

CLASS REPORT 2005

Parkland Community Living and Supports Society 2005 Annual Report

Parkland Community Living and Supports Society is a registered non-profit society serving developmentally disabled children and adults from Central Alberta, Nunavut, and the Northwest Territories in the Canadian Arctic. The agency's mission is: "To improve the quality of life of disabled children and adults through individual choice, rights, and dignity".

In support of Parkland CLASS's Mission Statement, the following values serve as a philosophical reference to guide the Board of Directors and all agency staff in the development and the delivery of community services:

- a) Citizenship which is based on the principles of individual value and worth, individual rights, and equality which recognizes the physical, mental, social, and spiritual needs of the disabled;
- b) Choice which empowers individuals to make real choices about real options in life, including where they will live and what they will do;
- c) Support which implies that every individual, regardless of their disability, is entitled to receive those technical, personal, and financial supports which are necessary to live as independently as possible within the community; and
- d) Equality of Opportunity which ensures that all disabled individuals have equal access to those aspects of life which are often taken for granted including, wherever possible, an education, employment, their own homes, friendships, and social interaction with others.

Changes in society's attitudes and the promotion of the rights of the disabled have enabled a growing number of disabled individuals to seek an inclusive life in the community. As a result, the demands for new community services have risen over the past decade.

In response, Parkland CLASS has been proactive in developing new and innovative services. This report outlines the agency's recent accomplishments, its strategic direction, and its future goals.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT (CEO)

Phillip Stephan

A primary role of Parkland’s Senior Staff Group and Service Management Team is to work towards the achievement of the goals and objectives that the Board of Directors establishes within the agency’s “Three Year Strategic Plan”. The Executive Director’s report provides a summary of activities and accomplishments that advance the Board’s strategic vision. Last year, five major goals were pursued that merit consideration.

The new 7,200 sq. ft. RELAX Crew clubhouse was opened at the beginning of the year. The expanded facilities have had a very positive impact on the quality of activities that are provided, and the participation rates of members. At the beginning of the year there were 270 members of the RELAX Crew, and by year end the membership had grown to 300, making it Central Alberta’s largest consumer directed social organization.

Parkland CLASS has revised a significant number of policies in response to consumer, guardian, and employee concerns. The underlying foundation of the agency’s new policy manual is a rights and responsibilities framework that addresses “Employee Rights”, “Agency Accountability”, “Guardian Rights and Responsibilities”, and the “Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals in Service”. A focus group comprised of private and public guardians was utilized along with the agency’s Service Management Team and Employee Relations Committee to develop this new policy framework.

This year, all Parkland adult programs were re-accredited by the Alberta Association for Rehabilitation Centers. In response to guardian and consumer requests, three residential homes were also developed. One of these projects involved the new construction of a wheelchair accessible home that also includes a self-contained private suite. This model was designed in response to a lack of accessible housing for high needs individuals, and a lack of suitable apartments for adults who desire more independent living arrangements.

Parkland’s services to children and adults from Nunavut and the Northwest Territories in the Canadian Arctic have also grown. At year-end, we were serving 44 high needs individuals in a variety of residential programs which operate in Central Alberta and the Inuvik Region. The agency has also provided staff training and professional development for various government departments and agencies in a number of northern communities.

For the past four years Parkland has been involved in a unique initiative in Argentina that promotes and facilitates an increase in self-determination, individual rights, and quality of life for disabled individuals. Through international partnerships, value based training has been provided to 3000 professions and frontline staff, as well as 200 families who are involved in parent organizations. Over the past year, Parkland CLASS was also invited to present at three international conferences, one in New York and two in Latin America.

Through the above activities, Parkland CLASS continues to demonstrate its strong commitment to disabled individuals and their families, whether they reside in Central Alberta, the NWT or Nunavut Territories in the Canadian Arctic, or in Latin America.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ray Dunham

A primary role of the Board of Directors of Parkland Community Living and Supports Society is to establish the goals which form the foundation of the agency's "Three Year Strategic Plan". Formal goals are developed within three broad categories - Agency Development Goals, Program Development Goals, and Board Development Goals. For the purpose of my report, I will comment on a number of the more important activities that will be pursued over the next one to three years.

The Board is committed to the future growth and development of Parkland School. Over the next year, the agency will endeavor to obtain land that will be used, in the future, to construct a new office building. The current office building will be renovated and turned over to Parkland School for classroom use in support of the school's expansion plan. As part of this plan, the agency will undertake the development of a large wheelchair accessible playground that will serve disabled children from across the city.

In the adult services area, the agency will be investigating the potential use of alternate transportation models. Rising transportation costs are an issue for staff and for those who receive services, particularly in the residential, community bridging, and RELAX Crew programs. The agency's fleet of accessible buses is aging, and their use is limited by the current transportation model that is being used. The Board and Senior Staff Group, feel that the agency's vans can be utilized in a more effective manner.

Over the next year, Parkland CLASS will continue to expand the role of the Employee Relations Committee to fully incorporate a workplace health and safety mandate. This mandate will include the development of a planned response to a potential influenza pandemic. Parkland's Board expects that this plan will provide benefits to the agency's employees and the disabled children and adults who we serve.

Parkland CLASS will continue to expand its involvement in the Canadian Arctic. The agency's increased involvement will include the renewal of its contract for the operation of the Charlotte Vehus and Billy Moore Community homes in Inuvik, the expansion of the Children's Supported Home Placement Program, and the provision of professional consulting services in an increasing number of northern communities.

Parkland's involvement in Latin America will also be expanded this year. The agency has existing partnerships with four significant Argentina organizations - the ITINERIS Foundation, the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA), the Asociación Desarrollamós Capacidades (AMAR), and the Cottolengo group of institutions which provides services to high needs individuals throughout South and Central America.

Over the next two years, four self-advocacy projects will be developed and implemented in Argentina in support of the advancement of the status of developmentally disabled children and adults. Finally, the agency will also investigate the potential of undertaking a distance learning project in Bolivia in partnership with Peru's Ann Sullivan Foundation.

2006 - 2008 STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Parkland's Board and Senior Staff group held their annual retreat in Banff, Alberta on November 11th to November 13th, 2005. As a result of the discussions that took place the following Program Development, Agency Development, and International Development goals were established. These Strategic Goals are in addition to the "Program Delivery Goals" that are set forth throughout the agency's 2005 Annual Report.

Program Development Goals

- Continue to expand the children's "Supported Home Placement Program" by increasing the base of qualified caregivers and responding to the placements being referred by Alberta, NWT, and Nunavut funders.
- Renew the NWT contracts for an additional five years. Negotiations should focus on the professional development of northern staff while responding to issues that are contributing to high staff turn-over.
- Continue to pursue alternate forms of service delivery and technical transfers within the North including on-site consulting and training.
- Investigate the potential to acquire additional land for future agency expansion and construct a new wheelchair accessible playground.
- Develop a new housing model for adults and solicit support through Alberta Seniors, Michener Centre, and the OPG to utilize this model to provide housing for some individuals being displaced from the closure of Michener's North Side facilities.
- Investigate alternatives to improve the Community Bridging Program model in an effort to decrease one to one supports while at the same time increasing community capacity and natural supports.
- Investigate creative transportation models to address the increasing needs of adults in service, the declining number of Parkland's accessible vans, and the limited transportation alternatives available within the community.

Agency Development Goals

- Complete the development of a comprehensive agency website that will include key agency information, program descriptions, staff contacts, and a job posting and automated application system.
- Develop full color agency brochures modeled after the format utilized in developing the agency website, and develop a portable agency display unit utilizing the material presented on the agency website.

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- Develop a revised Guardian Handbook and undertake a consumer / guardian satisfaction survey.
- Qualify for certification through the “Alberta Association for Safety Partners” in an effort to reduce employee injuries and lost time due to workplace accidents.
- Investigate and define the various issues related to high employee turnover, and develop and fully implement an employee recruitment marketing plan that will be used to decrease staff attrition.
- Maximize a smoke free environment in Parkland CLASS while considering the health risks associated with smoking and second hand smoke and the principles of consumer choice.
- Amend the agency’s emergency response procedure to preventatively respond to the potential threat of an influenza pandemic.

International Development Goals

- Continue to increase Parkland's involvement in international activities. Undertake meaningful initiatives to advance the status of disabled children and adults in developing nations.
- Establish the agency as a registered Non-Government Organization with CIDA (The Canadian International Development Agency).
- Undertake several self-advocacy initiatives in Argentina in partnerships with AMIA – (the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina), the Cottolengo group of institutions, AMAR (Asociación Desarrollamós Capacidades), and the ITINERIS Foundation.
- Investigate the development of a Bolivian distance learning project in partnership with the Ann Sullivan Foundation of Peru and CIDA (The Canadian International Development Agency).
- Become formally involved with the Canadian Association for Community Living and Inclusion International to expand Parkland’s international reputation, and to work with these groups to advance the objectives of the 2004 Montreal Declaration.
- Undertake preliminary research and investigations to better understand the potential opportunities and the related risks of pursuing future international activities in non-Latin American countries.

PARKLAND SCHOOL REPORT

Trudy Lewis, Director

Parkland School is accredited by Alberta Education and works closely with many local public and separate school jurisdictions. Student educational goals are incorporated into individual program plans which are consistent with Alberta Education guidelines.

Parkland School has four main program areas: the MDH (Multi-dependent Handicapped) Program, the Regular School Program, Challenge Program, and the Augmentative Communications Program.

MDH Program

The Parkland School MDH Program provides education, life skills training and physical support to multi-dependent handicapped students.

The program addresses the speech, physical and occupational therapy, communication, hearing, vision, behavior modification, sensory stimulation, and medical needs of students.

Target population was thirteen (13) full time multi-dependent handicapped students who were served in 2005, ranging in age from 7 to 18 years.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Parkland School continued to be an active member in the Central Alberta Health Initiative (SHIP) and received \$15,000 through SHIP to employ a sensory integration consultant.
- More students are attending regular classes, including exercise, snack, language, music and fine motor classes to integrate with school peers.
- Increased utilization of consultant recommendations and included all recommendations in student IPPs.

Program Goals for 2006:

- Improve the school's policies and procedures to protect against communicable illnesses.
- Provide improved integration and socialization for students in wheelchairs by increasing involvement in the regular school program.

Regular School Program

The Parkland School Regular School Program focuses on the basic concepts of education and essential living skill development.

Various classes promote the student's academic, non-academic, personal, and physical development.

The regular school program is delivered both within Parkland School and in the community on a regular basis.

Target population was thirty-three (33) full-time & two (2) part-time trainable, dependent, and multi-dependent students who were served in 2005, ranging in age from 7 to 19 years.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Central Alberta SHIP funds utilized to contract with a sensory integration specialist from Sherwood Park.
- Total compliance with Privacy Act for Private Schools - all forms have been completed and filed.
- A new school exercise program was developed and trialed in anticipation of the mandatory Alberta Education policy of 30 minutes /day.
- A student “signature” program was developed to provide every student with a signature in some form upon graduation (written, stamped etc.)
- Student work placement portfolios were developed including evaluation forms and details of strengths, areas of need, and past accomplishments.
- New sensory integration equipment was purchased to facilitate student growth (specialist recommendation).

Program Goals for 2006:

- Continue to fund behavior consulting and sensory integration consulting using AISI and SHIP funds.
- Implement the new student exercise program according to Alberta Education guidelines.

Challenge Program

The Parkland School Challenge Program uses computer technology to supplement regular academic classes and enhance the students’ capabilities in the areas of language arts, reading, and mathematics.

Target Population was twenty-seven (27) trainable, multi-dependent and dependent students who were served in 2005, ranging in age from 7 to 19 years.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- New software was purchased to facilitate independent leisure skills training for students.
- Classroom computers were used more widely by the senior and intermediate students.

Program Goals for 2006:

- Continue to search for innovative educational software that will support and improve the quality of the challenge program.
- Integrate outreach students into the computer lab whenever possible.

Augmentative Communications Program

The Parkland School Augmentative Communications Program uses computer systems and other technical devices to develop communication skills for non-verbal and multi-dependent students.

In addition to developing alternative communication skills, students access innovative software, hardware and other technologies to advance living skills.

Target Population was twenty-seven (27) multi-dependent, dependent and trainable students with very limited, or non-existent, communication skills who were served in 2005. Students ranged in age from 7 to 18 years.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Purchase of 5 new technical talkers and utilization of all existing and new talkers for student use.

- Utilized the DTRH speech therapist and the REACH team to develop a multi-disciplinary approach to communication.
 - Continue to educate parents about technical equipment and encourage them to purchase similar equipment to expand usage in all environments.
 - Work with Glenrose Hospital (I Can Center) to identify new technological devices.
 - Expand the existing Boardmaker system for individual students to communicate more effectively.
- Program Goals for 2006:**
- Educate student aides to support and achieve their student's Augmentative Communications goals.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES REPORT

Shauna Mayes, Manager

Children's Services provides supports to families and disabled children through a variety of programs and services. Supports are delivered in the community and homes of families and proprietors.

Children's programs conform to the Alberta Association for Services to Children and Families standards. Services are delivered under the direction of families, guardians, and the Region 4 Child and Family Authority. The agency also delivers Children's Services under the authority of various aboriginal band councils and Territorial Government agencies from the NWT and Nunavut.

Parkland's Children's Services include the Family Support Program and the Supported Home Placement Program.

Family Support Program

The Family Support Program provides in-home assistance for families to cope with, and manage their child's needs. The program provides the family with support staff, in-home parental relief, child care, home making services, and community involvement activities.

Target population was thirty-two (32) trainable, multi-dependant and dependent children, and their families, who were served in 2005.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Successfully expanded and operated the children's summer leisure and recreation program.
- Updated and created addendums for a service delivery guide based on the new program standards.
- Three facilitators trained as reviewer for AASCF - Alberta Association for Services for Children and Families.

Program Goals for 2006:

- Continue to attend planning meetings with region four regarding the family supports program.

Supported Home Placement Program

The Supported Home Placement (SHP) Program allows disabled children to live in the home of an individual caregiver or family.

Children require out-of-home placement for a variety of reasons including school attendance, family breakdown, chronic illness, or high behavioral needs. The program provides accommodation, combined with family support and nurturing that is provided by the caregiver.

Children have the opportunity to grow and experience success in a safe and healthy environment that is conducive to skill development, empowerment, and consumer participation within the home, family, and community.

Target population was thirty-nine (39) children who were served in the SHP (Supported Home Placement) Program during 2005.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Successfully expanded and operated the children's summer leisure and recreation program.
- 22 out of 27 SHP program relief caregivers, and their spouses, have been trained in "parent preparation" and full "home studies" have been completed.
- 13 out of 16 homes that are funded through child welfare are licensed through Region Four.
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder training is available bi-monthly to all children services employees.
- Monthly "visual strategies training" sessions are available to all children services employees.
- Coordinators / facilitators developed a book to transition children from the Arctic to their new homes in Alberta.
- Developed a SHP program power point presentation for use with families in northern communities.

Program Goals for 2006

- Develop a voice-over power point presentation that can be used in remote Arctic communities as an orientation to families requiring services.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES REPORT

Teresa Chase, Senior Program Manager

Residential Services provides direct supports through agency operated community homes that offer living arrangements with two or three individuals sharing a home. As an alternative, supports are also provided in proprietor homes or the apartments of individual consumers.

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All Adult Residential Services conform to Alberta Association of Rehabilitation Centers - Accreditation Standards. The Children Residential Program conforms to the Certification Standards of the Alberta Association for Services to Children and Families.

Residential programs are operated under the direction of the families, guardians, individuals who are receiving services, Persons With Developmental Disabilities Central Alberta Community Board, and other government authorities or agencies.

Residential services are provided through Parkland CLASS's Adult and Children's Residential Programs, the Children's Relief Program, the Adult Proprietorship Program, and the Individual Life Styles (ILS) Program.

Adult Residential Program

The Adult Residential Program provides housing and accommodation, combined with personal support staffing. The resulting model fosters inclusion within the community.

Single family homes are most often used typically with three individuals sharing the cost of accommodation and staffing. The individual's needs are met while independence, empowerment, and participation within their home environment are maximized.

Target population was eighty-one (81) dependent and multi-dependent adults with various disabling conditions and needs who were served in 2005.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Completed AARC re-accreditation audit with compliance being found to all standards.
- Updated program orientation manual and the third edition of the adult orientation workbook was published and completed by all individuals.
- A Residential Supervisors Retreat took place in June 2005.

- Completed fifty-nine (59) Person Centered Plans with eight (8) more in progress.
- The critical indicators and measures for the agency's Consumer Service Audit were revised and updated.
- A new accessible home was built to replace an existing project and a successful move was completed.
- Secured new funding through PDD to hire a full-time adult behavioral specialist.

Program Goals for 2006:

- Complete Person Centered Plans for the final eight adults receiving residential supports.
- Redesign and implement a new personal profile package.

Children's Residential Program

The Children's Residential Program provides a home-like atmosphere for developmentally disabled children who require permanent out-of-home placements due to school attendance, family breakdown, or chronic illness.

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The program provides accommodation, combined with personal support staffing. Children experience success in a safe and healthy environment that is conducive to learning.

Target population was fourteen (14) dependent, multi-dependent, and medically fragile children with various disabling conditions and needs who were served in 2005.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Secured licensing for the Dunham children's group home under the new Child, Youth, and Family Enhancement Act.
- Moved two young adults waiting for wheelchair accessible homes from the children's residential to the adult residential program.
- Updated program orientation manual and a second edition of the Children Orientation Workbook was written.
- A medical orientation manual for residential aides was completed by the Children's Wellness Coordinator.

Program Goals for 2006:

- Secure provincial licensing for the remaining children's group home not yet licensed under new Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act.
- Redesign and implement a new personal profile package.

Children's Relief Program

The Children's Relief Program offers temporary care and supports to disabled children through short-term stays at agency operated children's residences.

The relief program offers families an opportunity to temporarily divest themselves of the daily demands of a special needs child and assists in maintaining strong family units.

Target population was eighteen (18) dependent, multi-dependent, and medically fragile children with various disabling conditions and needs who were served in 2005.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Increased relief opportunities for children on waiting list.

Program Goals for 2006:

- Continue to work cooperatively with current parents to accommodate and manage their relief requests.

Individual Life Styles (ILS) Program

The Individual Life Style Program (ILS) provides support to consumers who do not require live-in supports. Disabled consumers generally live on their own in an apartment or basement suite.

Staff support for ILS individuals range from (8) ten hours to (88) eighty eight hours per week.

Target population was eleven (11) disabled adults who were served in their own homes during 2005.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Advocated for dually diagnosed individuals who require specialized mental health supports.

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- Third edition of the adult orientation workbook was written and completed by all individuals.

Target population was seventeen (17) trainable and dependant adults who were served during 2005.

Program Goals for 2006

- Update and revise the ILS Program Orientation Manual.

Adult Proprietorship Program

The Adult proprietorship program allows disabled adults to live in the home of an individual caregiver or family.

This service provides accommodation, friendship, and support provided by the caregiver in a family orientated or room-mate focused environment.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Completed eleven Person Centered Plans, six more are in progress, and the final two waiting to be started.
- Updated program orientation manual and a third edition Adult Orientation workbook was completed.

Program Goals for 2006:

- Update the Adult Proprietorship Program Orientation Manual.
- Redesign and implement a new personal profile package.

ADULT DAY PROGRAMS

Janet Lundquist, Manager

Adult Day Programs operate under the direction of families and/or guardians, consumers, and the Persons with Developmental Disabilities Central Alberta Community Board.

Day program supports are provided in the community, as well as through an agency-operated facility, the RELAX Crew Clubhouse.

Day programs are alternatives to full time employment and generally focus on individual access to generic community activities and services. Supports are also provided for group activities which foster the development of friendships and peer relations.

A segment of the agency's adult day program services involves providing relief and respite care to families who are caring for a dependently disabled adult son, daughter, or sibling in their family home.

Adult Day Program Services include the Community Bridging Program, the Adult Respite Care Program, and the RELAX Crew Program.

Community Bridging Program

The Community Bridging Program provides staff support to individual consumers to facilitate out-of-home community activities that are based on the individual's likes, interests, and abilities.

The program provides a structured alternative to employment, if desired, or it supplements the individual's lifestyle. Personal supports are provided so that individual needs are met and community participation is maximized.

Target population was fifty-eight (58) adults who were served during 2005.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Maintained the Community Bridging model with a one to one staff to consumer support ratio.
- Developed a Community Resources Guide that can be used by staff and consumers.
- Participated in a community capacity initiative to support natural supports and community volunteers.

Program Goals for 2006:

- Explore strategies that will enable the Bridging program to continue to meet the CET standards that promote community inclusion.

Adult Respite Care Program

The Adult Respite Care Program offers temporary care and support to disabled adults through short term out-of-home stays away from their family, or through providing the family with in-home staff.

Respite care offers families an opportunity to temporarily divest themselves of the daily demands of caring for a disabled adult. This contributes to the maintenance of stronger families.

Target population was eleven (11) trainable dependent and multi-dependent adults who were served in 2005.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Maintained a standardized single rate of funding for the Adult Respite Care Program.
- More families are aware of the Adult Respite Care Program and therefore demand is increasing.

Program Goals for 2006:

- Continue to ensure that families are informed about the services offered through the Adult Respite Program.
- Explore alternatives to the traditional respite program.

RELAX Crew Program

The RELAX Crew Social Club is a consumer directed social, leisure and recreational organization which gives members increased opportunities to develop and expand friendships with other disabled individuals who have common interests.

This outcome is achieved as consumers participate in a wide variety of leisure, recreational, and social activities or experiences.

Target population was two hundred and ninety-eight (324) members who were affiliated with various agencies were served in 2005.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Completed construction of the new 7200 sq. ft. RELAX Crew Building and moved all Adult Day Programs to this location.
- Participated in various activities in support of PDD's Adult Consumer Conference.
- Worked with other agencies to continue to support the self-advocate initiative.

Program Goals for 2006

- Continue to work with regional service provider groups to promote meaningful programs and activities for all members.
- Investigate alternative methods of managing activity registration for members.
- Explore options to alleviate the specialized transportation issues for Relax Crew outings and day trips.
- Develop an external use protocol; for the RELAX Crew clubhouse, taking into consideration the additional resources that will be required.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES REPORT

Dan Verstraete, Director and Ed Hatcher, Program Manager

Parkland CLASS is very active in the development and delivery of services for disabled adults and children from the Northwest Territories and the Nunavut Territory. These services include residential placements, adult and children proprietorships, ILS placements, and training at the request of the NWT Government.

Services are delivered either in Central Alberta where 30 high needs children and adults have relocated, or in the Inuvik Region of the Northwest Territories where 13 adults are being served in two residential projects.

The services that support northern adults and children in Central Alberta have been previously reported. The services that are located in the north include the Charlotte Vehus and Billy Moore Group Homes, which are located in the community of Inuvik, NWT.

Charlotte Vehus Group Home (CVH)

The Charlotte Vehus Group Home provides medically based residential services for high needs medically dependent adults.

This service combines a rehabilitation model with a medical support model. Target population was eight (8) high need medically dependent adults that were served in 2005.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Parkland CLASS is actively involved as a member of the Inuvik Regional Health Authority's placement committee.
- The health authority has extended the agency's contract for another year pending a tendering process.
- PRO-Act has been taught on site to all staff including both the restraint and prevention programs.

Program Goals for 2006:

- Continue the Basic Skills Training program for all staff with the addition of scheduled staff development meetings.
- Implement a review process ensuring that Charlotte Vehus meets the NWT long-term care standards.
- Provide prospective consumers and their families with the powerpoint orientation to the agency and its programs.

Billy Moore Community Group Home

The Billy Moore Community Group Home provides residential services to moderately disabled adults.

This service fosters inclusion within the community while consumer participation and choice are maximized in their home environment.

Target Population was five (5) moderately disabled aboriginal adults who were served in 2005.

Accomplishments and Outcomes:

- Eight northern staff are currently enrolled in the Basic Skills Training program.
- All Billy Moore consumers participated in a summer camp in Alberta, and all individuals attended a concert in Yellowknife.

Program Goals for 2006:

- Provide additional "special supports" during camps and excursions to the south, utilizing Red Deer resources.
- Implement a review process ensuring that the Billy Moore Home meets the NWT community standards, and dry run a standards review process.
- In consultation with Band Councils and local Elders, identify appropriate cultural opportunities and facilitate consumer participation.

Parkland International

Phillip Stephan, Executive Director

In October 1999, Parkland's Board of Directors established a strategic goal - "To become a recognized NGO with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), with the goal of advancing the status of disabled children and adults in developing countries".

In October 2004, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) convened a Pan-American conference in Montreal to establish a universal declaration on intellectual disability including human rights, freedom, standards of support, and community inclusion.

Through the Montreal Declaration, international organizations and others were called upon - *“to collaborate with States, persons with disabilities, family members, and NGOs to dedicate resources and technical assistance to ... support the full participation in society of persons with intellectual disabilities and integrated models of community services”*.

Parkland CLASS has advanced its strategic goal and supported the Montreal Declaration through three separate avenues of international activities which include the ITINERIS Project, the Parkland Argentina Self-advocacy Initiative, and through formal international conference presentations. This is a cumulative report of Parkland’s activities.

The ITINERIS Project

The ITINERIS project operates as a unique partnership involving Parkland CLASS and the ITINERIS Foundation of Argentina. Since 2001 The ITINERIS project has supported the advancement of disability rights in Latin America.

This has been accomplished through the development and delivery of a unique family and frontline staff education program. This 10 month course challenges and replaces negative beliefs and values that limit community inclusion.

The participant groups targeted by the ITINERIS Project’s education program include parent and sibling groups, service providers, and frontline staff who support disabled children and adults.

Parkland Argentina Self -advocacy Initiatives

Five self-advocacy initiatives are being developed and undertaken in partnership with four of Argentina’s most significant organizations – Fundacion ITINERIS, Asociacion AMAR, Asociacion Mutual Israelita Argentina, and Cottolengo Don Orione.

The desired results of the self-advocacy initiatives are to empower individuals in self-determination and optimizing their personal control and direction over their lives.

Self-advocacy is preparatory to increasing community capacity such that disabled individuals will move from a marginalized economic and social status to become valued participants within their own communities.

Accomplishments & Outcomes:

- Delivered the 10 month ITINERIS education course to 3 existing parent organizations in Buenos Aires.
- Supported the creation of 2 additional Buenos Aires parent groups, and delivered the 10 month program.
- With CIDA funds, taught the course to 3 parent groups and 6 institutions in Santa Fe and Rossairo provinces.
- Taught the ITINERIS education program in a total of 18 service provider organizations with over 3000 front line staff.
- Supported the Moron - Sun Flower parent organization in its disability rights education program that is taught to university students.

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- Increased Parkland’s Argentina partnership base to include four national organizations as primary partners and four regional organizations as secondary partners.

Program Goals for 2006:

- Introduce and commence four self-advocacy initiatives in Argentina utilizing the agency’s four primary partners.
- Support the international vision of CAACL, and assist them to advance the disability agenda with CIDA.
- Become directly involved with the Inclusion International organization and expand Parkland’s contacts with other developing nations.
- Investigate the potential of several Bolivian joint ventures with Judith LeBlanc from Peru’s Ann Sullivan Foundation.
- Investigate the potential of a future partnership and Kenyan joint venture with Dr. Robert Schalock and the Cottolingo Don Orione.

Conference Presentations

As a result of its involvement in international development, Parkland CLASS has been invited to present at a number of conferences in North America and abroad.

Parkland’s rationale in participating in international conferences is two-fold. Firstly, it provides an opportunity to share the fundamental values and beliefs

that are critical to both community inclusion and the advancement of the status of disabled children and adults.

Secondly, it provides an opportunity to identify future international partners while at the same time encouraging other North American service providers to become involved internationally in support of the Montreal Declaration.

The following represents Parkland’s key international conference addresses:

- “Service Delivery in a Cross Cultural Context” at the AAMR (American Association on Mental Retardation) International Conference, Orlando Florida.
- “Advancing the Status of disabled children and adults in Latin America through International partnerships” at the YAI International Conference, New York, New York.
- “The Self-advocate Journey” at the AMIA (Asociacion Mutual Israelita Argentina) International Congress, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- “International Cooperation and Partnerships - Advancing the Status of Intellectually Disabled Children and Adults, at AMAR’s Ibero-American international Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

AUGUST 31st, 2005 – AUDITOR'S REPORT



COLLINS BARROW RED DEER LLP
300, 5010 - 43 Street
Red Deer, Alberta, Canada
T4N 6H2

T. 403.342.5541
F. 403.347.3766
email: redder@collinsbarrow.com

AUDITORS' REPORT

To Parkland Community Living and Supports Society

We have audited the statement of financial position of Parkland Community Living and Supports Society as at August 31, 2005 and the statements of operations and changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Society's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at August 31, 2005 and the results of its operations and changes in cash position for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Collins Barrow Red Deer LLP

Red Deer, Alberta
October 31, 2005

Chartered Accountants

