

imagine it - live it

the Communicator

Fall 2022

Strategic Priorities

In Memory

Employee Profiles

National Disability
Employment Awareness
Month

Wasn't that a Party?
CLS Picnic

Photo Gallery

PotteryWorks

Studio73

Employee Anniversaries
Promotions & Appointments

Congratulations!
Trudy McClughan
celebrates 40 years
working at CLS!
Our longest working
employee



In May 2022 the Board of Directors began the process of developing a new Strategic Plan for CLS. A Strategic Plan sets the broad directions for an organization; it is a blueprint for the future. The Strategic Plan identifies goals and directions the organization will pursue over the next 5 years. CLS contracted with Marsha D'Angelo (<https://www.apostrophepr.com>) to facilitate this process. During the late spring and summer months, CLS engaged nearly 100 stakeholders (e.g. supported individuals, families, staff, funders, Board, etc.) in meaningful discussions about CLS's next strategic plan. These meaningful discussions with many stakeholders provided valuable information and direction. Although all the input, feedback and suggestions were valuable, four common themes emerged which will help to frame our future. We are pleased to share our new Strategic Plan.

"I have peace of mind."

CLS parent
May 2022

"They respect me."

CLS Self-Advocate
May 2022



Janice Barr, CEO



Darius Maze, Board Chair



2023-2027 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



RECRUITMENT and RETENTION

At CLS, we recognize our recruitment and retention efforts directly impact our ability to support individuals and families. We are committed to enhancing recruitment and retention to ensure prospective candidates want to work with us and existing staff members want to stay with us.



HOUSING

We believe every person deserves a safe, inclusive, welcoming, and dignified place to live. CLS wants to create innovative housing solutions that meet the specific and ongoing needs of the individuals and families we support. We know, for example, that some people want more independent housing solutions while others are looking to age comfortably in place.



CONNECTION

The individuals we support are clear in their desire for greater connection and friendship. The last three years of COVID-19 have made genuine connection much harder to maintain. It's time to recalibrate and rededicate ourselves to being collaborative, creative, and thoughtful as we develop programs and projects that nurture genuine friendships, connections, and a true sense of belonging for our supported individuals.



OPERATIONAL RESPONSIVENESS

CLS is a large organization with broad reach. As we move forward, it's critical we enhance operational responsiveness by streamlining, and modernizing the systems and processes we use to deliver our services. By doing this work, we can best advocate for and support individuals and families.

All strategic priorities are underpinned by an unwavering commitment to:

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging
- Meaningful action towards Indigenous reconciliation and self-education
- Strategic, accessible, and plain language communications

Justin at the 55+ Games

Justin participated in the 55+ Games this year. He was happy to see old friends and make some new ones. An indigenous dancer opened the games. Justin came in 4th in the ladder toss, third in the horseshoe toss, and socialized with people in the bingo event and bowling.

Justin received a gold medal for his efforts at the games. He had a blast at the volunteer appreciation lunch which was at a fancy Italian restaurant in Burnaby. He looks forward to the next time the event is held in Calgary in 2025.



Ed's Harrison Trip

There were a few firsts on Ed's summer holiday to Harrison. He tried Smore's for the first time and loved roasting the marshmallows and eating them! A few were charred to a crisp. On the last night we went to Milo's Greek Taverna for a wonderful dinner. Ed got to know some of the other people staying in the complex. He had a great conversation with a family from the Netherlands and another couple from Toronto. Ed is already eager to plan to go back again next year. The lake was too cold to go into so he used the hot tub at the cottage instead which made Ed very happy.



Ash's character comes to life

Ash has continued to develop her animation characters and storyline during COVID. This summer Ash commissioned a seamstress to make a costume of one of her characters – also named Ash. She will be wearing this at conventions as a promotional piece.

Ash recently bought a button machine to make pins illustrated with her animation. She is also creating badges. Pictured is her main character "Ash" via badge and costume.



Hall of Famer



2022 SOBC Hall of Fame inductees Ted Hirst, Kelsey Wyse, Clint Morrison, Vera Anderson, and Safeway's Jim MacKay

My name is Clint Morrison and the CLS supports my brother Bill. Bill is very important to me and is the inspiration for my volunteer work. In 1957 I was placed in a school called St. Christopher's in North Vancouver. There were 21 young boys placed there because the government decided their parents could not look after them. There was no education provided for us, we just played. The only time we left the school was summer and Christmas holidays, where we went to foster homes – not our family homes.



When I was 19, I went to a foster home in Surrey and attended school. I quit school in April and got a job at a chicken farm. In 1973 I got a job at Vancouver General Hospital working in the kitchen and in building services. When I was 38, I went back to school at Burnaby North to finish high school.

In 1983, I was Team Canada floor hockey coach for Special Olympics. From that point on, I have been a volunteer for various causes and have raised over \$60,000. I have created 10 scholarships for people with special needs which will start in 2023. Recently I was entered into the Hall of Fame in recognition of my contributions.

<https://www.specialolympics.ca/british-columbia/news/sobc-inducts-six-outstanding-members-hall-fame>

What the Gilley Guys Are Getting Up To



Joe and Ron working hard collecting the harvest.

Making a donation at the local food bank



Manuel had a great time on his vacation at YVR. Airplanes are his favourite, so he was so excited that his hotel room overlooked the landing strip!



CLS Employment Services Program

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

October was National Disability Employment Awareness Month. It is an opportunity to take stock of the progress made and efforts that are still needed. Historically, people with a developmental disability have about a 35% employment rate. This hasn't changed significantly despite much effort over the previous 50 years. This employment rate is the lowest of any group of people in Canada even though there are many people who remain unemployed yet still desire real, meaningful work.

The Community Living Society Employment Services program started in 2014 with 6 people. We now support approximately 91 people, 86% of whom are employed. When a person is referred by CLBC to CLS Employment Services, it can take up to 6 months to help the person find that great job where they are a great fit. This involves us working with an employer to help them develop patience and the ability to see each person's potential, and supporting the job seeker to develop their employability and learn how they can contribute to, and be an asset to their employer.

CLS Employment Services and the job seekers we support have had many successes. Each success moves the needle toward a more economically inclusive community.

On October 26th, the Community Living Society and the Rotary Club of Coquitlam hosted the 2022 Inclusive Employment Recognition Leader's Luncheon. We recognized the efforts of Inclusive Employers like Home Depot - Abbotsford, Fresh St. Market - Fleetwood, Lush, McDonalds – 20390 Dewdney Trunk Maple Ridge, and Vancity. They have welcomed supported employment and benefited from being inclusive employers for many years.

Length of employment is not the only way to measure success and the CLS wishes to recognize the outstanding excellence of all inclusive employers.



Job Seeker Profile

Brandon is interested in a part-time, entry-level customer service/sales position, in the Tri-Cities/Burnaby area. He is a very friendly, social and confident young man. He is a quick study, works well on a team or independently and is task focussed.

He worked as a front lobby attendant/dishwasher at A & W and valued the training and experience he gained. He also brings forward the training he gained while in the following roles: volunteer guide at Burnaby Village Museum, book store assistant at Western Sky Books and radio station assistant at CJSF 90.1 FM.

He has learned that he likes to work with people, be creative and wants to join a team where he can continue to connect and offer a positive retail experience to customers.

if you know of a job that would suit Brandon please contact us at clsemployment@communitylivingsociety.ca



Nashville, Elvis, and the American Civil War

With the anticipation of seeing Elvis' home and the excitement of taking a plane to new adventures, the Neville boys hit the skies. First stop Nashville, where they discovered why it's called Music City. The town was so full of energy and music, it seemed to come from all directions, so much to see. Some of the following days were spent amongst the Tennessee hills where Rob found sites that fed his interest in the Civil War and the others just enjoyed the peace and grandeur. One evening was spent at a college football game. There's nothing like the spectacle of American College Football. The highlight of the trip though was Memphis and the home of Elvis Presley. Graceland didn't disappoint and upon our departure everyone had a thing to say and feel about the incredible life that that guy had lived. It was a quick and easy week away, enjoyed by all. Ask them about the ducks on the red carpet.



The 95th folks meet Surrey Mayor Elect at the Fusion Festival



Wasn't that a Party !!!!

We were so thrilled to have the return of the CLS picnic this year. On August 27th almost 400 smiling, happy employees, supported individuals and their families and networks attended the CLS picnic at The Scandinavian Community Centre. The weather was perfect, the entertainment was great, and everyone had a fantastic time.

The lucky recipients of the 50/50 draw were Anthony Fajardo (a CLS employee) and the other half went to the Rosewood home.

There are some great photos from the Giggle Booth – you can check them out here:

<https://photos.gigglebooth.co/2022/Community-Living-Summer-Picnic-2022/>

We are already planning for next year's party, which will be on August 26th 2023. Mark your calendars.



The 96th home in Surrey was not meeting the needs of the remaining two people living there – Dorinda and David. New, accessible homes were found for each of them to move to. The team celebrated this move with a party and the retirement of a long-term employee – Ken Schulz. Both Dorinda and David are very happy in their new homes.



Employee Profiles



Anthony Fawcett

Anthony joined CLS Employment Services as a Job Coach in September this year.

What is your favourite thing about working at CLS?

Empowering people.

What is a passion or hobby of yours?

Collecting and listening to music, and going to concerts.

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

Jimi Hendrix

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

I hope to visit Ukraine, land of my maternal ancestors, during a happier time.



Joy Tully

Joy joined CLS as a Team Lead initially at Sardis home.

What is your favourite thing about working at CLS?

So far it has been a pleasure getting to learn about different cultures and backgrounds as CLS has very diverse staffing. I have loved getting to know all the supported individuals and look forward to being on a journey with them and seeing them reach different milestones in their lives, hearing their stories and goals they have achieved throughout life.

What is a passion or hobby of yours?

I love cooking. I find it very therapeutic and the most perfect way to wind down especially when listening to a podcast. I also am a lover of travelling. I love to travel as much as possible, the perks of living in Ireland with travelling around Europe being so accessible was "hmmm what country/city will I go to today on my day off". I am passionate about community spirit and being involved with helping people in marginalised groups. I like to take part and volunteer in community events and groups.

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

Will Ferrell, he's absolutely hilarious, I think we would get on.

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

I hope to travel around Asia - it's definitely next on the list. I am really interested in the culture and it has some of the most beautiful beaches in the world, and of course I would love to do some cooking classes there as Asian food is my favourite!

In Memory



Chris Huettl

August 9, 1967 - July 25, 2022

Chris Huettl passed away in July of this year. She had lived at Sardis since 1989. A month later, her long-time roommate and friend, Craig, moved into Sardis as well. They became fast friends and bonded over their love of hockey.

Chris had a wonderful sense of humour as can be attested to by her favourite password "Painintheass". Chris made countless friends during her lifetime and even met Celine Dion!

The pandemic was a challenge for Chris, like most people. She became a bit more reclusive, enjoying her time in her room, watching various shows and movies on TV, including PPV wrestling, hockey and "Say Yes to the Dress".

Chris had come to the point in her life where she could finally be true to herself. Her friends and family were very supportive of her transition and made sure she was able to express herself.

Chris' final wishes were not to be fussed over. She asked not to have a funeral. Her family honoured this request with a Celebration of Life in September.

She will be missed dearly by her family, roommates, friends and staff. As her mother said, this is not goodbye. She will always be with us.



Tushar Kalange welcomed a baby on September 29th

Baby Rivaan weighed 6lbs.

Tushar works at the Madison homes.

Congratulations and welcome Rivaan!



Patsy Hannah

January 27, 1951 - May 5, 2022

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Patsy Hannah. Patsy was a wonderful lady who attended the Waterfront Opportunity Center for many years.

On first meeting Patsy, one would assume she was shy and a quiet, However, once one got to know her, they would find out she was a vibrant, dynamic, and introspective person. Patsy used few words but was a great communicator.

She also liked to dress to impress. Coming to WOC wearing the finest of jewelry, nails done, and wearing big/loud/floppy hats.

She enjoyed observing the people and the world around her, going out into the community and people watching while sipping her tea. Patsy loved going to parks and watching the kids play, sitting listening to music and attending any live entertainment or dances, especially North Shore's coffee house. Patsy also found great joy in sitting out in the sun, or enjoying the rain drops falling from the sky. She was a good friend and was a sweet lady who will be deeply missed and will forever be part of their hearts.



Cari celebrating her 34th birthday



Cari harvests her garden



Celeste at Van Dusen Gardens



Dalton sporting his new ears on a trip to Disneyland



Aaron on voting day



George and Rob help keep their community clean



Kevin lives independently and enjoys cooking nutritious meals for himself



New roommates Dorinda and Colleen enjoying each other's company in the garden



Melissa and Ryley celebrated Melissa's birthday at Lombardo's in Vancouver



Welcome to Calvin who moved into the Ayling home in August



Derek voting



Lisa celebrates summer at the IS picnic at the beach



The Sidley Gang enjoying the view on their trip to Squamish



Teresa enjoying the view on her trip to Victoria



The Gilley guys on Orange Shirt Day at Rocky Point

October 6th was the 18th annual Inclusion Show and marked a return to the in-person show at Heritage Hall. PotteryWorks artists outdid themselves and had a great display of pottery and paintings. Sheri Lynn Seitz and Dan Tell gave a demonstration of hand building and glazing. It was exciting and wonderful to be back at the show, surrounded by old friends, and we sold a large amount of our work.

James Lash had his painting (right) selected for the CLS annual Season's Greeting card. A lucky CLS employee will win the painting.

PotteryWorks is having a busy show season, with multiple dates booked for the holiday season.



Welcoming Environment at PotteryWorks

This was an incredible day for Jalila, after not being outside her home since March, 2020. This was both her first community-based activity with our support as well as her first time in an extremely long time being around others. PotteryWorks staff and artists created a welcoming environment and Jalila felt comfortable enough to allow the wheel instructor to guide her hands while making a bowl. These were huge steps for Jalila.

It was another busy few months for Studio 73. In July we started planning for the Inclusion Art Show and our Open House - both in October. We hosted outdoor classes, as we weren't quite open for having customers indoors yet. Stephanie made a beautiful glass piece displayed in wood, sold it, then had an order for another one. We had a customer mention that we needed more serving platters, so we got right to it and came up with several new designs. In August, we were finally able to have indoor classes! And Don, one of our regulars, was able to come back and build his very unique creations and hang out with us again.

We had a great time at Arts Alive in Langley. It was a perfect day and the sun shone through the glass beautifully. Jill is back at Studio 73 after a long period of time. Her butterflies are absolutely stunning. Jarred who is new to the studio, has also had some success with his art - his bear claw recently sold. In September, we participated in an art competition put on by Global Peace Alliance to "End Racism and Build Peace". Fatima won second place!

Between Surrey and Burnaby Day Support, Waterfront Opportunity Centre, and Studio 73, we sold over 100 orange shirts for artist James Groening, as well as collected donations for the Orange Shirt Society. Now, we need to hunker down to get our Christmas orders finished in time!



Global Peace Alliance



Ashley's Platter Set



Jill's Butterfly



Jarred's Bear Claw



Celebrating Community Inclusion Month

Studio73 combined their Arts and Cultural grant they received from City of Surrey and their grant from Neighbourhood Small Grants with the celebration of Community Inclusion month and hosted an open house on October 14th. This celebration was designed to promote inclusion, celebrate diversity, and increase awareness about communities being stronger when everyone is valued equally. Full inclusion is something we want for ALL people. We see such value in arts and culture as a way of communication and expression - it is a universal language. For that reason, we wanted to celebrate this Community Inclusion Month by creating a space/opportunity to not only celebrate local artists, but to strengthen relationships within our community, as well as develop new ones! We did this through visual art, music and foods that represent the many cultures, nationalities, and identities found in Surrey and neighbouring cities alike.

We were honoured to have our event opened by Chief Harley Chappell from Semiahmoo First Nation. Following his territorial acknowledgement we heard from the Minister of Labour - Honourable Harry Bains, Chief Accessibility Officer - Stephanie Cadieux, and Executive Director of Newton Business Improvement Association - Philip Aguirre. We then had Kwantlen First Nation drummer and singer Dennis Leon perform. This was followed by speakers; Janice Barr - CEO, Community Living Society, Ross Chilton - CEO, Community Living British Columbia, and Joanne Mills - Executive Director of Indigenous Relations, Community Living British Columbia.

Our event closed out with music from the Phase III Steel Drum Band. We are extremely grateful to the artists that made themselves available. We had 2 mehndi artists, 2 live painters, a wood carver, 2 other very talented painters as well as our very own Kurt Linke who was scoring, chipping, and creating. We feel very fortunate to have had Nate Toevs - Marketing Manager, WorkBC Assistive Technology Services - as our event emcee. He did a fabulous job. We want to thank Newton Business Improvement Association, Value Group of Industries and Save on Foods. Thank you to all those in attendance for your support.

*Photography by Sky Hendsbee



Employee Anniversaries

August - December 2022 (including missed recognition from the Spring)

Happy Work Anniversary

1 year

Daniela Khamseh
Sybil Bayog
Flor Daroy
Sonaiya Cornish
Jazmin Minwalla
Adrienne Watt
Rachel Gardner
Quinten Silcox
Abraham Tesfayesus
Braulia Jocol Garcia
Darlene Robotham
Akbar Rajabzadeh
Victoria Roberts
Melanie Houlker
Shagufta Jaria
John Abdelmalak
Sapana Patil
Jenny Madrid
Melanie Ma
Megan Bohlander
Eloisa Bagaoisan
Elizza Mae Asa
Sarah McLeod
Rachel Pearsall
Tajinder Kaur
Izunna Dike
Maria Elena Briones
Naveen Dhaliwal
Yuqing Li

2 years

Kaitlyn Cheng
Trevor Poburn
Rachel Sanga
Harrison Nguyen
Murray Campbell
Maria Elena Pedro
Gagandeep Dhillon
Jaycob Janzen
Danielle McCaffrey
Jing Feng
Roger Desmarais
Victoria Taggart
Amaechi Ozueh
Eva Negrete
Navkiran Pooni
Ingrid Ferry
Jing Feng

3 years

Farhia Mohamed
Shireen Syed
Valerie MCGowan
Karamjeet Kaur
Maria Pasarivaki
Alyssah Carter
Keith Tobanes
Stephen Wu

4 years

Vera Page
Gurshvinder Brar
Roxane Padmore
Tushar Kalange
Zixu Feng
Olubukunola Akinwunmi
Christopher Whittle
Joseph Gosselin
Nikhil Roshan
Monika Petrikova
Sarahlyn Turay
Marica Chin
Susan Lauzon
Alyssa Nathoo
Harpreet Dhillon
Sarabjit Lally
Amritpal Kaur
Andreas Perez
Alyssa Borella
Lun-Li Kuang
Alireza Emami
Amandeep Kaur

5 years

Jade Braunwell
Nicodemus Zano
Criselda Tejada
Mearon Micheal
Laura Carver
Tara Dhakal
Anjana Bharali

6 years

Shu Ting Gao
Natalia Berger
Kpanah Suwarly
Adam Johnstone
Gurjit Ghuman
Rosalinda Tabunar
Andrew Fernando
Djenebou Dukuly
Alanna Bellamy
Madhu Thapar
Christina Clarke
Christina Montonen
Kailee Matthies
David Musa
Parminder Bains
Christine Jones
Danyan Udoh
Injot Basnet
Mostafa Al Hamdan
Guadalupe Wilkie

7 years

Kevin James Sass
Kevin Pang
Ashley-Dawn Milligan
Michael Robert Lewis
Samantha Dickson
Romeo Banting Flores
Elvessa Pineda
Slavka Obretenov Bohac
Sandra Jane Burke
Fariha Khan
Barbara Lago
Natasha Hannan
Katrina MacNeil
Jagruiti Raniga
Sandeep Hans
Kristian Reyes
Tasha Rempel

8 years

Gina Tolonics
Ashley Mann
Donna Pobuda
Aaron McQueen
Nicole Phelan
Edith Markser

9 years

Amanda Smith
Diane Clark
Catherine Sercombe
Collin Stone

10 years

Gillian Rhodes

11 years

Cindy Williams
Lili Marian
Danielle Holtjer
Brandie Mcdonald
Hayley Albus
Victoria Pascoe

12 years

Hamid Khatami
Elena Unabia
Katelyn Lund

13 years

Jennifer Hart
Christina Gagno
Victoria Ruppel
John Whitaker
Rita King

14 years

Dawn Berryman
Leilani Mapanao
John Davidson
Terry Greenwood
Monika Madarova

15 years

June Sheck

16 years

Comfort Coker
Noel Blanco
Marcia Scott

17 years

Dominique Gard
Chris Hopkinson
Tara Walker
Sharon Wesko
Georgina Grant-Guillou
Sirjana Shrestha

18 years

Chris Coon

19 years

Adelia Lamzon
Fatemeh Sabokdast

21 years

Shammi Singh

22 years

Dee Blackmore
Kelly Hooper
Tony Maravilla
Bill Wesko

23 years

Jackie Farmer
Mobina Ali
Purnima Maharaj
Mark Embacher
Joanne Hauer
Alla Melnikova

24 years

Kulwant Sidhu
Shima Ali
Janice Logan

25 years

Lynde Manning

26 years

Marcela Herrera
Carolina Marklundh

27 years

Dawn Mahovlich
Wennie Tabobo
Kasia Hislop
Enrique Villanueva
Ian Mason
Charlotte Casson

28 years

Danielle Walsh
Jacqueline Culliven

29 years

Gregory Joiner
Delia Fabros
Maria Sussi
Shannon Cole

30 years

Myella Mckenzie-Cook

31 years

David Wiegert

32 years

Elke Tilgner

33 years

Kari Ellenwood
Inthirani Arul

34 years

Francine Seaman
Julie Haddock

39 years

Farren Gillaspie

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

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.

Congratulations!

Promotions & New Appointments

Noel Acosta

Property & Fleet – Maintenance

Kyla Keserich

Individualized Supports Team Lead

Prerna Maheshwari

Paisley Team Lead

Joy Tully

Team Lead

Breanne Tai

Recruiter

Anthony Fawcett

Job Coach

Geetika

Accounting Analyst

Jennifer Hernandez

Villa Rosa Team Lead

Christine Jones

133rd Team Lead

Angela Mezzatesta

Employment Program Team Lead

Kaitlyn Cheng

Accountant