

Advancing Full Citizenship and Quality of Life

2016 to 2021
STRATEGIC PLAN

April 1, 2016

This is a plain language version of the Community Living Society (CLS) Strategic Plan. It is a “big picture” plan that will guide what the CLS does over the next 5 years. You can read the complete plan at www.communitylivingsociety.ca/.

First, we will tell you about the CLS and what we believe in. Then you can read about the 3 goals we have chosen to help us achieve our Mission – ***Supporting people to live as full citizens.***

WHO IS THE COMMUNITY LIVING SOCIETY?

The CLS was created in 1972 by the Woodlands Parents Group. These families wanted person-centred services for their sons and daughters who were returning to their communities after living in an institution.

The CLS provides services to people who have a developmental disability, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder or autism spectrum disorder and who receive funding from [Community Living British Columbia](#). We also serve people with acquired brain injuries who receive funding from [Regional Health Authorities](#).

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE IN?

Below are our Vision and Mission statements, and the Values that will guide our actions.

VISION	Communities where every person lives with dignity and enjoys a full life.
MISSION	Supporting people to live as full citizens.
VALUES	Respect Community Integrity Accountability

We believe:

- ✓ Everyone can participate in, and contribute to, their communities as full citizens
- ✓ Each person must have the opportunity and support to reach their full potential

- ✓ Supports and services work best when they are designed with individuals and their family members and friends
- ✓ Citizenship means having legal rights, being seen as unique, yet equal with others, and making contributions that help make our communities more welcoming for everyone

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF OUR PLAN?

The heart of our plan is in our Mission statement – ***Supporting people to live as full citizens*** – This picture shows how we think about citizenship.



WHAT ARE OUR 3 MAIN GOALS?

The 3 key goals below will guide how we support people to live as full citizens:

#1 Advance Full Citizenship

This goal is about better supporting people to have opportunities for:

- ✓ **Self-determination** ~ people making small and large decisions in their lives
- ✓ **Personal development** ~ people developing their skills and talents
- ✓ **Social inclusion** ~ people participating more fully in their neighbourhoods and community
- ✓ **Rights** ~ people exercising their basic freedoms like voting, working, having a boyfriend or girlfriend . . .

To achieve this goal, we will:

- ✓ Assist the people we serve, and those involved with the CLS, to understand what citizenship means
- ✓ Train our staff to use every minute of support time to help people have more choice and control in their lives. This is known as “active support”
- ✓ Improve how we plan with individuals and families so together we can “*imagine it - live it*”
- ✓ Be answerable for what we do

#2 Promote Organizational Responsiveness

The CLS is a big organization. We want to make sure that this doesn't get in the way of providing person-centred support. This goal is about looking at how the CLS is structured and the rules it uses to find out what helps people to be full citizens, and what holds us back.

To achieve this goal, we will:

- ✓ Change how the CLS works so that we can better support people to make choices, try different things, meet new people, join clubs, contribute their talents and reach their potential as full citizens
- ✓ Support our staff to be ready and excited about these changes
- ✓ Encourage our staff to find new opportunities to think and act differently in order to support people to live as full citizens

#3 Build Communities that Include Everyone

We believe community is the key to supporting people to live as full citizens. We need communities that are welcoming and make everyone feel like they belong. This goal is about working *with* community to understand how to include people with disabilities.

To achieve this goal, we will:

- ✓ Support individuals to expand their connections with family, friends, neighbours, co-workers and fellow citizens
- ✓ Support people to join local clubs and groups they are interested in
- ✓ Train people with disabilities and staff to look for others who want to join together to build stronger, more inclusive communities
- ✓ Find opportunities and provide training so the people we serve can become leaders in building communities that include everyone

WHO HELPED US TO DEVELOP THIS PLAN?

We want to thank the individuals we serve, their families and friends, CLS staff, Board members and people from outside the CLS who helped us develop this plan.

There were many great ideas. We are excited work together to put our 3 key goals into action over the next 5 years.



Nancy – proud of her Olympic medal



Misha and Daniel



Gary enjoys a day of doing what he loves best

HOW CAN YOU STAY CONNECTED TO OUR WORK?

This Strategic Plan will be posted to our website and sent out to the people we serve and our community partners. You can find out how and what we're doing by reading update reports that will be posted on our website every six months.

There is also a more detailed Strategic Plan on our website. If you would like to read this document follow the link below.

<http://www.communitylivingsociety.ca/docs/publications/cls-strategic-plan---final-may-2016.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

If you have questions about our plan or want to find out more about the work of the CLS contact:

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