

Diverse Abilities NS: Highlights 2018-2019

May 28th, 2019

Joyce d'Entremont, Chair



Diverse Abilities NS

Who We Are

- Comprised of the 8 major organizations supporting persons with disabilities through residential care, group homes, and other independent living programming.
- We support individuals ranging in age from 19 to 80+ years with:
 - Moderate to severe intellectual and/or physical disabilities
 - Chronic mental illness
 - Addictions
 - Acquired brain injuries
 - Dual diagnosis



Diverse Abilities NS

Our Purpose

- Seeking ways to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities by collaborating with individuals, groups, organizations and government;
- Seeking opportunities to promote a positive image of our members;
- Utilizing collective skills and knowledge in planning for the future;
- Providing opportunities and encouragement for employees to gain education and knowledge which will assist in the provision of services; and
- Promoting the understanding and acceptance of individuals with disabilities.



Diverse Abilities NS

What We Do

- Provide a continuum of progressive services and supports that are designed to empower people with diverse abilities to make their own choices, participate in decision-making, and to be contributors to and participate in their local community.
- Services include:
 - Independent living services (community and facility-based)
 - Access to employment opportunities
 - Vocational training and skills development
 - Social enterprise
 - Access to a range of medical, health-related and other specialty services
- We follow a person-centred model that creates a customized plan for each resident based on their needs and abilities.



Highlights 2018-2019

Association Rebranding

- Worked with HANS to develop a new communications strategy and rebranding of the ARC/RRC Association
- Wished to promote:
 - Understanding of the role that we play in the DSP sector
 - Continuum of services and programs that we offer
 - Difference it makes in the lives of the individuals we serve
- Embarked on a new visual identity exercise
 - Selected a new name and logo that reflects the theme of a community embracing persons with diverse abilities and the overarching characteristics of a sector that is innovative, leading edge, person-centred, caring, future-oriented, and valued.
- As of September 20th, 2018 the ARC/RRC Association became known as Diverse Abilities NS



New Website: <https://diverseabilitiesns.ca/>



Highlights 2018-2019

DSP Transformation Update

- Have been working with DCS to safely plan DSP Transformation
 - We are supportive of transformation
 - Our organizations are building business plans to align with new vision
 - We are emphasizing client choice, social inclusion, the best supports based on individual need
- Diverse Abilities NS is represented on DSP Transformation Steering Committee
- Breton Ability Centre and Quest have agreed to support analysis and planning
 - Have been working with government to determine what capacity-building is required to transition participants into community living

Stakeholder Relations

- Presented to various sector groups to raise profile and understanding of our organizations, and how we can work better together (i.e. sharing expertise)
- Organized the Community Programs Working Group for Diverse Abilities NS members, community managers, and ILS managers, to discuss different ILS program processes and opportunities for the sector



Highlights 2018-2019

Collective Address of Emerging Operational/System Issues

- WCB dental funding gaps
- Access to palliative care nursing services
- Access to High Dose Flue Vaccine
- Video Surveillance – Policy
- Cannabis in the Workplace – Policy
- Recruitment strategies
- Management/non-union compensation
 - Compression/inversion



Thank You!