

Title:	<b>Community Living Counsellor (Support Worker)</b>
Date:	<b>January, 2016</b>

**Mission Statement:**

*The Community Living Society works collaboratively to offer personalized, flexible home and community opportunities, respecting the uniqueness of the person with a disability, families and networks.*

**CLS Vision:** *Communities where every person lives with dignity and enjoys a full life.*

**Position Overview**

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The goal of CLS and its employees is to support individuals in a way of life that is responsibly independent and effectively interdependent; fostering the self-empowerment of all people into a meaningful life in community with others. CLS believes the most valuable support we can provide is to nurture meaningful relationships which are the centre of all human development.

The Community Living Society, through an independent contractor, provides support to families and individuals through the role of the Family Support Worker.

Under the overall direction of the Executive Director, and based on the strengths and needs of the individuals and / or family, the Counsellor position works directly with individuals who have a developmental disability, their families and community groups, where support, advocacy and information are required. In a supportive, non-judgemental, self-directed and flexible manner, the Family Support Worker offers support and information to develop strategies for enhancing opportunities for inclusion and valued participation within the community. Advocacy at many levels and various forms of public awareness and education are a key component of this position.

## Specific Accountabilities

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- Provides confidential planning and advice in the development of management policies.
- Provides support to families through individual counseling, facilitating support groups, connecting with other families and attending meetings.
- Through meetings, telephone contact and connecting key players, facilitates planning for individuals during times of transition or conflict.
- Supports self-advocates and families through training, education and information so that individuals and groups are better able to represent their own interests.
- Provides linkage and increases awareness between Community Living Society and other community groups to improve cooperation so that better options can be created for individuals and their families.
- Provides training and educational opportunities for various groups to ensure understanding and education regarding people with developmental disabilities.
- Advocates with and on behalf of families and individuals by attending meetings, making presentations, letter writing and facilitating connections to ensure their individual needs are met.

## Preferred Qualifications

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- Directly related degree or diploma (i.e. social work, psychology, education, counseling or community support work program) and/or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience is preferred.
- At least two years of support and advocacy experience (i.e. facilitating groups, campaigning for change, conflict resolution) in community living settings for people with developmental disabilities and their families is preferred.
- Knowledge of family support and advocacy concepts.
- Knowledge of inclusive education concepts.
- Experience in planning, organizing and facilitating groups.