

WELCOME TO OUR

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Newsletter!

Whats coming up?

NOVEMBER



November is Indigenous Disability Awareness Month and Fall Prevention Month

Indigenous Veterans Day - Nov. 8th

Diwali - Nov. 8th

Remembrance Day - Nov. 11th

International Day for Tolerance - Nov. 16th



International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women - Nov. 25th

DECEMBER



International Day of Persons with Disabilities - Dec. 3rd

Hanukkah - Dec 4th



Human Rights Day - Dec. 10th

Anti-Bullying Day - Dec. 17th

Christmas Day - Dec. 25th



Kwanzaa - December 26th-Jan 1st

Indigenous Veterans Day

Indigenous Veterans Day, observed on November 8th, is an important day in Canada to honour the contributions and sacrifices of Indigenous veterans. It recognizes the bravery of those who served in conflicts such as both World Wars and the Korean War.

This day highlights the stories and achievements of Indigenous service members, who have historically faced discrimination. Many Indigenous veterans did not receive equal treatment compared to other Canadian Veterans. It underscores their critical contributions to the military, fostering understanding and appreciation of their sacrifices.

Commemorating this day emphasizes the need for ongoing support and recognition of Indigenous veterans, ensuring they receive deserved respect and benefits.



October Is Community Inclusion Month!

Small Cuts, BIG Impact! CLS Curb Cut Awareness Campaign 2027

Help us make our communities more accessible!

In celebration of Community Inclusion Month, CLS is excited to announce our Curb Cut Awareness Campaign, launching during Accessibility Week 2027! Curb cuts play a vital role in helping people using wheelchairs, walkers, and other mobility aids navigate their communities safely and independently.



SPOT IT, SNAP IT, REPORT IT!

We need YOU to get out into the community and identify accessibility barriers! Keep an eye out for:



Missing, damaged, or poorly designed curb cuts.



Curb cuts that don't align with crosswalks.



Unmarked or unsafe curb cuts.



ENTER OUR COMPETITION!

Found an accessibility barrier? Take a photo, note the exact location, and briefly describe the issue for a chance to win a prize!



Submit to: jtully@clsbc.ca



Deadline: November 5, 2026

Your submissions will help CLS raise accessibility concerns with the appropriate municipalities and advocate for improvements.



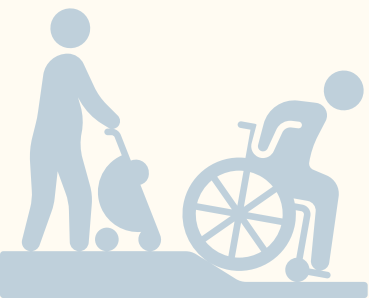
What's Next?

During Accessibility Week 2027, CLS plans to launch a community awareness initiative, including painting accessibility markers at approved curb cut locations.

Together, let's break down barriers and build more inclusive communities – one curb cut at a time!

What is a curb cut??

Check out this video using the QR code below!



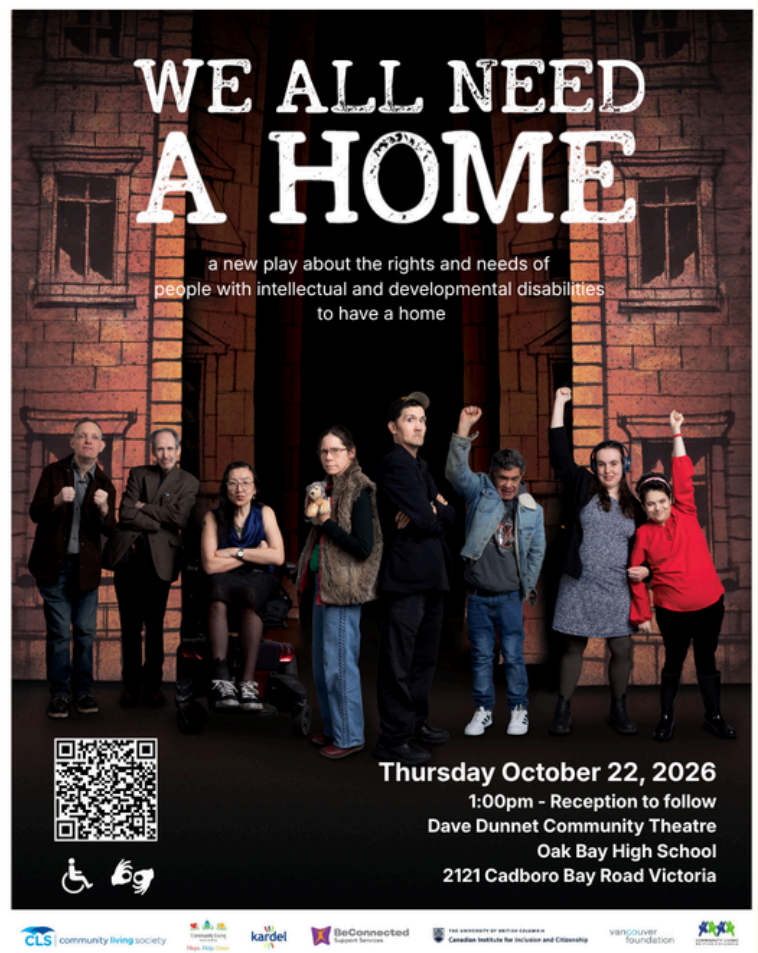
Community Inclusion Month at CLS!



Pottery Works and Studio 73 are participating in the 22nd annual Inclusion Art Show and Sale at the Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre!

[Home](#) | [INCLUSION Art Show](#)

CLS is thrilled to bring We All Need A Home to Victoria on October 22 at the Dave Dunnet Community Theatre. This exciting collaboration with our partners on Vancouver Island has the cast and crew looking forward to travelling with the production and sharing it with the Victoria community.



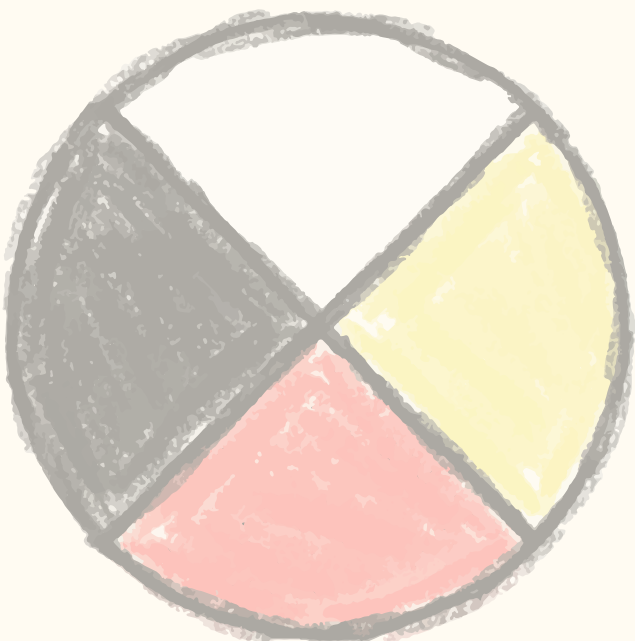
November is Indigenous Disability Awareness Month

Did you know?

In 2015, the British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS) created Indigenous Disability Awareness Month (IDAM) to raise awareness of the realities faced by Indigenous people with disabilities. Every November, IDAM is recognized by hundreds of organizations and communities across Canada and internationally, including many provincial and First Nations governments. IDAM is the only Indigenous-specific disability awareness initiative of its kind in the world. In 2017, the UN International Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that the federal government of Canada officially adopt the annual declaration.

In honour of IDAM, CLS is sponsoring two people from CLS to attend the **2026 Indigenous Disability and Wellness Gathering** in Sidney, BC. November 17th - 19th

Congratulations **Shireen Syed** and **Sarah Gibbs**!



To learn more, visit:
indigenousdisabilitygathering.com
Email: gathering@bcands.bc.ca

IDC/BCANDS 2026
National Indigenous Disability & Wellness Gathering

Join us on November 17th, 18th & 19th, 2026
The Gathering will be held at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney, BC,
on the ancestral lands of the WSÁNEĆ Peoples during
**IDC/BCANDS 35th anniversary and the 12th anniversary of
Indigenous Disability Awareness Month (IDAM)!**

The Gathering brings together Indigenous and non-Indigenous leadership,
service providers, governments, and communities to learn, share, and
collaborate in addressing and dismantling the unique barriers
Indigenous Peoples with disabilities face.

Remembrance Day Ceremonies

How to find ceremonies in your community:

Remembrance Day ceremonies typically get announced near the end of October. Here is how to find one in your community.

1. Visit the cities website – Each municipality will have their own website which will highlight when their ceremony will be.
2. Visit www.legion.ca and use their locator tool to research the legion in your municipality and information regarding their ceremonies for remembrance day
3. Visit your cities social media site – often they post when and where their ceremony will take place.

Links to city websites:

<https://www.newwestcity.ca/> – New Westminster

<https://www.coquitlam.ca/> – Coquitlam

<https://vancouver.ca/> – Vancouver

<https://www.delta.ca/> – Delta

<https://www.surrey.ca/> – Surrey

<https://www.burnaby.ca/> – Burnaby

<https://www.cnv.org/> – North Vancouver



Remember To Go Vote!

BC's 44th Provincial
General Election has
been called.

The final day to vote will be on
Saturday, October 24.

For more information, visit:

elections.bc.ca



Holiday Highlights!

We asked members of the CLS community to share some of their favourite traditions from the holidays they celebrate.



Diwali, Amrita Sharma

What is your families tradition on Diwali?

One of our biggest traditions has always been cleaning the entire house before Diwali — and I mean every corner. For us, it is more than just cleaning. It represents clearing out old energy and making space for positivity, prosperity and a fresh beginning.

In the evening, my mom would prepare the diya, the traditional little lamps, often with ghee (clarified butter). She would ask my sister and me to light them and pray, and afterward my parents would have us place the diya outside our home.

My parents would affectionately tell my sister and me that we were the Lakshmi of the house — Lakshmi being the goddess associated with prosperity, abundance and good fortune — so having the daughters of the family carry the light outside always felt special.

What does Diwali mean you ?

Of course Diwali has a beautiful religious and cultural significance, but personally, what I love most is the idea of starting again.

You clean your home, light it up, dress up, gather with family, visit people, exchange sweets and gifts, and somehow there is this feeling that whatever happened before can be left behind.

Even if people have been busy, disconnected, or have had disagreements, Diwali creates a reason to knock on someone's door, wish them well and reconnect.

So for me, Diwali is family and celebration, but it is also clarity, light and a reset. It reminds me to clear out what I don't want to carry forward and make room for something better. Maybe that is what I love most about it — every year, you get another opportunity to bring a little more light into your home and into your life.

Holiday Highlights!



Hannukkah, Rob Beckman

What is a tradition on Hannukkah that you Enjoy?

Rob enjoys getting together with his family. He goes for lunch with his PLAN support staff and his brother at Solly's Up main. He enjoys traditional food such as matzo ball soup and latkes. He made latkes at his home with his staff last year. Robert enjoys the shofar, which is a traditional musical horn which is blown in the synagogue.

What does Hanukkah mean you ?

Rob enjoys going to the Temple Shalom with his family.

