indicate:

- In all Community Inclusion programs, 99.25% (99.5% in 2022) of Supported Individuals report that they were able to make choices. This result continues to exceed the target of 90%.
- The number of times Supported Individuals participated in at least one community-based activity per shift increased to 92% (86% in 2022).
- 81.25% of activities (80% in 2022) in which Supported Individuals were engaged were linked to their goals.
- 86% of Supported Individuals were engaged and involved in developing a skill (96% in 2022), just passing the 85% target.
- The percentage of Supported Individuals in Day Supports and the studios that were engaged in activities that contributed to their community was 97% (92% in 2022). We believe it is important for Supported Individuals to engage in and contribute to their community (e.g. volunteering, donating, etc.), so this is a very positive result.

In 2022, the number of service hours increased. In 2023, 92% percentage of our expected service hours were delivered (90% in 2022, 82% in 2021). Although steady improvement has been noted, employee shortages due to recruitment challenges continued to impact service delivering in these programs.

In 2023, 21 new referrals were accommodated in the Community Inclusion programs (19 in 2022). The average time from the date of the referral to the start of service, was 5 weeks (8.5 weeks in 2022). As many new referrals involve recruitment of new employees, or reassignment of existing employees, an 8-week target continues to be ambitious, but reasonable in a typical year.

SUPPORTED LIVING

Survey results from the Supported Living program indicated that 100% of Supported Individuals believe they were able to both make choices and learn new skills. These results exceeded the targets of 90%. There were no unplanned moves, indicating that people in Supported Living experience stability in their living arrangements.

“CLS's approach to engaging supported individuals and their families / personal support network members positions them as a key community inclusion leader in BC.”

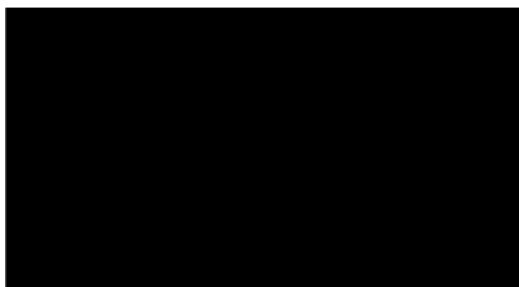
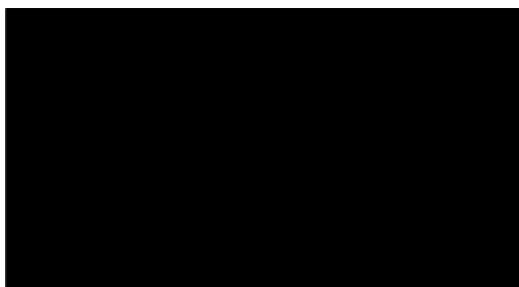
INDEPENDENT LIVING

Survey results from the Independent Living program indicated that 100% of Supported Individuals believe they were able to make choices and 94% indicated that they were able to learn new skills. These results exceeded the targets of 90%.

There was 1 unplanned move (calculated at 2% which is below the target of a maximum of 5%). This indicates that people in Independent Living experience reasonable stability in their living arrangements.

In 2023, 2 people (8 people in 2022) were new to the Independent Living program, accessing service within an average of 1 month (4.1 months in 2022) from referral to placement. The average length of time between referral and placement was well below the target of 12 months. It continues to be impressive that despite the affordable housing crisis, the Independent Living program continues to support people to move into new living arrangements. CLS will continue to work with affordable housing providers to accommodate the people we support in accessing and maintaining affordable housing.

In 2023, the number of service hours versus expected delivered service hours remained below target. Data for this outcome is for both Supported Living and Independent Living programs, and this data cannot currently be altered. Although steady improvement has been noted, CLS is not surprised to see this outcome below 100%. An observation that has grown clearer over the last couple of years related to the Independent Living program is that once Supported Individuals have secured housing, their support needs often decrease. This has led to some Supported Individuals declining to accept support hours leading to under delivering. In addition, employee recruitment challenges continue to impact the service delivering in these programs, though this bearing has decreased from previous years.



HOME SHARE

It is the intention of CLS to deliver a service in which Supported Individuals experience stability and contentment with their home and community. Survey results indicate that:

- 87% of Supported Individuals who choose to engage in their home life, feel included.
- 100% of Supported Individuals are content with their living situation.
- 95% of Supported Individuals are supported to be present in their community.
- 100% of Supported Individuals have opportunities to make decisions and choice.

Stability is measured in different ways- longevity of the living situation, number of unplanned moves, and turnover of Home Share Providers. This year's results indicate that Supported Individuals in Home Share experience reasonable stability.

- Unplanned moves were at 4.3% (1.25% in 2022)
- The turnover rate of Home Share Providers decreased to 11.75% (17% in 2022)
 - This did not meet our target of 10% though is lower than previous years.
 - Upon further analysis, a theme did not emerge that explained the increase, however inflation, cost of living and compensation rates for Home Share Providers seem to be at the root of some moves.
 - CLS, along with other service providers in the province, have advocated for increased rates for Home Share Providers and will continue to do so in the future.
- The average number of days from intake to placement (35 days) is impressive considering the very limited availability of Home Share Providers and the high number placements accommodated by CLS. This is far below the target of a maximum of 90 days. A continued year over year comparison will provide better data to analyze the stability of the program.

Lastly, to continue to provide quality support, the Home Share Providers must feel supported and receive support in a timely manner. The survey results indicated that Home Share Providers feel supported by CLS (100 % in 2023, 97% in 2022) and received timely response from CLS employees (100% in both 2023 and 2022). These results are a very good indication that Home Share Providers feel engaged and are willing to freely share their opinions.

“I have so much appreciation to CLS for assisting my son patiently and respectfully.”

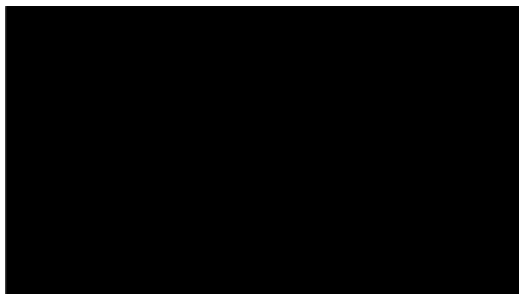
STAFFED HOMES

Survey results indicated that 95% of Supported Individuals in Staffed Homes that responded to the survey believe they were able to make choices, exceeding the target of 90%. Of moves out of or between homes, none were unplanned. This continues to be a positive result and indicates that people living in Staffed Homes experience stability in their living arrangements.

The Staffed Homes program met or exceeded all but one target. Through this data analysis, the measure looking at the percentage of times a Supported Individual participates in at least one community-based activity per week is an area requiring further work. Although the result is better than previous years, 85.5% (74% in 2022 and 66% in 2021), results are still below our realistic target of 95%. Upon investigation, it appears that the lower-than-expected result may be attributed to several factors including: data collection errors, staffing challenges and the aging population of people living in Staffed Homes. However, given the low result, additional employee training and monitoring is required.

The effectiveness outcome measuring Supported Individuals with at least one person with whom they have a relationship, and regularly interact with each month is well above target at 89.25%, though CLS is aware how difficult it can be for some of the people we support to develop and maintain relationships with family and friends. This challenge is well documented in research related to people with intellectual disabilities. In the Fall of 2024, CLS has scheduled training with a consultant to provide employees with education and strategies to support people to develop and maintain friendships.

The number of support hours delivered in relation to the number that were funded is a good indication of how the organization efficiently managed its resources. Although CLS continues to experience employee shortages due to recruitment challenges, in 2023, 99% of the hours funded were delivered in the Staffed Homes programs.



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

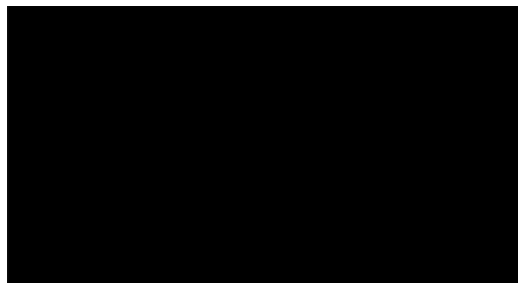
It is the intention of CLS to deliver a service in which Supported Individuals secure and maintain employment at their preferred pace. The program was very successful this past year with all but one target being met. Below are some of the positive outcomes:

- Employment Services continues to assist people to find and secure employment, with 28 job seekers new to the program in 2023 (40 in 2022).
- The variety of job options remained stable at 22 sectors.
- The number of Supported Individuals making more than minimum wage was 56%.
- The number of Supported Individuals receiving career enhancements was 66% of employed Supported Individuals- a very impressive result.

The one target that was not met was - 75% of newly Supported Individuals are successfully placed in employment within the first six months. The percentage of Supported Individuals successfully placed ranged from 62% to 67% across the three funding categories. The CLS has a clear understanding of the reasons for this outcome.

The Employment Services program success has led to new referrals and expansion of the program. It is one of three CLS programs attracting the most significant growth, especially among younger adults (19-30 and 31-50). In 2022, increased funding from several sources (e.g. Inclusion BC COVID Recovery Fund and CLBC referrals) added to the capacity of the Employment Services team, which allowed for a greater number of people to be added to the program.

In 2023, The Employment Services team began participating in a pilot project called Impact 2.0, which will support youth to gain summer work experience and employment. Impact 2.0 is a three-year pilot project.



“My job coach has been amazing helping me get through my new step in life when I was looking at a career college to become a vet assistant, he helped me find a way to get my sponsorship and now I'm starting college at the end of the month.”



Summer Solstice

Robert and Cari along with the staff from 48B (Ola, Maria and Shelley) participated in the Summer Solstice 5K Race to help raise money with the Delta police.

Robbie won a prize: a beautiful metal basket full of fresh vegetables.



Thank you to Emergency Services

The teams from 158A and Quadling A teamed up to organize a thank you parade for the Surrey Fire Department. They waved flags and thanked the department for all they do to keep us safe. They then got to tour the fire truck!



She's a Brave One

Janice is really afraid of heights. It took some encouragement from the staff but at the end something great happened - Janice rode the Squamish gondola. She had such an amazing time and is very proud of herself. Now she repeats "I am brave - I am brave." Way to go Janice. We are all proud of you.

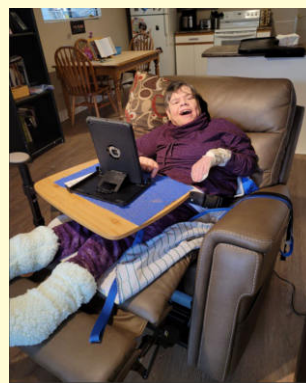
48B Generosity



Robbie and Cari live at the 48B home in Ladner. Recently they were thrilled to participate in fundraiser for the Delta Police and donate a large hamper to the Ladner Homeless Shelter.

They were both so thrilled to give back to their community and so grateful to have the facilitators of the fundraisers come to 48B to visit the home and thank them for their generosity.

A New Recliner for Lesley - At Last



Lelsey's recliner was ruined during a flood at her home two years ago, and it took two years to find the perfect replacement. She wanted massage, heat and separate foot and back tilts. She finally found one and also bought a new tray that fits over her recliner. She is set for popcorn and movie night and some TLC for her body. She loves it so much that she didn't want to get out of it to go to Boccia - which she loves.

Looking After Mother Earth

Earth Day observed annually on April 22, promotes environmental protection. The group at Kwantlen participated in a cleanup drive and painted the salmon tracks along 104th Avenue.

This initiative, in partnership with Surrey City Hall, aims to raise public awareness about the importance of protecting our waterways. The effort was not just about painting; it also served to educate the public on the significance of keeping the salmon tracks clear of debris. A clean environment supports the thriving of the salmon and boosts fish production. These acts of painting salmon tracks and street cleanup are among the individuals' contributions to the community.

Such activities have become a regular part of Surrey Day Supports' program. The group also monitors the waterways near Kwantlen, including areas around the Surrey Central Skytrain station. The city government supplied the salmon track painting kits, and our group has been diligent in maintaining the cleanliness of the areas to safeguard the salmon tracks.

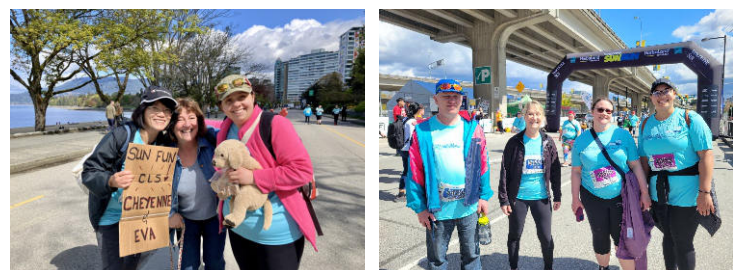


SUN RUN 2024



On April 21st, 2024, over 60 CLS Supported Individuals and employees ran, strolled or rolled alongside 40,000 other participants in the 40th Annual Vancouver Sun Run. The primary goals of the Sun Run are to promote health, fitness and a sense of community. Since the Run began in 1985, The Vancouver Sun Run has donated \$3.3 million in proceeds for important causes such as the BC Cancer Society, BC Epilepsy Society, and The Heart and Stroke Foundation, to name a few.

This year turned out to be the perfect Sun Run weather and a great time was had by all. Next year's run is on April 27th, 2025. Don't forget to mark it on your calendars. See you then.



Happy Work Anniversary

3 years

Sybil Bayog
Flor Daroy
Jazmin Minwalla
Melissa Gardner
Braulia Jocol Garcia
Abraham Tesfayesus
Quinten Silcox
Darlene Robotham

4 years

Kexin Cheng
Harrison Nguyen
Murray Campbell

5 years

Prakashkumar Jaiswal
Maria Carmella Williams
Melody Kruppa
Maria Leticia De Lemos
Melanie Hawkes
Amanda Davidson
Sharon Lee
Jessica Beasley
Florencio Gaite
Sophie Rhodes
Nazreen Jablonsky
Jabarjeet Sidhu
Marlene Green-Holness
Tara Thomas
Rinawati Qadeer

6 years

Gurshvinder Brar
Zixu Feng
Tushar Kalange
Roxane Padmore
Nikhil Roshan
Christopher Whittle
Sarahlyn Turay
Joseph Gosselin
Olubukunola Akinwunmi
Dilpreet Dhaliwal

7 years

Rehema Tchakubuta
Laura Casas-Perez
Adam Wood
Nicholas Van Loo
Shane Temple
Rita King
Victoria Olaniyan
Marivic Alban

8 years

Shu Ting Gao
Gurjit Ghuman
Adam Johnstone
Kpanah Suwarly
Natalia Berger
Andrew Fernando
Djenebou Dukuly

9 years

Kevin Pang
Kevin James Sass
Ashley-Dawn Milligan
Romeo Banting Flores
Slavka Obretenov Bohac
Samantha Dickson
Elvessa Pineda
Michael Robert Lewis
Jovannia Lago

10 years

Gina Tolonics
Ashley Mann
Aaron McQueen
Donna Pobuda

11 years

Amanda Smith

13 years

Cindy Williams
Lili Marian

14 years

Elena Unabia
Katelyn Lund
Hamid Khatami

16 years

Leilani Mapanao
Dawn Berryman
John Davidson
Terry Greenwood

17 years

Bel Acero
Simi Bate
Shu-Chi Wang
Ali Fard-Behbahani
Rukayat Lawal

18 years

Comfort Coker

19 years

Chris Hopkinson
Dominique Gard

23 years

Shammi Singh

24 years

Kelly Hooper
Dee Blackmore
Tony Maravilla

25 years

Jackie Farmer
Purnima Maharaj

26 years

Kulwant Sidhu

27 years

Carl Danroth

28 years

Marcela Herrera

29 years

Dawn Mahovlich

31 years

Gregory Joiner
Delia Fabros

32 years

Daniel Watson
Tracy Quinn

34 years

Elke Tilgner

Welcome Baby



Thomas Kingyin Luck was born on May 7, 2024, weighing 6lbs 8oz. Thomas is the first child for Xavier and his wife. Xavier works at a few staffed homes at CLS.



Weini Kinfe had a baby boy on June 2nd weighing 2.8 Kg. His name is Canaan. Weini works for Kwantlen Park (Day Supports).



Sandeep Gill welcomed a baby girl on April 19th. Niyamat entered the world at 2Kg. Sandeep works at the Southern home in Abbotsford.

Employee Profiles



Quinten Silcox
Acting Team Lead - Sardis

What is your favourite thing about working at CLS?

I really enjoy the community around CLS and working with an amazing team and individuals. Every day is a new positive experience. Getting to go to picnics and the boat cruise, the sense of community within CLS is amazing, and it's always nice to meet different staff from different homes. Meeting some amazing people that are supported by CLS and the amazing people that work at CLS makes it a great place to work.

What is a passion or hobby of yours?

I love trying new foods from different places. If it's a new food I have never had before or a food I'm familiar with done in a different way, I always look forward to trying it. Trying new restaurants, I always find something on the menu I like. Having friends recommend places to me helps me find new places to eat and maybe find my new favourite place.

If you could meet one person (dead or alive) who would it be?

There are a lot of people that would be amazing to meet and learn from. It is hard to pick just one. I think meeting someone from the past would be an amazing thing to do. I would like to meet a relative that has passed away and learn more about their life story.

Where do you want to travel, but have never been?

I would love to visit Iceland or London, England. Iceland always looks amazing in photos, and it seems like a very beautiful place to see with my eyes. Seeing videos and photos of London I have always been interested in seeing it for myself. I can't wait to see more of the world and visit the places I dream about.



Sirjana Timalsina
Team Lead, Sidley

What is your favorite thing about working at CLS?

One of my favorite things about working at CLS is the individual-centered approach. It's truly inspiring to see all employees striving to improve the lives of Supported Individuals every day and help them be as independent as possible. The dedication and commitment of my colleagues make CLS a wonderful place to work. I enjoy the sense of community we have here, which makes coming to work each day a joy.

What is a passion or hobby of yours?

I love taking casual hikes through trails or cycling around the city. These activities bring me great joy and relaxation. Being in nature helps me stay physically active and gives me a sense of peace and rejuvenation. Exploring new trails and cycling routes is something I always look forward to in my free time.

If you could meet one person (dead or alive) who would it be?

While this may be a common choice, If I could meet one person, it would be my grandfather. He passed away a decade ago, but his influence and memories have remained with me throughout the years. Meeting him again would be a lovely experience, allowing me to reconnect and share the many stories and experiences I've had since his passing. His wisdom and guidance were invaluable to me, and I often feel his presence in my life.

Where do you want to travel, but have never been?

Although I am from Nepal, I have never truly had the opportunity to explore my home country in depth. One of my dreams is to visit Mount Everest at least once. While I may not have the ambition to climb it, I am captivated by the idea of seeing it up close, whether from a plane or by visiting the Everest Base Camp.



Prince Davidson
Acting Team Lead – Supported Living

What is your favorite thing about working at CLS?

The best part about working with CLS is that feeling of family within the organization. Our passion for improving and growing the lives of the individuals we support makes working with this organization so much fun.

What is a passion or hobby of yours?

I love so many things but most important amongst them is my passion for spending time with my girls (my wife and 2 daughters Gogo and Gigi). I also love watching football (or soccer like we call it here in Canada - haha).

If you could meet one person (dead or alive) who would it be?

If I had the opportunity to meet someone, I'll have to say Dr. Ben Carson. Gifted Hands was a great, thoughtful book that got me into medical school.

Where do you want to travel, but have never been?

It's an open secret now that I'd love to travel to the United States of America. My family are all based there but I've never been. I hope to, some day.



Jessica Beasley
Director of Programs

What is your favourite thing about working at CLS?

Of course, the individuals we support! They are my focus here at CLS. I love that CLS focuses on building community and the promotion of autonomy and independence! It is something that is very important to me.

What is a passion or hobby of yours?

I love learning. Researching different topics that interest me is something that I am usually doing in my spare time.

If you could meet one person (dead or alive) who would it be?

I would have loved to have met Robin Williams.

Where do you want to travel, but have never been?

I would really love to go to Greece one day!

Promotions & New Appointments

Congratulations!

Brenda Henderson

Chief Operating Officer

Jessica Beasley

Director of Programs

Kim Lorenzo

Manager of Staffed Homes – Eastlawn, Quadling B, Sardis

Olusegun Oregbemi

Assistant Coordinator – LIFE/Team Burnaby-Holdom

Quinten Silcox

Acting Team Lead – Sardis

Taranjeet Bhangu

Acting Manager, Supported Living – 43 Hastings & Madison

Tamera Friesen

Team Lead – City Club

Prince Davidson

Acting Team Lead, Supported Living – 43 Hastings & Madison

Kyle Mercer

Team Lead – Ayling

Srijana Timalisina

Team Lead – Sidley

Edro Gonzales

Junior IT Systems Administrator

Jennifer Malin

Acting Coordinator – Employment Services



A Visit to the White Rock Museum and Canada's Longest Pier

Visiting new places can be both exciting and challenging, especially for individuals with autism. Linus and Joseph, two friends who share these unique challenges, embarked on an adventure to the White Rock Museum and Canada's longest pier in White Rock. Their journey was not just a visit to historical and recreational landmarks, but a testament to their courage, resilience, and the support they received from their staff.

The Anticipation

For weeks, Linus and Joseph had been preparing for this trip. They had been shown pictures of the museum and the pier. Linus, who loves history, was particularly excited about the museum. Joseph, on the other hand, was looking forward to the sensory experience of walking on the pier and feeling the sea breeze. Their caregivers ensured they had all the tools necessary to manage their sensory sensitivities and potential challenges.

The White Rock Museum

Upon arriving at the White Rock Museum, Linus was immediately captivated by the historical artifacts and exhibits. The museum, housed in a historic train station building, offered a rich glimpse into the local history and culture. Linus's eyes sparkled as he saw the antique train models and old photographs depicting life in White Rock over a century ago. The museum staff provided a quiet room where they could retreat if they felt overwhelmed.

Joseph, initially hesitant, found comfort in the tactile exhibits. The museum had interactive displays that allowed visitors to touch and feel replicas of historical objects. This hands-on approach helped Joseph engage with the exhibits in a way that was meaningful and enjoyable for him. His caregivers noticed how he responded positively to the textures and shapes, providing a calming effect that helped him stay focused and relaxed.

The Longest Pier

After the enriching experience at the museum, Linus and Joseph made their way to the pier, the longest in Canada, stretching over 470 meters into the serene waters of Semiahmoo Bay. The pier presented a different set of challenges and joys. For Linus, the long walk was a chance to enjoy the view. He marveled at the distant mountains and the intricate details of the pier's construction.

Joseph found solace in the rhythmic sound of the waves and the open expanse of the ocean. The gentle rocking of the pier underfoot provided a soothing sensory input that he found both fascinating and calming. Their caregivers ensured that the visit was paced according to their comfort levels, allowing them to take breaks and enjoy the experience at their own pace.

Overcoming Challenges Together

The trip was not without its moments of difficulty. At times, the sensory input became overwhelming. There were instances where the unpredictability of the environment caused anxiety. However, their caregivers were prepared with strategies to help them cope—noise-canceling headphones, calming activities, and the freedom to retreat to quieter areas when needed.

What stood out most during this trip was the bond between Linus and Joseph. They supported each other in their unique ways—Linus with his words of encouragement and Joseph with his quiet presence. Their friendship and mutual understanding were evident as they navigated the day's challenges and joys together.

A Day to Remember

As the sun began to set, casting a golden hue over the water, Linus and Joseph stood at the end of the pier, taking in the breathtaking view. It was a moment of triumph and joy, a testament to their ability to embrace new experiences. The visit to the White Rock Museum and the longest pier in Canada was more than just an outing; it was a celebration of their resilience, friendship, and the unwavering support of their families and caregivers.

Linus and Joseph returned home with a sense of accomplishment and a treasure trove of memories. Their adventure highlighted the importance of accessibility, understanding, and support in making such experiences possible for individuals with intellectual disabilities. It was a day they will remember for a long time, filled with learning, exploration, and the simple joy of being themselves.



Ed had so much fun for his 61st birthday party.

He hosted some of his best friends at Central City Fun Park where they all enjoyed mini golf.

Janice had fun celebrating her 66th birthday on May 1st

Birthday Celebrations

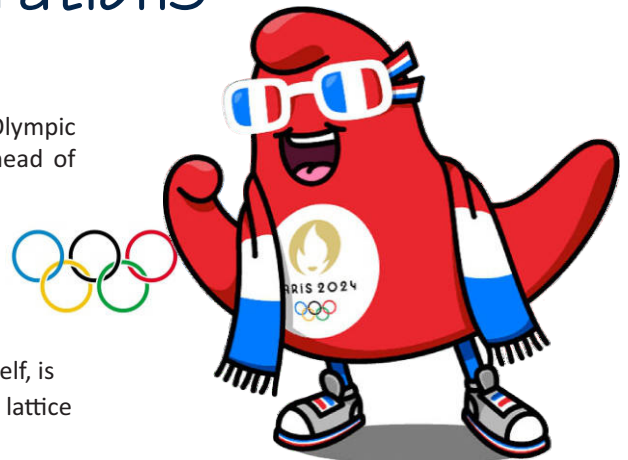
Olympics 2024 - PARIS FRANCE

Very soon we will cheer on Team Canada for their fight for the Gold at this year's Olympic Games, held in Paris, France 2024. (Central European Time, around 7 hours ahead of Canada).

The Games will open on July 26th, 2024, and continue through August 11, 2024.

There are 10,500 athletes from across the world competing in 329 events.

Each Olympic Medal (Bronze, Silver, and Gold) features original iron from the Eiffel Tower. The Hexagon shape of the Eiffel Tower, the geographical shape of France itself, is featured in the design of the Olympic Medal. The Medals Ribbon is inspired by the lattice work of the Eiffel Tower.



This year's mascot is "The Phryge" (pronounced "freejh") designed to resemble the Phrygian cap, a symbol of freedom.

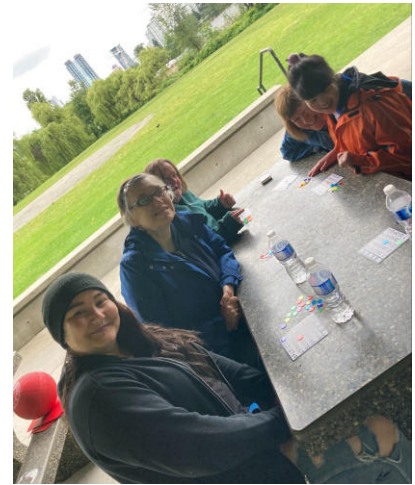
On Tuesday, April 16th, the Olympic flame was lit in Olympus with the sun's rays, as is tradition. The torch will travel through Greece to France for 68 days, visiting 65 French Territories along the way, including those overseas, with the help of approximately 10,000 torch bearers.

The Paris Torch has three main conceptual influences: Equality, Water, and Peacefulness. Equality is reflected in the torch's vertical and horizontal symmetry. Paris has profound respect for water and has incorporated it in the way the torch reflects light, like the waters surface. Peacefulness and unity are captured in the torch's smooth curves and rounded lines. In keeping with the Paris 2024 sustainability goals, the torches are fashioned of recycled steel and only two thousand torches have been created. (Approximately five times fewer than previous Olympics).

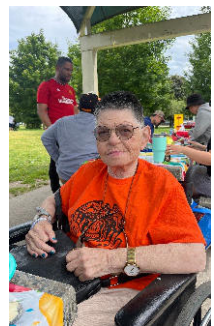
Paris' best-known landmarks will become Olympic venues. Parc du Champs de Mars, The Eiffel Tower, Seine River, Chateau de Versailles, and the Champs-Elysees will host events. Follow along and cheer Team Canada! More information can be found at the Olympics website: www.Olympic.ca/games/paris-2024



Bring on Summer Picnics



Participants and employees from the Individualized Support, Independent Living and LIFE programs gathered together for some fun at Hume Park. They played bingo, enjoyed a game of California kick ball and then enjoyed a BBQ lunch. It was great for everyone to meet new people and have the opportunity to expand their social network. Special thanks to Andrew for cooking all of those yummy hot dogs.



On June 22nd 62 people from City Club, Madison and 43 Hastings came together at Edmonds Park in Burnaby! It was wonderful weather and a fantastic time was had by all.

Picnic



Zoo Trip





Bronwyn was excited to take part in a work experience opportunity at White Spot on June 5th. She initially had reservations about working in the restaurant industry. However, her time at White Spot was nothing short of inspiring.

Upon her arrival, Bronwyn was understandably nervous but showed a commendable eagerness to learn. The warm welcome and guidance provided by Jordan, one of the managers, along with the supportive team members Rachel and Mia, played a pivotal role in easing her into the environment.

Throughout her 2-hour work experience, Bronwyn demonstrated remarkable adaptability and a willingness to engage with the tasks at hand. She asked insightful questions, such as inquiring about the location of booster seats for children. She showed great attention to detail while clearing and setting tables independently.

One particular moment that stood out was when Bronwyn's thoughtful gesture of pulling out a chair for a customer garnered heartfelt appreciation, leaving her beaming with pride. This interaction is a testament to her potential in delivering exceptional customer service.

The positive reinforcement and natural support from the White Spot team have been instrumental in transforming Bronwyn's initial fear into newfound courage. She is now more open than ever to embracing new experiences, a significant milestone we can all celebrate.

Congratulations Bronwyn on your personal and professional growth.



Rob caught 3 fish at Chilliwack Lake. Although it was raining he enjoyed every minute of his fishing trip with his sister, Pam.



Cheyenne met a nice young man in the community and they enjoyed lunch and a walk in the sunshine together.



Ed and Lilly at Science World.



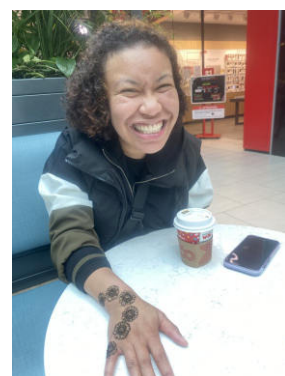
Ed and Lilly at the Cloverdale Rodeo.



Justin volunteering and earning some extra money collecting bottles.



Lilly enjoying her first ever visit to English Bay.



Toni excited for her henna tattoo that her support staff did for her.

IN LOVING *memory*



Amy Saip

July 8, 1980 – June 22, 2024

It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the passing of one of our colleagues, Amy Saip.

Amy Passed away on Saturday June 22nd. She is survived by her two daughters Esme and Finley. Amy's husband pre-deceased her four years ago.

Amy began her career with CLS 23 years ago in 2001, first as a staff at Rosewood home, then at the Burnaby Initiative Centre where her eagerness to grow and her passion for enriching the quality of the lives of the people she supported made her a natural choice as Coordinator when the position became available in 2011. After a few years as Coordinator, she was encouraged to apply for the new service CLS was launching, Employment Services, and became its first Coordinator. This allowed Amy to leverage her experience, passion and creativity and to help grow the service from one employee (her) and 6 job seekers to 12 employees and over 100 job seekers.

Every success the Employment Services has experienced has been touched or aided by Amy in one way or another. She is credited with not only being an incredible leader but also an inspirational colleague. She will be deeply missed.



Bernice Belcourt

March 6, 1970 – May 31, 2024

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Bernice Belcourt. Bernice passed away peacefully in her home on Friday, May 31.

Bernice lived with her caregiver and family for about five years but was part of the family for over 25 years.

Bernice was the queen B of the home. She loved spending time with everyone, holding hands and giving her loved one's hugs and kisses. Bernice had a great sense of humor.

She loved balloons, parties and being in the middle of the action. Although Bernice didn't use verbal communication, she had a way of making everyone know what she wanted.

Bernice loved to giggle and find ways to get up to mischief. Bernice was loved by many and will never be forgotten.



Sharon Wesko

December 14, 1962 - Feb 1, 2024

We are saddened to announce the passing of one of our longtime staff, Sharon Wesko.

Before she joined the 97th team, she had been a coordinator at one of the day supports programs. Sharon's passion for supporting people shone through. Sharon had a wonderful sense of humour, which quickly endeared her to the people she supported. Her family, friends, colleagues and the people she supported are in our thoughts at this time.





Last newsletter we shared that many of the Studio73 artists created art pieces for an Anti - Racism exhibit hosted by PICS (Progressive Intercultural Community Services). The event had a great turnout which included some very talented artists. All the artists received a gift card for participating, and Rachel took home third place for her Black Lives Matter piece. We will share the entries across the next several newsletters. Jill's red dress was featured already in the last newsletter. A couple weeks later we attended an Indigenous cultural event, again hosted by PICS. We had the great honour of hearing from Sesmelot, hən̓qəmin̓əm̓ Language Instructor and Consultant from Kwantlen First Nation, Annie Ohana, Social Justice teacher, L.A. Matheson Secondary and James Groening, Cree artist from Kahkewistahaw Band,

Fatima, Harpreet and Jill took some time away from the shop to support artist James Groening and Mike Alexander, Anishinaabe artist, at Art Vancouver. So many talented artists to check out. Jill also went to Newton Cultural Centre to support local artist Olga, So exquisite Art. Speaking of talented artists, we would like to introduce Danny Reid, Salish artist, to our ever -growing list of artists support. <https://www.instagram.com/handmadebydannyreid/>. We are extremely happy to have a beader in our midst.

A team of Studio 73 artists recreated one of Cheyenne's beautiful glass pieces, with each person creating one section - a true collaboration. This was commissioned by City of Surrey to be included as an art installation in the upgraded "Parklet" located outside our storefront. This piece is named "Colours of Community" and was designed with the intention of representing the diverse community that Surrey is. They took the glass piece, scanned it and then printed it on to plexiglass. We are super pleased with how it turned out. In mid June, City of Surrey staff came out to celebrate the installation with the artists, bringing with them some delicious treats!

We had a social media shout-out from West Coast Curated - they recommended 7 Artist-Run galleries to check out in and around Vancouver and we were one of them!



PotteryWorks has continued to be a busy studio, responding to demand from the community. We have had two large orders from The New West Public Library for 100 mugs and from Repo.com for 25 large pieces with their logo.

On May 15th, The Colour Collective had a book launch at the Administration Centre, for their “Landscapes” coffee table book. This beautiful book has been well received and is selling quickly.

The artists are very busy, producing new work for summer shows and The Colour Collective are especially focussed on their exciting new show this December at Anvil Centre.

On April 20th, the “Melody of Colours” show of pottery and paintings opened at the Crystal Mall. The Colour Collective painters had a large display of paintings and several artists sold paintings.

On April 11, Dan Tell and staff Diane Ebner, represented CLS at the Burnaby Central Transition Fair. Dan displayed his pottery and spoke with the many visitors at our table.

Congratulations to artist Sangeeta Rekhi who had her forest painting chosen by the Inclusion Art Show, for the promotional flyers and rack cards for the 2024 show. Beautiful work Sangeeta !

Artist Ryley Jensen Fisk, has delivered another order of award platters to The Family Support Institute, for their annual awards banquet. Always beautiful and unique, she has been producing these award platters for almost a decade now.



Annual Summer Picnic
Saturday August 24, 2024
12:00 - 2:00
Scandinavian Community Centre
6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby

Join us for an afternoon of food, games, music,
balloon/tattoo/caricature artists, prizes, and more.....

All in the CLS community are welcome:

- Supported Individuals and their families
- Employees and their families
- Home Share Providers and their families
- CLS members

Please note that animals are not permitted on the premises.
The venue is fully accessible, lots of parking and lots of shade.



We hope to see you there

DONATE TODAY!

Your generous donations provide real opportunities for the individuals supported by the CLS to live life to the fullest.

You can contribute by sending cash or a cheque to:

Community Living Society
7th Floor – 713 Columbia Street
New Westminster, BC, V3M 1B2

Donation receipts sent to our office via cheque or cash will be issued for amounts in excess of \$10.

Donations via credit card can be made by visiting our website:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/m/5841/donation>

If you have any questions, please contact us at 604.523.0303 or contactus@communitylivingsociety.ca

Thank you for your consideration.

JOIN TODAY!

Become a CLS Member

Date _____

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

There is no fee to be a CLS member. Memberships are renewed on an annual basis at or after the Annual General Meeting.

Members must:

- be 18+ years of age
- be interested in advancing the purposes and supporting the activities of the Society

Members cannot be:

- An employee or contractor of the CLS
- An employee of the government of the Province of British Columbia or Canada whose duties are concerned with the affairs of the Society.

If you would like to be a member of the CLS, please send this completed form to us:

By Mail: 7th Floor- 713 Columbia Street, New Westminster, BC, V3M 1B2

By Fax: 604-523-9399

By Email: contactus@communitylivingsociety.ca