

OUR AWESOME

## Summer PROJECT

BY REGINA, FRANK, RICARDO & ALLAN




We are honoured to share some of the significant highlights of our recent adventures. We have been a part of many volunteer opportunities, whether it involved giving back to the community through planting trees or being involved in the SPCA and, importantly, being present in meetings that could lead to more activities that are inclusive and accessible to all. As active members of our community, we are proud to be given important roles that support us in reaching our full potential. In addition to all the hard work we have put in, we wanted to do something special and meaningful for our home. Our staff supported us in coming up with the great idea of building a greenhouse kit where we can grow our very own garden- all from scratch! It was a lot of work - but we had a lot of fun!!!

The first step was to build the greenhouse on the patio. Frank and his staff assembled all the pieces. Of course he had so much fun doing this - his infectious laughter and positive outlook brings smiles to anyone's faces. Once the hard part was over, it was time to fertilize and seed. Then we waited eagerly for our vegetables to grow. We nurtured our garden and watched it grow little by little. We each took turns watering all the vegetables, while cherishing what we had accomplished. While all of our staff were as excited as we were, we would like to especially recognize, Eduardo Villar, for his hard work and commitment in making this project a success. His knowledge and dedication played a huge

role in attaining this team goal of ours and he ensured we were supported in the upkeep of all the gardening duties. Finally, we looked one day and there it was - our garden standing as tall as ever!

Our garden looked amazing and we took many pictures for everyone to see! It was beautiful and admirable to see what we had accomplished working together. We think Ricardo was probably the most excited since he was sneaking into the backyard every chance he got! He had so much fun holding the hose and watering the vegetables all on his own! Our friends and family complimented our garden when they attended Regina's Spring Tea Party! The best part was picking the vegetables and preparing them for meals - organic and nutritious! Our staff supported us in picking the grown vegetables and preparing them to eat. We got to practice some of our cooking skills - cutting the vegetables safely, stirring them in the pot or bowl, and obviously sneaking in a few bites every now and then. Even Allan with his sweet tooth enjoyed eating all those fresh veggies!

Thank you for recognizing our accomplishment this summer. We hope you all are inspired by our efforts !!



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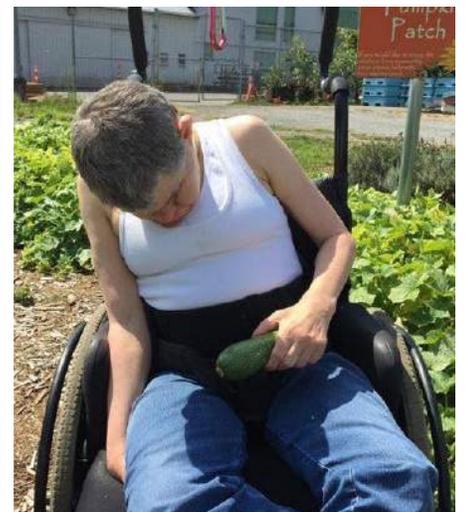
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Anniversaries & Promotions

## Vegetables Anyone?!



Des and Yvonne were busy this summer maintaining a garden plot at the Abbotsford Community Garden. They started out with seedlings and young plants in the greenhouse which they later transplanted to the plots. Since the start of summer they were able to harvest their greens: kale, spinach and lettuce and enjoyed a bountiful supply of squash, zucchini, peppers, tomatoes, and potatoes. They also do volunteer gardening on the communal plots to maintain good standing as members. This has truly been a fun community experience for both!



### CLS Administration Centre

7th Floor

713 Columbia Street,  
New Westminster, BC,  
V3M 1B2

Phone: 604.523.0303

[www.communitylivingsociety.ca](http://www.communitylivingsociety.ca)  
[contactus@communitylivingsociety.ca](mailto:contactus@communitylivingsociety.ca)

# Update from the CEO

by Ross Chilton, CEO

Over the last couple of months I have been asked by employees what a change in government means for the people we support and funding for our services. Before commenting I will take this opportunity to articulate some of the positive changes that occurred under the previous government. To be clear this is not an endorsement of any party but simply a recording of actions taken or contemplated.

For individuals with disabilities the Liberal government did bring about a number of positive changes over the last number of years as follows:

- The application process was simplified for a person with a disability seeking PWD financial assistance through the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation
- They raised the maximum asset limits for an individual with a disability from \$5,000 to \$100,000. For individuals that received a settlement from the Woodlands Class Action lawsuit or inherited money they now can have assets worth up to \$100,000 without being cut off from their PWD monthly assistance
- The monthly earnings exemption of \$800 per month was annualized such that an individual with a disability could earn more than \$800 in one month without having their PWD benefit cut, provided they earned less than \$9,600 in a calendar year.
- For individuals earning more than \$9,600 in a year the process of requalifying for PWD benefits in the subsequent year was simplified. As long as individuals continue to report their monthly income they will requalify automatically when eligible.
- They increased the PWD rate by \$77/month. Some individuals were very upset that this increase happened at the same time that the bus pass that had been provided for \$45/year now would cost \$52/month to retain. While those that retained their bus pass only noticed a \$25/month PWD increase it was the first increase in about a decade.
- The \$45/year administration fee for the bus pass was eliminated.

In terms of funding for community living, the Liberal government did provide annual increases in funding to Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) that exceeded the rate of inflation. Some expressed concern that the funding was inadequate given the 5-6% growth in the "caseload" that CLBC faces. The Liberals also provided equitable annual funding

for wage increases for both union and non-union providers. This has enabled Community Living Society to provide our employees with annual increases for the last few years. The Liberals had also committed to significant investments in affordable housing through BC Housing.

For individuals with disabilities the NDP government has announced and/or implemented a number of positive changes as follows:

- Effective September 20, 2017 the monthly PWD payment for individuals has been increased by \$100/month.
- The annual earnings exemption for individuals on PWD assistance was retroactively increased for the 2017 calendar year from \$9,600 to \$12,000 per year.
- Indications are that government will eliminate the \$52/month bus pass fee in January 2018.
- There has been a commitment to develop a poverty reduction plan for British Columbia.

We will hear from the NDP government in February when the budget is tabled how much funding they will provide to CLBC for services. We are optimistic that they will continue to provide equitable funding to providers like CLS for wage increases. They have committed to reduce Medical Services Plan (MSP) fees by 50% for all British Columbians effective April 1st. We are hopeful that government will continue to fund providers like CLS for the other 50% of MSP fees. They have also made commitments to build 114,000 units of affordable housing in BC over the next ten years.

We applaud all efforts by government to make policy and investment decisions that improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities and other marginalized groups and we will continue to advocate for those improvements. We will also continue to advocate for the compensation of our employees. As you all know the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley have undergone a significant reduction in affordability over the last number of years with the dramatic increase in housing costs (rental and ownership). We are only as good as our people and we will always do what we can for our employees.



The CLS Human Resources team is excited to present Employee Profiles. We have asked some of our employees to complete a brief questionnaire so you can learn a little about them.



**Katarina Halaszova**  
Administrative Assistant

Katarina is the Administrative Assistant at the Administration Centre. She started with the CLS on April 3, 2017

**What brought you to CLS?**

After being on maternity leave for two years, I was ready to enter the workforce again. Working for a non-profit organization was a natural choice for me, as I have been working for two non-profit organizations back at home.

**What is your favourite thing about being a team member of CLS?**

My favourite part is the people I get to meet when working with CLS. I got to meet so many unique individuals and their support workers; and watch them be agents of social change in our communities.

**When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

Happy

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

It would be my great-grandfather who always believed me and supported me no matter what.

**Do you have a hidden talent, and if so, what?**

I believe I can read people very well, even if they are trying to mask their true personality behind some act.

**What is a passion or hobby of yours?**

I love animals and nature walks.

**What is your favourite food?**

Lentil soup – the one that my mom makes

**What is your favourite book?**

Currently, it is *The Second Sex* by Simone de Beauvoir – where she talks about the treatment of women in society.

**What is your favourite movie?**

I love all the old Czechoslovak movies and comedies. I have been watching them over and over for the last 25 years and they never get old.

**If you could go back in time, what year would you travel to?**

Anytime during early 2000s, to be back in high school and enjoy a worry-free life with my best friend.

**If you could travel anywhere in the world right now, where would you go?**

I would go to Europe and visit my family and friends.

**What do you know for certain?**

“Good times become good memories, and bad times become good lessons.”



**Shane Temple**  
Community Living Counsellor

Shane started work with the CLS on June 8, 2017. He is currently a Counsellor at the 216A home in Langley.

**What brought you to CLS?**

My wife runs a licensed family daycare from our home, one of the mom's was an employee of CLS at the time suggested that I would be a really good fit for this type of job after getting to know me and seeing me help out with the kids.

**What is your favourite thing about being a team member of CLS?**

It has to be that I'm re-learning things from a different perspective, The Dudes are teaching me constantly about how they process their environment. The team I work with are so positive and supportive!

**When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

When I was young I collected keys, little did I know it would come in handy as I've been a locksmith for the last 20 years. In High School I wanted to be a Mortician! I find it absolutely fascinating.

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

John Candy

**If you could choose a theme song for your life, what song would it be and why?**

“Theme” by Descendents-it's hands down one of my favorite bass lines from my favorite band.

**What is a passion or hobby of yours?**

I'm a big kid, I love Lego and Star Wars toys, I love music as well and play Bass, Guitar, Ukulele, and Didgeridoo

**What is your favourite food?**

My wife's chocolate chip cookies!

**If you could go back in time, what year would you travel to?**

1983 - to spend more time with my grandparent's in the summer on the sunshine coast.

**If you could travel anywhere in the world right now, where would you go?**

Bran Castle, Romania

**What do you know for certain?**

I'm certain that I love this job!, I love making a difference.

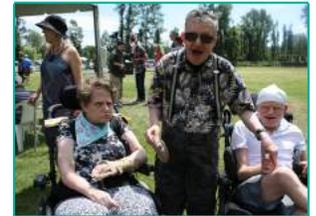
# Annual CLS Picnic

Our annual picnic was on July 9th at the Scandinavian Community Centre. The venue change this year seemed to be really popular with everyone. - so much so that we have already booked it for next year. The weather was perfect, the food was great, we were entertained by Scruffles the amazing balloon making clown, and Anthony Polanowski played fantastic music that had lots of people dancing. A big thank you to our many volunteers. Without your contributions this event would not be able to happen.

We hope to see you all next year. Save the date - Saturday, July 14th, 2018

There are so many great photos. You can see them all at

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/146110911@N05/sets/72157665788848069/>



THANK YOU

There were so many fantastic door prizes this year. Thank you to all of our sponsors for their generosity

- Save on Foods
- ITC Construction
- Shaw
- Studio 73
- PotteryWorks
- Pointbreak Consulting
- Stevens
- Bell
- Roofix
- Royal City Fire Supplies
- The Spaghetti Factory



We were nominated for the Surrey Mayor's Art Award and attended the award ceremony at the Sheraton Guildford. We were proud to be selected as one of the top three finalists in the Arts and Innovation category. We had a picture taken with Mayor Linda Hepner (she photo bombed us). It felt good to be recognized amongst so many talented artists! – Mridu Sood, Artist



above are the ladies of Studio 73 getting photobombed by Surrey Mayor Linda Hepner!

#### **A Great Person Centred Active Support Moment.**

Most of the artists/artisans that work at Studio 73 write their own sharevision activity logs. Thanks to a meeting we all had with David O'Toole, they are really getting the hang of the PCAS component and are coming up with the data independently. Some examples of what it might look like; I made fused glass sun catchers. Staff cut the bottom layer of the glass; I used the debit machine to ring up a sale. Staff gave verbal prompts of the buttons to push when I needed; I snipped glass for my project. Staff's hand was below my hand on the snipper to assist with cutting. Ok, so this one day, the phone rings and Mridu picks up. It is a woman wanting to book a class. Mridu begins walking around as she's talking and comes and looks at the calendar. Once I figured out what the call was about I was silently mouthing to Mridu "what day? what time?" she waved me off and put her lips to her mouth "sshhh." While, this was not something that can be documented as PCAS because I didn't actually do anything to help, it is an example of what can happen when people are empowered. The PCAS (documentable) moment of greatness - It happens to be Mridu again, (self-referred to as the class booking whisperer), a woman comes in and wants to book a class. Mridu is discussing some options with her. I subtly walk around to the front of the store with the calendar. Not saying anything, I hand it to Mridu. She books the class and the woman leaves. In her sharevision later, Mridu documents under PCAS "I booked the class today for the lady. Staff handed me a pen." While a part of me thought I might suggest that she find a different moment in the day where perhaps I did more than hand her a pen - I said nothing because honestly I thought it was just brilliant! – Jodi Leech, Coordinator

September was a month of more artistic inspiration for the Pottery Works gang! On Wednesday September 6th, our artists got to be guests of the Vancouver Art Gallery to take a look through the Monet and Emily Carr exhibits! The following week, the gang took a trip down to Granville island to browse through all the beautiful ceramics galleries. Both trips were full of fun and inspiration for our artists and staff alike.



## CLS Values - Part B: Integrity & Accountability

If you recall from our last newsletter we began discussing our CLS values and were thinking of ways those larger concepts become visible in our daily supports to people. Hopefully you have had the opportunity to have some discussion about how you yourself, and as teams, can see the values manifest in how we direct our supports. We began with discussion describing both **Respect** and **Community**. Let us now look at our two other defined values.

The third value is **Integrity**. We do what we say we do.

- **Integrity** means not cutting corners when doing so might be easier but less successful. How we interact, how we perform whatever duties or tasks that are a part of the support we provide, is clearly congruent with our own and our shared values and beliefs.
- **Integrity** is consistency in approach and presentation and offers stability and no surprises to those we support, our colleagues and all those whom encompass the many networks we find ourselves a member of.
- As we mention in our Person Centred Active Support training, **Integrity** is what you do when no one is watching. Do we interact the same way and is our patience and support at the same high level when we are stressed, tired and alone.
- **Integrity** is also respectfully questioning processes when we feel outcomes may be challenged by the changing wishes and needs of the people we support.

The fourth value is **Accountability**. Where does **accountability** become visible and how far does it range?

- There is a daily **accountability** to be present and support in whatever manner for those people whose homes and day supports we are invited into.

- There is **accountability** to our colleagues to be a good team member and not do things that are counterproductive to the agreed upon principles and expectations carefully drawn from the people receiving the support.
- There is **accountability** in our messaging when interacting with anyone directly and indirectly associated with CLS.
- There is also **accountability** to the entire field in representing support in a visibly respectful manner that defines the support that adults with disabilities deserve.
- We are **accountable** to the larger community by being able to model inclusion. Now some may say that is “responsibility”. To a certain extent it is, however “responsibility” can be shared but each person within that shared responsibility is ultimately **accountable** for their own actions.

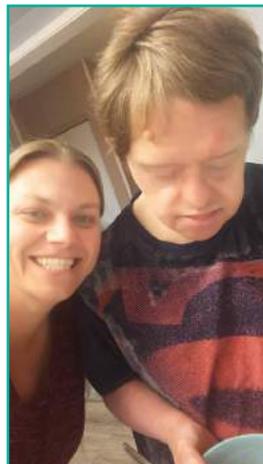
### So why again should we be constantly revisiting these values?

Quite simply because the values we put forth drive the support we provide. It is visible in every interaction, large or small, to everyone around us. That group includes ourselves, our coworkers, family members, outside professionals, employers, shopkeepers and ultimately and most importantly to the people we support.

It is important going forward that we take the time to talk about these values and not see them just as large concepts without definition.

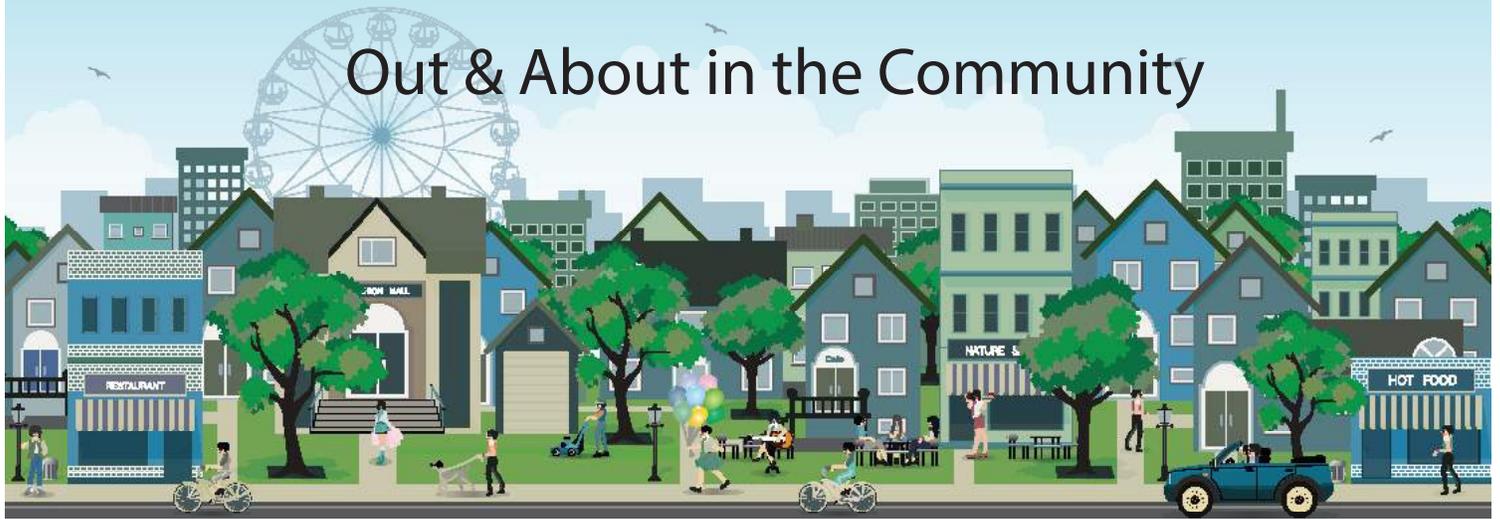
We all help define them. It's also clear we are doing a pretty good job at it.

By:  
David O'Toole, Person Centred Active Support Lead



Russell Leew and Danielle Walsh make some yummy pasta

# Out & About in the Community





Above: Lisa enjoying sailing on a beautiful day.

Below: Cheryl adopted a street and volunteers one day a week picking up litter - contributing to her community!



To the right is Sara who just purchased a drink on the walk back from Cleveland Dam...and seems pretty happy about it. She went into Henry's Grocery store with me and held onto her peach ice tea all the way.

It was a great day for Sara!



Sarah and Ashley enjoy the Bruno Mars Concert. The night was filled with dancing, singing and pure fun. Sarah and Ashley were in their element!

Below is Russell at his new volunteer job at Burnaby Neighbourhood House.



## Tony's Teapot

Recently, PotteryWorks lost a wonderful artist, Tony. Shortly after Tony had passed, a man came into the River Market store and bought a Tony Sulina teapot, the only one left. The man was buying props for a movie and Lise, our staff person explained to him who Tony was and the recent circumstances. Tony's teapot will be used in a movie called "Life Sentence" and the previews are available on Youtube. The man said that he wanted an artful, handmade teapot for the scene. So, Tony's art is still moving out into the world!



# In Loving Memory



## Tony Sulina

*It is with great sadness that we inform you all of the passing of Anthony (Tony) Sulina on September 8. Tony was known for his infectious smile and kind heart. Tony was supported by the CLS for over 30 years and made many great friends and became an established artist known for his bright and colourful pottery and paintings.*

## Gloria Briscoe

*Sadly, Gloria passed away Saturday, August 26th, 2017. Gloria's son David is supported through the Individualized Supports Program.*

## Jasneet Towana

*Jasneet was supported through the Individualized Supports program. Sadly he passed away unexpectedly on August 19th at the age of 22.*

## Kathleen Dugger

*Lesley Dugger's mother Kathleen passed away on October 11th. Lesley lives at the home on 133rd in Surrey.*

## Noelle Madden

*Noelle's son Bill lives at the home on 97th in Surrey. Bill's brother Clint is also very involved with the CLS and advocacy for people with disabilities. Noelle was appropriately named as she was born on Christmas Day in 1924. She passed away on October 20th.*

*We wish to offer our condolences to all of the families, friends and staff whose lives these people touched*

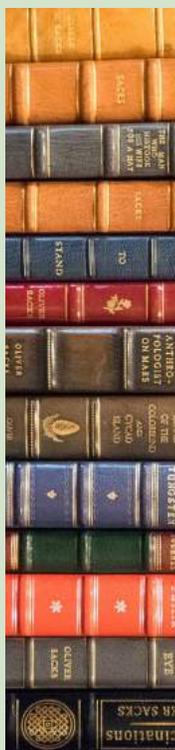
## **Essential Human Needs**

From: CHOICES The Community Living Concept is a Way of Thinking (CLS 1983)

*Now, while it is true that each individual is unique and that each person's needs will differ to some extent from those of another person, it is also true that all people share some basic essential needs.*

*"There is agreement... on the types of individual need which should be considered. These include the more obvious issue: needs for food and shelter, and the infinitely more complex need for sexual expression. Closely related but not so well understood on the biological side, are needs for physical and psychic contact with other humans, for exercise, and for relaxation and release of tension. Still further from any specific psychological structure are expressive needs of the kinds usually manifested in dance, art and self-respect we cannot at all locate physiologically, but they are so nearly universal in social life that we must assume them to be rooted in man's basic bio-social human nature... Certainly one important force generating... universal culture forms (leisure, recreation, crafts and art, religion) is the need of the individual for certain satisfactions which go beyond his minimum requirements for food, shelter and clothing. Such need may be thought of as bio-social or psychic and some adjustment to them must be made by every society"*

Inkeles, What is Sociology?, pg. 64-65



# Welcome Christine!



The Home Share department is delighted to introduce their newest Coordinator, Christine Bateman. Christine comes to CLS with a wealth of skills and experience, and is already proving herself to be a valuable asset to the team.

Since our longest serving Homeshare Coordinator Julie Maxim started at CLS just under 3 years ago, the Home Share program has grown by almost 50%. This is due in no small part to Julie's skills, dedication, hard work and excellent eye for great matches between individuals and potential Home Share providers. With the increasing demands for more Home Share opportunities, and the need to work effectively and efficiently, it may come as no surprise that the Home Share team needed to grow. With the addition of Judith Copeland in 2016 and Christine's recent appointment, we have a great Home Share team at CLS, and I am proud to be a part of it.

Please join us in welcoming Christine to CLS.

We are always looking for quality Home Share providers. CLS employees are not eligible, but if you know someone in your circle of friends and family that is interested and has what it takes to provide an individual with a safe, nurturing and supportive home environment, please pass on our details to them.

Submitted by: Elke Tilgner, Director of Community Inclusion  
[etilgner@communitylivingsociety.ca](mailto:etilgner@communitylivingsociety.ca)  
604.523.0303 # 325

## Jo Dickey Foundation

The Jo Dickey Foundation was established to help mentally and physically challenged members of the community in improving their quality of life.

It is the mission of the Jo Dickey Foundation to help provide the funds necessary to afford these unique individuals a chance to live in respect and harmony with the rest of society. We welcome grant requests all year round; however, the best time is September to May as the Foundation is off June to August and grants requested during that time will be delayed. To find out more about the Foundation, donate, or apply for assistance, contact:

#310 - 800 West Pender Street  
Vancouver B.C. V6C 2V6

[www.jodickeyfoundation.ca](http://www.jodickeyfoundation.ca)



Rachel Applewhite started with the CLS Individualized Supports program in late October 2016. Since that time, Rachel has become fully independent on transit, comfortable walking alone in her community, volunteering, and now is a student at Kwanten Polytechnic University.

Rachel is attending KPU's "Employment Program for Persons with Disabilities" on a daily basis. She is in the work placement/experience phase of the course, and is also working at Tim Horton's - and loving it! Rachel is thriving at KPU - making new friends and maximizing her skills and work ethic with a goal of obtaining employment in her community. Previously Rachel volunteered at the Surrey Hospice Thrift store for eight months, starting once per week and moving up to 3 days per week. This outstanding volunteer opportunity has been a critical bridge to her current success at KPU and Tim Horton's. Rachel is also an important member of CLS-Studio 73 team.

Rachel has sky rocketed to success and there is no end in sight, she is a role model to all those around her!

Submitted by: Connie Clarke, IS Coordinator



# Congratulations to the following employees who have now been with the CLS for five years or more in October, November and December 2017



*years*

*years*

*years*

Gillian Rhodes	5
Hayley Albus	6
Maricel Bahrami	6
Vicky Pascoe	6
Christina Gagno	8
Vikki Ruppel	8
John Whitaker	8
Carol Deery	8
Monika Madarova	9
Lori Fields	9
Saveta Bikicki	9

Rich Vecchio	10
June Sheck	10
Alicia Gillard	11
Noel Blanco	11
Marcia Scott	11
Tara Walker	12
Sharon Wesko	12
Georgina Grant-Guillou	12
Sirjana Shrestha	12
Sjell Norlander	13
Chris Coon	13
Adelia Lamzon	14
Manfred Baker	14
Faith Sabokdast	14
Shemuel Moses	15
Bill Wesko	17
Jylah Ritmeester	17
Mark Embacher	18
Joanne Hauer	18
Alison Found	18
Cirena Solon	18
Alla Melnikova	18
Shima Ali	19
Janice Logan	19
Rita Andrews	19

Lynde Manning	20
Tracy Washington	21
Caroline Marklund	21
Enrique Villanueva	22
Ian Mason	22
Charlotte Casson	22
Danielle Walsh	23
Jacqueline Culliven	23
Maria Sussi	24
Rose Gillespie	24
Shannon Cole	24
Myella Quinn	25
David Wiegert	26
Evelyn Ambeault	26
Kari Ellenwood	28
Inthirani Arul	28
Julie Haddock	29

## Congratulations!



Ginny Lord won the draw prize for a dinner for two at El Santo. The dinner was a fundraiser for the Canucks Autism Network.

**We would like to welcome all new CLS team members and congratulate the following employees who have recently been selected for these following positions:**

Christine Bateman - Home Share Coordinator  
 Anna Avefjall - Assistant Coordinator - Burnaby Day Supports  
 Tiziana Nolet - Assistant Coordinator - Surrey Day Supports  
 Carly Bartlett - Assistant Coordinator - Surrey Day Supports  
 Dalibor Krnetic - Coordinator - 97th  
 Jasmine Gandham - Recruiter - Individualized Supports  
 Steven Campbell - Coordinator - Sardis  
 Joel Kvarnberg - Coordinator - City Club