



The Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres'

Celebrating 20 Years of Success



Henry Enns, Allan Simpson and Jake Epp, then Minister of Health and Welfare signing
Special Initiative on Independent Living in 1988.

ANNUAL COMMEMORATIVE
REPORT 2006

Independent Living

Independent Living (IL) is a vision, a philosophy and a movement of persons with disabilities. Born on California university campuses in the 1970s, the movement spread to Canada in the 1980s, and has since reached around the globe and changed the way people view and respond to disability.

Independent Living is founded on the right of people with disabilities to:

- Live with dignity in their chosen community;
- Participate in all aspects of their lives
- Control and make decisions about their own lives.

The IL vision and philosophy have been articulated through the Independent Living movement – a network of individuals and community-based resource centres across the country, supported by a national organization, the Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres (CAILC).

The IL movement differs from traditional service providing organizations by emphasizing peer support, self-direction, and community integration by and for people with disabilities themselves. The IL model embraces the notion that rights and responsibilities are shared between citizens and the state, focusing on building a country based on the principles of inclusion, equity, affordability and justice.

Canadian Independent Living Resource Centres do not engage in collective advocacy. Instead, the IL movement promotes an end to institutional living for people with disabilities and encourages and supports individuals to integrate into the community.

While the aim of Independent Living is not to make a person “normal” in a physical or mental sense, the movement emphasizes the value of people with disabilities to have ordinary life experiences by providing community-based, consumer-controlled services, supports, resources and skills training to enable people with disabilities to live an “ordinary life” in the community.

Who is CAILC?

As a national, non-profit organization, CAILC comes alive through the ideas, energy and passion of its Board, staff, and membership.

We are all citizens who have unique contributions to make to the Canadian and global communities. We are women and men. We are from all cultural backgrounds. We are people who love and want to be loved. We are children. We are parents. We are volunteers. We are leaders. We are business-people. We are teachers. We are lawyers. We are your next-door neighbours. We are your colleagues. We are a part of what it means to be Canadian.

CAILC Mission Statement

The Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres (CAILC) is a national umbrella organization that advances the principles of independent living by providing leadership and resources to people with disabilities through its network of Independent Living Resource Centres (ILRC).

CAILC Mandate

Founded in 1986 by the Independent Living movement membership, the Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres (CAILC) is the national umbrella organization, representing and supporting the network of ILRCs at the national level. Its office is located in Ottawa – the nation’s capital.

CAILC’s primary activities include:

- promoting the development of ILRCs in Canadian communities;
- articulating and promoting the IL vision, philosophy and work of the ILRCs at the national level;
- providing organizational assistance, training and the implementation of programs to ILRCs; and
- acting as a liaison between the ILRCs, various federal government departments, and Members of Parliament.

Major Organizational Milestones Over the Past 20 Years

- **1980** – The Independent Living Movement, philosophy, principles, and attitude was introduced by Gerbon deJong, influential American IL theorist, at the Coalition of Provincial Organizations of the Handicapped (now Council of Canadians with Disabilities) national conference on “Defining the Parameters of Rehabilitation”
- **1982** – Obstacles report including recommendations for IL
- **1982** – Opening of the Independent Living Centre of Waterloo Region (first ILRC in Canada)
- **1985** – Existing ILRCs (5 at the time) and individuals and organizations committed to the Independent Living Philosophy (many who would later become ILRCs) - identified the need for national association for the Independent Living movement in Canada..
- **1986** – CAILC is formally incorporated and moves its national office to Ottawa
- **1988** – Hiring of first National Director – Ross Robinson
- **1988** – First CAILC national conference in Ottawa and an announcement between CAILC, the then Department of National Health and Welfare and the then Secretary of State. Together they announced the “Special Initiative on Independent Living” – a five year demonstration project that allowed for the development of a national infrastructure of community based ILRCs.
- **1990** – National IL Conference “Creating an Agenda for the 90’s”, Calgary Conference
- **1993** – The end of Special Initiative and 3 year renewal
- **1993** – Hired new national director, Traci Walters (previous Executive Director of Niagara Centre for Independent Living)
- **1994** – Published “The Canadian Independent Living Movement: An Historical Overview” by Fraser Valentine
- **1994** – Winnipeg ILRC/CAILC National Independent Living Conference – “Progress through Partnerships”, in Winnipeg, Man.
- **1994 – 1996** – Major pioneering project to study the issues of family violence and abuse as it pertains to people with disabilities funded by Health Canada’s Family Violence Prevention Program. Research resulted in development of the following resources: Responding to Family Violence and Abuse – An Independent Living Approach, Prevention of Abuse against Elderly Citizens with Disabilities, Youth Speak UP! Youth Speak Out!
- **1996** – Production and Airing of CBC/Disability Network/CAILC film “Double Jeopardy.” A powerful documentary on personal stories of women with disabilities who are survivors of family violence with recommendations to bring about changes that are desperately needed.
- **1996** – Expiry of federal government’s special initiative, advised all funding would gradually decrease to zero by 1999, many other federal programs for people with disabilities drastically reduced or eliminated
- **1996** – Community outcry initiated a Federal Government response through the creation of the “Federal Task Force on Disability Issues”, CAILC’s National Director voted in by disability community to act as one of three official participant/observers (including Lucy Lemieux-Brassard and Fred Clarke) to the Federal Task Force’s national consultation throughout every province and territory
- **1996** – October release of Liberal Task Force’s report – “Equal Citizenship for Canadians with Disabilities – The Will to Act”

- **1996** – All funding for national disability organizations including CAILC retained after report. Report recommended that the Federal Government had a critical role ensuring citizenship for people with disabilities.
- **1996** – CAILC publishes the “Impact of independent living resource centres in Canada. Prepared by Peggy Hutchison, Peter Dunn, John Lord, and Alison Pedlar.
- **1997** – Corrections Canada funded first of its kind “Opening Doors: Supporting the Re-integration of Offenders with Disabilities Leaving Federal Correctional Facilities” pilot – a CAILC/Halifax ILRC project
- **1997 – 2004** Funding for national employment initiative for CAILC/ILRCs “Navigating the Waters; an Independent Living Approach to Employment for Persons with Disabilities”
- **1997** – Human Resources Development Canada released “Lessons Learned, Disability and Policy” Study which summarizes lessons learned by the federal government on disability programs in Canada and abroad. Identified in report – *“Services based upon independent living principles are more effective in this regards than traditional, professionally driven services. Advocacy, support and training services provided by Independent Living Centres have been documented as effective in providing the support and skill development necessary to enable people to make effective use of support service programs and to make decisions about their own lives.”*
- **1999** – CAILC’s Bylaws were ratified by its members to include streamlined membership categories: Centre Under Development (CD) and Accredited Membership Status.
- **2000** – Published Curriculum Guide: Working Effectively with Persons with Disabilities
- **2001** – Evaluation of “Open Doors Project” Evaluation proved success and recommends that ILRCs could play an important role in reducing the recidivism rate of offenders with disabilities when they reintegrate back into society by providing IL programs and support to move back into their communities
- **2001** – CAILC began first national and local IL awareness campaign through the United Nation’s International Day of Disabled Persons, Dec. 3. Up until this time the UN Day was not recognized in Canada. Today we see disability organizations, all levels of government, universities and many other groups celebrate this day.
- **2000** and **2001** CAILC representatives take part in consultations held in Moscow to help disability organizations and government representatives create a disability agenda and strategy through a Canadian International Development Agency funded initiative.
- **2001** – Organized a network wide consultation which served as the foundation for an Accreditation process for ILRCs
- **2002** – A consultation took place with Centres and refinement of the Accreditation tool supported by the Accreditation Committee
- **2002** – Three CAILC representatives attended Disabled People’s International 6th World Assembly in Sapporo, Japan
- **2002** – CAILC production of Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Package including An Agenda for Change, Best Practices for Delivering Entrepreneurial Services to Canadians with Disabilities”, Control Your Destiny; Entrepreneurship – A Career Alternative for Persons with Disabilities and A Service Provider’s Guide: Working with Prospective Entrepreneurs with Disabilities.
- **2003** – Making Equality: History of Advocacy and Persons with Disabilities in Canada by Deborah Stienstra and Aileen Wight-Felske
 - Chapter 11 “Steering Your Own Ship – The Growth of Individual Advocacy within the Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres” written by Cassandra Phillips

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- **2003** – Created and implemented a new IL based policy governance framework for national association.
 - **2004** – Development of a New Accreditation Tool and piloting in 3 sites
 - **2004** – Planning, groundwork and publication of *“The Independent Living Business Case: A Strategic Investment into the Human and Economic Potential of Canadians with Disabilities”*
 - **2004** – Centres began using the “self assessment” portion of the Accreditation Tool to prepare for full accreditation cycle.
 - **2004** – Completion of national literacy and disability searchable data base accessible to the general public
 - **2004** – Began annual series of “Did You Know” Fact Sheets released every week during the month of November leading up to the United Nation’s International Day of Disabled Persons. Fact sheets highlight barriers through statistical data and provide IL solutions to problems
 - **2005** – Implemented first cycle of Accreditation with 8 ILRCs (Centres need to apply for membership renewal every three years via the Accreditation Process)
 - **2005** – National Crime Prevention and Independent Living Conference – a first of its kind national conference on crime prevention and people with disabilities for police, other first time responders, disability organizations and ILRCs. Conference hosted by CAILC and Ottawa Police Services.
 - **2005** – Extensive conference proceeding report published with recommendations for the future of safety and people with disabilities in Canada
 - **2005** – New agreement with federal government/agreed to support 3 new Centres developed in under serviced and underrepresented areas in Canada over 3 years
 - **2006** – Development and Implementation of the national IL Information and Data Collection System.
 - **2006** – There are now 29 Independent Living Resource Centres across Canada.
 - **2006** – CAILC’s 20th anniversary and pre-launch of Impact of Independent Living in Canada book written by John Lord.

IL Chronology of Centres & CAILC (1982 – 2006)

The following list chronicles the founding of Independent Living Resource Centres in Canada and CAILC. Representatives from existing ILRCs and from groups committed to the IL philosophy and came together to establish CAILC in 1986. Accordingly, while some groups began as non-profit organizations and then evolved into Centres, many others were founded originally as ILRCs.

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|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1982 | ILC of Waterloo Region, Kitchener, ON | 1994 | DRC for Independent Living, Kapuskasing, ON |
| 1984 | ILRC of Calgary, Calgary, AB
ILRC, Winnipeg, MB | 1995 | ILC – London, London, ON |
| 1985 | Centre for Independent Living in Toronto (CILT) Inc., Toronto, ON | 1997 | ILRC, St. John's, NL |
| 1986 | Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres (CAILC) Association canadienne des centres de vie autonome (ACCVA), Ottawa | 1998 | RISE, Parry Sound, ON |
| 1987 | ILRC Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay, ON
CRVA Région du Bas St – Laurent, Trois-Pistoles, QC | 1999 | CRVA – PA inc., Shippagan, NB |
| 1988 | ILC Kingston, Kingston, ON
Ottawa ILRC, Ottawa, ON | 2000 | DRC, Richmond, BC |
| 1989 | Nanaimo & Region ILRC Association, Nanaimo, BC
Niagara CIL, St. Catharines, ON | 2001 | CRVA du Montréal-Métropolitain/Montreal Metropolitan ILRC, Montreal, QC |
| 1990 | DRC, Duncan, BC
Victoria DRC, Victoria, BC | 2002 | ILRC Corp., Sudbury, ON |
| 1991 | North Saskatchewan ILC, Saskatoon, SK
CRVA d'Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Val d'Or, QC | 2003 | Miramichi ILRC, Miramichi, NB |
| 1992 | South Saskatchewan ILRC, Regina, SK | 2005 | Regroupement Des Personnes Handicapées, Région du Haut-Richelieu, St. Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC |
| 1993 | Breaking Down Barriers: An ILC, Collingwood, ON
ILRC Halifax Regional Municipality, Halifax, NS
Vernon, DRC, Vernon, BC | 2006 | Le Phenix—Service d'intégration sociale, Alfred, ON to be announced at CAILC AGM 2006 |



The Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres: 20 Years of a Strong National Voice



2006 marks the 20th anniversary of the Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres (CAILC). Since 1986, CAILC has acted as the official voice of the Independent Living (IL) Movement in Canada. IL is an international social movement based on choice, flexibility, and control in decision making for persons with disabilities. As such, IL moves us away from a medicalized model of disability and towards a social understanding that only sees empowerment and equity possible when persons are granted the duties and rights necessary to take responsibility over their own lives. CAILC and the IL philosophy are cross-disability representing all persons with disabilities.

An awareness is quietly sweeping the country... It is like a gentle awakening. Like the moving of the Spirit, we see its effects but are not entirely sure where it is going.

~ Henry Enns

1981, *Mennonite Reporter*. Special section marking the International Year of Disabled Persons.

Did You Know?

Many factors, both internal and external, helped shape CAILC and Independent Living as a social movement evolve in Canada.

- In 1972, the Centre for Independent Living of Berkeley (CA) was established by **Ed Roberts** - throughout the **1970's and 1980's** momentum behind the IL movement spread across North America.
- COPOH (now the Council of Canadians with Disabilities) formally introduced the Independent Living concept to Canada in 1980 when Gerben DeJong spoke at their "Defining the Parameters of Rehabilitation" conference.
- Public awareness around disability issues increased through the 1980's through the following:
 - ✓ The United Nations declares **1981 the International Year of Disabled Persons**;
 - ✓ As a result, the Government of Canada appointed an all-party committee to review federal legislation on persons with disabilities - this committee produced the **Obstacles Report** including **130 recommendations** on all aspects of social policy and disability. **Within these was a recommendation that the federal government promote independent living**;
 - ✓ **1982 the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms was established** - in **1985 Section 15 of the Charter was introduced** to address the systematic discrimination faced by many - including persons with disabilities;
 - ✓ The **United Nations proclaims 1983-92 as the Decade of Disabled Persons**.
- The grassroots work of leaders within the Canadian disability movement like **Alan Simpson** and **Henry Enns** helped formalize and mobilize the movement in Canada.
- The need for a national organization devoted to IL in Canada was identified in **1985** in Kitchener Ontario and the **Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres (CAILC)**, formally established itself at an IL conference in Ottawa in **1986**.
- In November **1988** CAILC and the then Department of National Health and Welfare and then Secretary of State began a five-year funding partnership pilot allowing for the development of a national infrastructure to support community based resource Centres.
- In **2004** CAILC produced the **Independent Living Business Case** - which demonstrated the capacity of the national IL movement as well as being a blueprint for moving forward and positively impacting Canadians with disabilities. The business case also illustrated that CAILC and the ILRCs now generate over **\$35 million** into the Canadian economy each year; employ **241** staff members (**a majority with disabilities**); employ **2,700** part time attendants through direct funding programs; and create valuable volunteer opportunities for over **1,300** volunteers annually.
- In the past **20 years** CAILC has expanded to serve over **250,000** Canadians with disabilities, their families, and communities each year and now represents nationally **29 Independent Living Centres**.

Message From the Chairperson and National Director Taking CAILC to New Heights

This past year has definitely been one that moved the Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres to “New Heights”. New Heights is also the name we have given our new Independent Living corporate partner communiqué. This term is appropriate considering the growth and development of the organization we are currently undergoing. It has been an exciting year for CAILC representing incredible growth and new opportunities.

This past year we implemented the new “Independent Living - Awareness, Marketing and Fund Development Initiative” project. This project is designed to help build the resource development capacity of the Canadian

Association of Independent Living Centres (CAILC) and Independent Living Resource Centres (ILRCs) across Canada. Throughout this project we have been given valuable resources that have enabled us (nationally and locally) to create a three-year marketing, awareness, and fund development plan. By hiring a Director of Resource Development, we are beginning to forge partnerships with the corporate world; something we have not had the resources or capacity to do in the past. Centres across the country are researching and implementing marketing and resource development activities that will not only raise their profiles, but help facilitate strategies to garner support from diverse community partners. We are at the exciting stage of consulting with members as we create a national branding image and communication plan - vital exercises that will help us propel into the future and sustain ourselves over the long haul.

We are also pleased to expand our horizons into the cyber frontier by adding a Project Manager who is responsible for the development of a Virtual ILRC to our team. This initiative is funded through the Office for Learning Technologies. There are so



Dave Shannon, Chairperson, CAILC's Social Policy Committee & Board Member, Paul-Claude Bérubé, CAILC's National Chairperson and Traci Walters, CAILC's National Director

many possibilities in the cyber frontier to support many people including people with disabilities who live in communities with an ILRC. Indeed, with this initiative anyone can access and benefit from the information, resources and tools produced by CAILC and ILRCs. There will also be a virtual employment area with online tools that range from portfolio development, self advocacy tools, interview skills and online training courses. In addition, we will have a mechanism to enable other organizations, businesses and governments to share valuable tools and resources that could benefit anyone who enters the portal. The possibilities are virtually endless.

The Independent Living (IL) Impact Project (currently being implemented) has also enabled our association to develop our new National Information and Data Collection System which is being launched at this year's AGM. By working with an 8 member advisory committee made up of representatives from ILRCs, we have created a totally accessible information and data collection system that will enable Centres to share valuable information and statistics so we have a realistic picture of the IL Movement's engagement and impact throughout Canada. Centres can also personalize the system for the purposes of creating local and individualized data

If people are informed they will do the right thing. It's when they are not informed that they become hostages to prejudice.

~ Charlayne Hunter-Gault

One of the weaknesses highlighted through our 2004 Business Case was a lack of ability to collect critical data that will benefit people with disabilities, the ILRCs, national office, and governments. Having access to good information,

as well as the ability to share this information to inform those in positions of power, is key to the success of not only the IL movement, but the disability rights movement in general.

In addition to building our capacity to collect and share information vital to illustrating the impact of Centres and consumers, the IL Impact project is in the process of creating a book that will document the history of this social movement in Canada. For months, our research team has been working with John Lord (lead author) to gather information about the birth and growth of this movement in Canada. When complete, this book will illustrate the impact of the IL movement on the equity for persons with disabilities in Canada, as well as documenting our unique history for the first time. As such, the book will have the ability to speak to those outside our movement (in academia, policy makers etc.) and share our story with those not yet familiar with our impact and place in positive social change. In the coming months we will work to complete a final draft and secure a publisher for this work.

In tandem with all of the exciting projects described above, CAILC is also working to strengthen its role in research and social policy development. Building on the momentum of the past few years, CAILC recently created a position for a Director of Research and Policy to oversee the organizations growth in this area. Our goal is to create an arm of CAILC able to increase our capacity to promote, influence, and implement the Independent Living philosophy into broader research, policy, and evaluation activities.

The descriptions above are just a sample of the many exciting activities currently being undertaken within the national association. We also have much to celebrate with regards to our network of ILRC members. We never cease to be amazed with all of the exciting initiatives that we hear about across the country. This year we have seen new programs spring up within the network including; youth leadership and/or transition initiatives, healthy lifestyle programming, IL research, adaptive technology projects, and IL employment programs. As Centre activities and their impact on individual consumers and communities are the lifeblood of CAILC and the IL

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

movement, we are excited to see our Centres thriving.

Looking back to our 2004 Business Case - *A Strategic Investment into the Human & Economic Potential of Canadians with Disabilities*, it is clear we are on track with the strategic priorities and activities

identified within this document.

Despite the difficult political and economic times over the past 20 years CAILC and its member ILRCs have survived where others have not. We have managed to not only survive, but also to grow and thrive. Why? Because despite the challenges thrown our way, we have stuck together like a family and have remained to build a better Canada for ALL of its citizens! By helping people with disabilities view themselves as valuable and contributing members of society; we have created a revolution - a revolution of the mind. There is nothing in this world more powerful than that and the many positive changes that have resulted from this.

Gimme Shelter: What it Takes to Be A Successful Umbrella Organization written by Elisa Birnbaum for Charity Village concluded that “no matter their funding source, whether small or large, regional or national, successful umbrella organizations know the value in maintaining balance, establishing open channels of communication, and staying true their overarching mandate and to the needs of members.” This sound advice will frame our work over the next 20 years; not only has this enabled us to achieve our historical success, but remaining loyal to this sentiment will surely help us achieve new heights.

As we reflect upon the past, and look toward the future, the strides we have made have been through the efforts of many. Thank you to our board members, staff and volunteers for their guidance and support, and to our member ILRCs for their inspiration.

Paul-Claude Bérubé
National Board Chairperson

Traci Walters
National Director

Projects

Access to Recovery

Access to Recovery is a two year, national initiative funded through Health Canada's Drug Strategy Community Initiatives Fund (DSCIF) launched in the fall of 2005. This project is enabling CAILC to work with the national network of Independent Living Resource Centres (ILRCs) and our partner the Canadian Abilities Foundation (CAF) to produce substance abuse prevention tools and resources.

In the latest phase of this project CAILC completed a national needs assessment which gathered feedback from persons with disabilities, those in the filed of substance abuse, and other interested stakeholders. This assessment laid the foundation for the fall 2006 train-the-trainer institute which provided resources and training to representatives from each of CAILC's ILRCs. The project will now enter the final phase which will provide knowledge, information, and support to ILRCs and community stakeholders so we can work together to better address the substance abuse needs of persons with disabilities.

Healthy Lifestyles for Independent Living

CAILC continued its partnership with the Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability (ALACD) to finish up the work for the Healthy Lifestyles for Independent Living project. During the AGM in 2005, the ALACD and various Independent Living Resource Centres (ILRCs) gave presentations on healthy living programs which are taking place in Canada. These presentations captured the imaginations of staff and volunteers from other ILRCs to start their own healthy lifestyles programs within their Centres. As well, CAILC and the ALACD developed some tools to help ILRCs enhance their capacity to develop healthy and active living programs. These tools are comprised of a series of PowerPoint presentations and also a Healthy Living model which is packed with information and examples of activities which ILRCs can incorporate into their programming. Both these resources and a list of healthy living links can be found on our website.

Virtual Independent Living Resource Centre Project

A three year initiative supported by the Office for Learning Technologies, this national pilot project will enable CAILC to build the virtual capacity of our national network and provide free online employment and pre-employment supports, services, resources and tools to persons with disabilities.

The goals of VILRC are twofold: to support our Centres and Centre staff in developing the knowledge and resources necessary to support virtual capacity; and to develop and share on-line tools and resources to help persons with disabilities self-direct their employment and pre-employment journeys (i.e. portfolio development, resume writing templates and tutorials, etc.).

Independent Living Impact Project

Now in the second year of this project funded by HRSDC, we have been making great strides towards the goals of this project. Working with the National Adult Literacy Database (NALD), development of the National Database and Information Collection System is well underway. We will continue with testing and look forward to training in the months ahead. Through this new system we will be better able to demonstrate the work that is being done on local, regional and national levels by sharing both quantitative and qualitative information.

Along with this new web-based system we will also be sharing tools and resources that have been collected by the "Promising Practices" team in Thunder Bay. With over 600 documents submitted across the country, there will be the opportunity to access a variety of materials, including templates for information of the entire network. This is a continual process as new information can be added as it is created. While these areas focus on information gathering and sharing within the network, the IL Impact book, lead by John Lord, seeks a broader audience. Throughout this year, work on the book has involved research though

literature reviews, interviews, and the collection of stories allowing us to identify a number of themes. These will be combined to produce the story of IL in Canada. The various components of the IL Impact Project work together to strengthen the network and display the assets of the IL movement, and its influence on Canadian society.

Independent Living: Awareness, Marketing and Fund Development Initiative

The goals of Independent Living: Awareness, Marketing and Fund Development Initiative are as follows:

1. To heighten public awareness of CAILC and ILRCs locally, provincially and nationally to the public and private sectors, general public and to more Canadians with disabilities while becoming a leading edge Centre of Excellence regarding positive community and organizational development, programming and sustainability of organizations run by and for people with disabilities.
2. To market CAILC and its network of ILRCs to large corporations, service clubs, unions, small businesses, national and community foundations to achieve greater funding diversification and financial stability in order to provide advice and support through leading edge services, programs and innovative initiatives that enable Canadians with disabilities to participate economically, politically, socially and culturally to society.
3. To use the heightened awareness and professional branding of CAILC as a springboard to raise funds for immediate and long-term proactive growth and financial needs of the association.

Fund Development has reached new heights in the past year with the creation of a three-year strategic plan to raise funds and increase the awareness of IL in Canada. This campaign is intended to attract corporate and foundation investment to the organization that will develop the capacity of ILRCs and CAILC to diversify our funding base. In the past year, CAILC has been successful in developing new corporate partnerships.

As part of our newly-designed Corporate Recognition Program, a special communiqué, "New Heights", will profile our corporate and

foundations partners. The CAILC website also contains a new section under "partnerships".

In conjunction with CAILC's fundraising efforts, an aggressive marketing and awareness campaign will heighten public awareness of the independent living movement. This involved an in-depth series of workshops with the National Board of Directors and the Executive Directors to address the issue of branding and messaging. The end result will be the launch of a series of public service announcements to educate and inform Canadians of the leadership role that CAILC and its network of 28 Independent Living Resource Centres play in the delivery of programs and services for people with disabilities.

United Nations International Day of Disabled Persons

Friday, December 2, 2005



Co-Captain of Canadian Wheelchair Rugby Team David Willsie with Grand & Toy representatives at UN Day of Disabled Persons Celebrations 2005 Ottawa

The United Nations International Day of Disabled Persons was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1992 to build a better understanding of the needs, rights, talents and contributions of 50 million global citizens with disabilities.

CAILC proudly held its 4th Annual UN International Day of Disabled Persons celebration on December 2 at the Westin Hotel, joined by politicians, business leaders and other national disability organizations. One of the highlights of the day was a visit from our special guest, David Willsie, Co-Captain, Canadian Wheelchair Rugby Team, and a member of the cast of the award winning documentary, Murderball.

Services and Accreditation Update

This past year has been a very busy one for the network. ILRCs have actively participated in several initiatives; at the national level through the IL Impact project, Fund Development activities, and the Access to Recovery and Healthy Lifestyles for Active Living projects. Locally several ILRCs have secured funding enabling them to deliver employment and skills training programs. Starting in 2005, CAILC began a formal accreditation process; eight or nine ILRCs are chosen annually to apply to become fully accredited members. According to our bylaws, each Centre must undergo this process every three years. The Accreditation Committee also created a simplified process to eliminate some of the more time consuming elements of the original model.

Court Challenges Program— (CAILC Granted Intervener Status)



Leaders from Canada's Disability Community, including Traci Walters (CAILC National Director), Paul-Claude Bérubé and Dave Shannon (who represented CAILC) and Pat Danforth Chairperson of CCD's transportation committee and staff member of the Victoria Centre gather at the Supreme Court to hear precedent setting case.

In 2000, using federal funding, Via Rail purchased 139 inaccessible cars, which sparked a lengthy legal challenge by the Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD). In May 2006 the case went before the Supreme Court of Canada. Given the important precedent this case would set in terms of the accessibility of federally funded transportation in Canada, CAILC applied for and was granted

Intervener Status through the Court Challenges Program (along with 10 other equity seeking groups).

On May 19th, 2006 Dave Shannon and Paul-Claude Bérubé, both lawyers with disabilities themselves, acted on behalf of CAILC and prepared a written submission to the Supreme Court outlining the importance of access for persons with disabilities and linked this access to broader human rights standards and norms. A ruling is expected within the coming months.

New Publications

Access to Recovery—Substance Abuse & Independent Living Communiqué, Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres (CAILC) Spring 2006, Fall 2006

Did you know? Series of 4 Fact Sheets on Persons with Disabilities in Canada. Topics include: Cultural Rights, Political Rights, Economic Rights and Social Rights. Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres (CAILC). December 2005.

Healthy Lifestyles for Independent Living: A National Capacity building and ongoing service delivery program model for ILRCs across Canada. Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability (ALACD) and Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres (CAILC) July 2006.

New Heights: An IL Awareness and Fund Development Communiqué. Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres (CAILC) Spring 2006, Summer 2006

Physical Activities & Healthy Lifestyles Project: A PowerPoint Training Tool. Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability (ALACD) and Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres (CAILC) July 2006.

Last Year's Awards

The Allan Simpson Award for Programming



Representatives from ILC Waterloo Region receiving the Allan Simpson Award

This unique award commemorates Allan Simpson, one of the founding members of the Independent Living movement in Canada. Allan was not only passionate about the promotion of IL, but also lived the IL philosophy himself to the fullest each day. Each year The Allan Simpson Award for programming is presented to an Independent Living Resource Centre (ILRC) that takes an innovative approach to a particular project/program based on the fundamentals of the IL philosophy.

The recipient of the 2005 Allan Simpson Award was: Independent Living Centre of Waterloo Region for organizing the "The Independent Living Awards".

The IL Awards have been organized by the ILC in Kitchener-Waterloo since 1999. The ILRC recognizes businesses, community partners, volunteers, advocates and consumers at an annual awards night gala.

The John Lord Award for Research



John Lord presenting John Lord Award to Barry Galloway and Michelle Murdoch.

The John Lord Award recognizes excellence in research that reflects an accurate analysis of the social realities facing persons with disabilities and promotes participatory action research.

The award values qualitative and quantitative research, academic and community research, research that reflects the cross-disability community, and places a high value on work that incorporates the full and active participation of persons with disabilities throughout the research process.

The John Lord Award of 2005 was presented collectively to Michelle Murdoch, Memorial University of St. John's NL and the ILRC in St. John's for their leadership in comprehensive project which explored issues related to women and adaptive technology with a focus on identifying and removing barriers for full participation.

CAILC Consumer Award



Don Peuramaki talks about the work he does on appropriate disability representation in the media.

Established in 2000, this award is presented on an annual basis to a person with a disability who: is a member of an ILRC; lives the IL philosophy to the fullest; has overcome barriers through decision making and action to fulfill career or personal goals; through their actions breaks negative stereotypes traditionally assigned to persons with

disabilities; and contributes to the national IL movement.

The winner of the 2005 Consumer award was Don Peuramaki of Toronto. Don's background in the area of telecommunications and media spans many years. He has been a strong advocate for appropriate disability representation in the media.

CAILC's Volunteer Award



Richard and Valerie Guertin receiving CAILC Volunteer Award from Traci Walters, CAILC's National Director

This award highlights an individual(s) who has given their time to CAILC and the IL Movement. The recipient is selected by the National Director.

The Volunteer Award winners of 2005 were Richard and Valerie Guertin, CAILC's dedicated volunteers. They have been volunteering in the CAILC office for five years, during which time they have been helping with mass mail outs, answering phones, helping to keep the CAILC library and office organized and helping CAILC to prepare for national events. They have served as gracious hosts in our office and at meetings and go out of their way to ensure all people are greeted with a warm and welcoming smile. As well as volunteering for CAILC, they are also hard working volunteers at the Ottawa ILRC which is something they have been doing for 16 years. Both Richard and Valerie have invisible disabilities and are dedicated to justice and inclusion for all persons with disabilities.

National Meetings

- Substance Abuse and Independent Living Think Tank - October 2005
- CAILC's 4th Annual United Nations International Day of Disabled Persons Event in Ottawa — December 2005
- National Board Meeting, St. John's, Nfld. – April 2006
- Executive Director Forum – May 2006

CAILC's Valued Sponsors and Funders

Special thanks to our government funders:

Department of Justice

Crime Prevention and Independent Living project

Health Canada

Access to Recovery and Independent Living project

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

Summer student placement program

Human Resources and Social Development Canada

Organizational Core Funding

IL Impact Project

IL: Awareness, Marketing and Fund Development Initiative

National Literacy Secretariat

Literacy for Independent Living Project

Office of Learning Technologies

Virtual ILRC Project

Public Health Agency of Canada

Population health fund - Healthy Lifestyles and Independent Living

Ontario Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration

Summer experience program

Many thanks to the following sponsors whose contributions made our 4th Annual United Nations International Day of Disabled Persons Event a success

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CAILC Board 2005-06



CAILC Board of Directors 2005-06

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Our greatest assets

The Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres believes its greatest assets are the Independent Living Resource Centres from across Canada and their staff, volunteers, board members and consumers. We extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to everyone involved at the local level.