

**Councillor Leslie Johnson's Report: July 20, 2009**

I attended the meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup> with Gareth Clarke from BC Hydro's Power Smart Program for Non-Integrated Areas to discuss energy saving opportunities for Queen Charlotte.

He provided web links related to their low income program. The energy saving kits offer is very similar to the initiative he's hoping to launch on Haida Gwaii in the fall, although he hopes to include an installation option for Haida Gwaii customers.

([http://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/residential/energy\\_saving\\_kits.html](http://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/residential/energy_saving_kits.html)).

The Energy Conservation Assistance Program includes enhanced home retrofits, but is only available to low income households in the Lower Mainland and on Vancouver Island <[http://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/residential/energy\\_conservation.html](http://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/residential/energy_conservation.html)>. He hopes to offer some kind of retrofit program to Haida Gwaii too. He hopes to get some pilots off the ground this year.

I also attended a meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup> with three representatives from Community Living, a Crown agency under the Ministry of Housing and Social Development, which funds programs and services to support over 22,000 adults with developmental disabilities, and children and youth with special needs across BC. Below is some information about their program and related services. They also provided us with some inclusive language to include in the Official Community Plan.

**Community Living BC (CLBC)**, a Crown agency under the Ministry of Housing and Social Development, funds programs and services to support over 22,000 adults with developmental disabilities, and children and youth with special needs across BC. It's vision is to build "good lives in welcoming communities". The agency has staff in over 40 community living centre, satellite offices and quality service offices across BC that help connect families and individuals with both funded and unfunded community services and programs. Funded services include respite, linking adults with appropriate housing supports, employment supports and programs, autism services, assessment, and community inclusion supports. Services funded by CLBC are delivered through a network of over 4,700 contracted service providers across BC. CLBC also works with other organizations to strengthen employment, increase safety, and promote inclusion for people with developmental disabilities so they have more choices in how they live, work and are involved in their communities.

**OCP Language** - There are many examples of people being successfully included in their communities in ways that enable them to be a socially valued part of society through key roles like employee, friend, spouse, volunteer and leader. People with developmental disabilities want real work for real pay, which means competitive wages and benefits equal to the job's responsibilities, and opportunities that encourage them to work to their maximum potential. Successful inclusion means that people with disabilities have the income, aids and devices, personal friendships and family supports, medications and environmental accommodations that make social, economic, cultural and political citizenship accessible to all. The result is that people with disabilities benefit from society in ways that are equal to others. By being included, individuals with developmental disabilities can also "include" others into their way of seeing and understanding the world.

**Family Independence Fund grants (FIF)** for families with relatives with a developmental disability can help them renovate their home, or adapt the family vehicle, so their family

member can be more involved in their community, or live more independently. One-time grants are for up to \$60,000. Families can contact the Giving in Action Society directly to apply - <http://www.vancouverfoundation.bc.ca/grants/specialprograms.htm> (scroll part way down the page for information on the FIF)

**Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP)**, up to \$24, 000 in federal forgivable loans available for renovations if landlords agree to rent to lower income people or people with disabilities - [http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/co/prfinas/prfinas\\_001.cfm](http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/co/prfinas/prfinas_001.cfm) or <http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/ab/onre/index.cfm> for questions regarding RRAP programs for First Nations living on reserves.

**Start with Hi**, CLBC's campaign to encourage British Columbians to promote inclusion, and contribute to the safety of people with developmental disabilities in their communities. To find out more information, or to share your story of inclusion, visit [www.startwithhi.ca](http://www.startwithhi.ca)

**Database of community resources** (funded and unfunded) across the province. You can find the database at this link - [http://www.communitylivingbc.ca/your\\_community/community\\_resource\\_database.htm](http://www.communitylivingbc.ca/your_community/community_resource_database.htm)

**Our email survey**, which we ask that you each fill out. The information helps us with our presentations as we travel around the province [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=cUK7Azqc8UFKE7s5h\\_2bOnow\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=cUK7Azqc8UFKE7s5h_2bOnow_3d_3d)