

everyone belongs



Fort St. John Association
For Community Living

What's Up!

Spring 2015

Upcoming

AGM/Community Living Awards Gala in September

Community Living Month is October

Of The Vine on October 17th

Mark your calendars!

Pay It Forward Day June 12th, 2015

We are encouraging everyone to join us on June 12th to "Pay it Forward" in our community. Please post your acts of kindness on our new Pay it Forward group on Facebook.



David Pitonyak



In March the Fort St John Association for Community Living had the pleasure of welcoming David Pitonyak to Fort St John to deliver a stimulating and thought provoking 2 day workshop about the "Importance of Belonging" and "Beyond Behaviors".

Both workshops focused on how important it is for people to have connections and relationships in their lives and that loneliness is the only real disability. These workshops also explored the importance of finding out what people's "stories" are to better understand who they are.

These workshops were very well received by the staff in our agency and the community. We had many other agencies attend such as School District 60, service providers from Dawson Creek, families and home share providers as well as many more. It was a great event and we will be looking for more workshops like this to offer in the future.

*Check us out on
Facebook*

Spotlight on Employment

If you have been shopping at Safeway or doing laundry at Overalls Laundromat or even had dinner at Jackfish Dundee's lately you may have noticed a new decal in their entrance. It states "Diversity Work - this business has it!"

This is given to businesses that employ someone who has a developmental disability who has been working for that business

for a minimum of three months. You will see them at multiple businesses throughout the community, at this time there are twelve companies with these decals.

Did you know that hiring people with disabilities improves the community's impression of that business? Good corporate citizenship is an important trend right now.

Real Work for Real Pay

Equal Opportunity in the Workplace is important to not only the people we support but to the businesses that hire them. If you are interested in hiring someone with a disability or just have questions, please call the Fort St John Association for Community Living's Employment Coordinator, Sheri Ashdown at (250)787-9262, ext 234 or e-mail her at sheri.ashdown@fsjacl.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Our Employee Service Award luncheon was held on April 10th to honor our employees that dedicate so much to our agency. The Leadership Team set up the Multi-purpose room for fine dining, cooked a delicious 4 course meal and treated the award recipients like the royalty they are! Each employee also received a gift to commemorate their years of working for the FSJACL. The following employees received awards for their years of service:

- Pat Taylor 20 years
- Marianne Plumb 10 years
- Amy Gothard 5 years
- Michele Newhook 5 years
- Jodie Dixon 5 years
- Gurinder Sidhu 5 years

Thank you!



Proudly displayed in 12 inclusive workplaces in FSJ

"Everyone has been made for some particular work, and the desire for that work has been put in every heart"

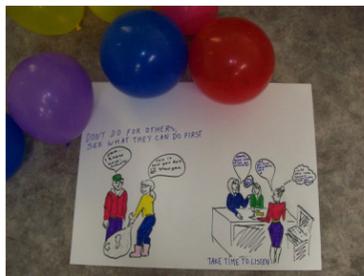
Rumi

What's going on in Human Resources.....

This season brought a great deal of training to employees of the FSJACL. While we continue to hold the required training such as 1st aid, medication delivery and delegation of tasks (yawn)....we've had some fun training for the employees as well.

We held a couple of workshops in November where staff had the opportunity to discuss our agency's Guiding Principles. It was great to exchange ideas, meet new people and have some fun! The teams were interactive and got to share their creative sides by explaining what the Guiding Principle's meant to them through stories, discussions, art work and skits.

It's nice to see that even though we all work in different programs and positions within the agency, we all have common goals and values for the people we support...providing the best support that we can!



Annual Surveys

Our surveys were completed in March and we are now in the process of putting all of responses together. Thank you to all who participated.

Stay tuned for the Outcomes Management Report!

FSJACL Mission: Statement

"Fort St. John Association for Community Living supports adults with developmental disabilities to achieve full and meaningful lives in our community by providing resources to individuals and families."

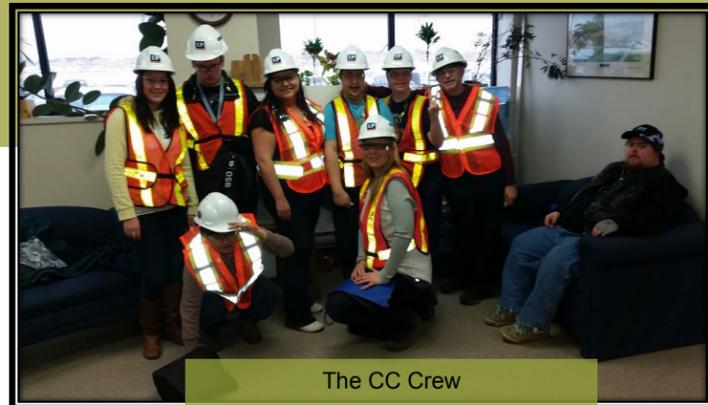
Community Connections Field Trip

On November 12th, 2014, the Community Connections crew set out to explore the Peace Valley OSB Plant. This was the first time that any of us have seen the massive plant from the inside, and it was interesting

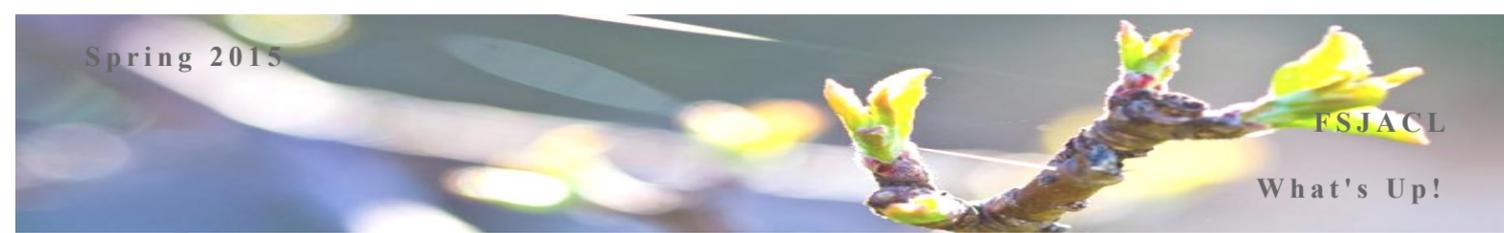
When we first arrived we had to suit up in high-vis-vests, hardhats, earplugs and safety glasses. "Boy did we fit right in". With our trusty tour guide, Art Biladou, we set off into the giant plant.

We saw pressers, steamers, rollers, people on bikes, sweepers and also trains, (yes, trains!) in the building none the less, it was impressive.

It took us an hour to walk most of the building. Everyone that we met along the way was so happy to see us and had huge smiles on their faces. It was a real joy.



The CC Crew

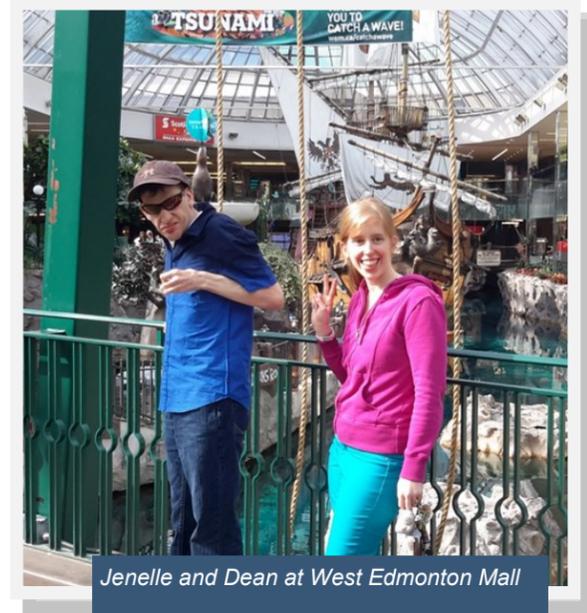


Exploring Edmonton

In March, Dean and Jenelle had the opportunity to go with two of their support staff, Gemma and Leonora to Edmonton for a 4 day holiday. It was a time of fun, exploration, and excitement as the group experienced some of the great things that Edmonton has to offer. The group had the chance to visit several malls and large outlet stores, the City Zoo, and the Telus World of Science.

Jenelle thoroughly enjoyed her shopping spree at the West Edmonton Mall, and modeled numerous pretty outfits in every colour, style and design. Jenelle came home with her arms full of shopping bags, eagerly showing everyone all her new purchases, and talking about the fun trip.

While Dean enjoyed his shopping time, he seemed most excited by the time spent at the Telus World of Science. According to Gemma, Dean excitedly pushed every display button that he could just to see what would happen in each one. Dean's interest was greatly captured by an airplane that shot up in a funnel of wind, and Dean pushed this button many times. It's easy to see from the pictures captured just how much fun was had by all!



Jenelle and Dean at West Edmonton Mall



Dave, Russell and Lorne having fun in Edmonton!

Russell and Lorne enjoyed a 4 day adventure in Edmonton, Alberta in March 2015. Experiencing East Asian cuisine for the first time, shopping and exploring one of the largest malls in the world, riding roller-coasters backwards, sampling loose leaf teas and taking in a Jets at Edmonton NHL Hockey Game from centre ice seats; this was a laughter filled, fast paced and memorable trip for the men and their staff.

They had opportunity to learn more of the personal side of Russell and Lorne having a lot of good, quality time chatting at night. We got to see the excitement of getting up each day to new things. And best of all, laughing on the long drive home. It was something that all four of us would gladly do again.

Everyone Belongs!



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