



inclusion**BC**

Membership Benefits Package

for organizations



Welcome

A Word from the Executive Director

Welcome to Inclusion BC, British Columbia's only provincial federation dedicated to advancing the rights of people with intellectual disabilities and serving the needs of its members who provide vital services in communities across BC.

Founded in 1955 by a small group of families, today Inclusion BC represents 70 member organizations across the province, offering its members the unique opportunity to share information, network and contribute to the advancement of the movement.

Inclusion BC membership extends many benefits to both its individual and family members and its organizational members, providing you with invaluable, timely information through our updates, publications, training and events.

In this booklet, you'll find important information to help you make the most of your Inclusion BC member experience.

I invite you to reach out if we can help you in any way and wish you and your organization continued success.

Faith Bodnar



Mission

We are a federation working with partners to build community and to enhance the lives of children and youth with special needs, adults with intellectual disabilities, and their families by supporting abilities, promoting action and advancing rights.

What we do

The Inclusion BC provincial office provides support, education and advocacy where and when it's needed, breaking down barriers and building communities that include people of all abilities.

- Provide individual advocacy and community referral support
- Publish resources and host regional workshops and provincial conferences
- Support family, self advocacy and professional networks across BC
- Advocate at a systems level for government change
- Promote inclusion through public awareness initiatives and campaigns

Vision

**A world where
we all belong**

Values

We believe:

- in the assurance of life, dignity and respect for all
- that children are best nurtured by a family that knows, loves and honours them for who they are
- that all children have the right to be educated in regular classrooms with appropriate levels of support
- that adults have a right to choose where and with whom they will make a home
- that relationships and friendships are essential to enrich our lives
- that all people have the dignity of taking risks
- that all individuals are entitled to enough money to have a reasonable quality of life
- that all individuals are entitled to the services and supports required to ensure their full participation in our society
- that each person can determine their own needs and make their own decisions, and when necessary, must receive the support to do that the involvement of families and support networks contributes to everyone's safety and well-being
- that services and supports must be delivered in a way that respects an individual's diverse history, culture, race, religion and sexual orientation
- that remembering and sharing our history will help guide and build our vision for the future
- that inclusive communities enrich the lives of all citizens

Inclusion BC Membership Benefits

Voting Privileges

Steer the course of advocacy in this province. Lend your voice and leadership to the community living movement.

Inclusion BC members exercise their votes at the Annual General Meeting. Our members also have direct representation at the Inclusion BC Board table, through a Federation-appointed position reserved for an Executive Director and/or CEO of a member organization.

Systems Change

Be part of a strong, collective voice

Our association has the ability to recognize changes that will have significant impact on our membership and advocate for inclusive communities across BC. Inclusion BC holds our public systems accountable, ensuring they are providing the accommodations people need to live full, inclusive lives. We work with government and policy makers to develop service models, systems and practices that advance full inclusion and equality for individuals and their families.

Information

Stay up to date on issues that matter

Inclusion BC members share a passion to learn and exchange ideas to enhance the lives of the people they support and the communities in which they live. Here are some of the official channels we use to share information:

- Our annual conference connects thousands of people from across the country and beyond to the latest information, resources,

and best practices that advance rights and promote abilities. Organizational members receive one complimentary registration per year (value \$350)

- “in the news” e-updates link members to current news articles in print, TV, radio and online.
- Inclusion BC e-newsletter features relevant articles, community events, career opportunities with our members, Inclusion BC news and more.
- Members-only web section includes reports, articles, event information and resources and a space for members to connect.

Networking, Training and Workshops

Inclusion BC offers members many ways to connect, including our special events, Executive Directors Network (ED Net), family support workers’ network and Federation meetings.

Inclusion BC staff and our partners provide workshops and training to our member organizations on topics such as advocacy, transitioning out of high school and inclusive education. Here’s a description of some of the events we regularly offer:

Annual Conference

Every year, our conference brings together hundreds of people from across the province and the country to share learnings and perspectives from the community living field and the lived experience of people with disabilities. Our 2016 conference saw upwards of 200 professionals attend from over 150 organizations.



Executive Directors' Network (ED Net)

Inclusion BC supports a network of executive directors from our member organizations to meet quarterly. Reducing professional isolation, "ED Net" is an opportunity to network, share information and develop strategies to increase the effectiveness of our collective work. Members welcome and encourage the participation of their senior management staff in an effort to nurture and support leadership development.

"ED Net" provides invaluable information to the Inclusion BC provincial office about how government policies and practices are being implemented at the local and regional levels and about the impacts they have on people with intellectual disabilities and their families. Representatives from government, other provincial federations and community organizations are often invited as guests to increase opportunities for information sharing.

Family Support Workers' Network

Inclusion BC supports a network of family support workers who work for our member organizations. The Network meets regularly to share resources and information, and also provides valuable input to Inclusion BC staff on key areas that require advocacy efforts at the provincial level.



Resource Development and Communications

Inclusion BC Website

Garnering up to 130,000 visitors per year, the Inclusion BC website (www.inclusionbc.org) is a place where members and community can find acclaimed resources, a bustling community event calendar, career opportunities with our members, a directory of our member organizations, a blog, links to advocacy support for families and individuals and a members-only sign in section.

Membership Directory

Inclusion BC maintains a membership directory on our website, where each member has its own page and are searchable by keyword and region.

Members-only sign in section

Providing a space for members to connect and keep informed on current issues. Section groups include: issues, annual general meeting, ED Net, and communications and media.

Career postings

Inclusion BC's Careers in Community Living webpage posts career opportunities with our member organizations, connecting qualified job seekers from across BC with members.

Clothes Drop

Inclusion BC has launched a social enterprise for our members to financially sustain the crucial services they provide for people with intellectual disabilities and to provide employment for the job seekers they support. Our Clothes Drop donation program is offered

exclusively to Federation members. Learn more at www.inclusionbc.org/clothesdrop.

Communications and Resource Development Materials

Inclusion BC provides its members with access to public awareness and campaign materials that you can customize for your organization.

Members involved in the Clothes Drop program have access to customized communications materials to help promote the initiative in their local communities.

Becoming a Member

The step by step process of becoming a member:

1. Complete the application form
2. Meet with Inclusion BC's Executive Director
3. Receive Inclusion BC Board of Approval

We want to hear from you!

Our membership is our greatest source for information, evidence, perspectives and direction. If you have ideas for our publications (blog, e-newsletter, website, etc.), events, communications and benefits, we want to hear from you.



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