

DISABILITY NEWS NEWSLETTER

P4P Webinar: Planning Beyond Graduation. A brand new 3-part series!

Helping students with disabilities move into the next phase of life. A brand new three-part series designed to inform, guide and inspire families and educators as they help students transition from high school into adulthood. All parents want the best for their kids. For families seeking the best possible future for a child with a disability, planning ahead is everything.

Reality Check

Part 1: Tuesday May 31 at 7pm

Getting Involved and Staying Connected

Part 2: Tuesday June 7 at 7pm

Raising the Bar on Employment

Part 3: Tuesday June 14 at 7pm

[Partners for Planning - PLANNING BEYOND GRADUATION ~ New 3-Part Series!](http://www.planningnetwork.ca/Events/23139/PLANNING-BEYOND-GRADUATION-New-3-Part-Series) <http://www.planningnetwork.ca/Events/23139/PLANNING-BEYOND-GRADUATION-New-3-Part-Series>

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Community Involvement Survey for Parents of Youth 11 to 23 with Intellectual Disabilities:

Special Olympics

Survey https://yorkuppsych.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe3/form/SV_eOJ7C01j9rGszaZ?Q_DL=6W544EHXsOLyeO1_eOJ7C01j9rGszaZ_MLRP_2iy4kkwxR9wVCsZ&Q_CHL=email

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Down Syndrome Association of Toronto

New & Expecting Parent Coffee Night

When: Thursday, July 7

From 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Where: Trinity St. Paul's Church

Address: 427 Bloor Street West, Toronto, ON M5S 1X7

<http://www.trinitystpauls.ca/>

View Map: <https://goo.gl/VlfaVn>

Cost: Free **SPREAD THE WORD!**

This is an informal gathering for parents to meet other new and expectant parents - as well as trained parent mentors who have children 2 years of age or older with Down syndrome. Light snacks and coffee and tea will be served and babies under 1 year of age are welcome to attend

with their parent(s) but please note that sibling care will not be provided at this time. We look forward to welcoming you and your child to our community.

For more information or to RSVP please click on the link below.

<https://goo.gl/JyRRts>

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Toronto Summer Institute 2016

Greetings!

Remarkably - it is May... and the Summer Institute is coming fast - July 9-14.

There are still a few spaces... and we'd love to welcome you, but the time is now. If you are coming from 'away' - you will likely need a passport. If you come, you will need to register - and get a room. Unfortunately, our 'traditional' Pitman Hall is under construction - so we have booked as many rooms as we can at the ILLC (Ryerson U). But the city is booked so it may be a bit of a dance. We'll make it work - but sooner will be MUCH better. Please contact Cathy Hollands (cathy@inclusion.com) if you are having any difficulty in reserving accommodation.

Our cast is global and as ever, it will be a learning excursion. Our Theme this year is **Truth and Reconciliation** so count on learning a little about the complex hidden history of indigenous peoples in Canada - and the striking and frightening parallels to the circumstances of people with disabilities.

Think about it. It would be great to see you in Toronto in July.

Jack & Lynda & Cathy

If you haven't seen the video's from last year.. the links are embedded below. Also - you can click to begin the registration process.

Watch TWO remarkable VIDEOS from TSI2015

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghH16cdjaPM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEXcayFAn60>

Location:

Ryerson University
Oakham Conference Center, Ryerson University
Tecumseh Auditorium, 63 Gould Street
Toronto, Ontario M5B 1F9

Canada

[Click Here for More Information Toronto Summer Institute 2016 | Summary | powered by RegOnline](#)

This year Ryerson University's Pitman Hall is under renovation in the summer of 2016, so you will find the on campus Accommodations for 2016 will be at the Ryerson University International Living Learning Centre (ILLC) in the heart of downtown Toronto.

For more information about the ILLC accommodations, attached please find the Booking Reservation Form.

[Inclusion2016ReservationForm.pdf](#)

very best regards,
Cathy, Lynda and Jack

cathy@inclusion.com

(T) 416-658-5363

(F) 416-658-5067

[TSI2016.pdf](#)

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Webinar: Anxiety, Play, and ABA (Applied Behaviour Analysis) with Leslie Cohen

Although anxiety can be a lifelong challenge for many people with autism, there are a number of effective behavioural supports that can really help. These supports can help children and adults learn to manage their anxiety more successfully as they engage with peers, family, school, and community.

This webinar is designed for parents, school staff, therapists, SLPs and OTs who want to learn more about behavioural techniques, both for reducing and managing anxiety experienced by people with ASD of all ages and for supporting successful, satisfying play for children.

When: ONLINE - Friday, June 24th, 2016 from 12:00pm – 1:00pm

Registration required. <https://app.box.com/s/kqohkgynlrqxi5okixidl4mfkyptd3de>

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Workshop: Anxiety & ABA with Leslie Cohen

This workshop is designed for caregivers, parents, teachers, therapists, SLPs and OTs who want to learn more ABA therapy and about behavioural techniques for reducing and managing anxiety.

Topics Include:

- ABA Therapy
- Recognizing anxiety
- Sources of anxiety
- Looking at the environment
- Working with social anxiety
- Predicting the future with activity schedules
- Early and continuous exposure
- A regulating day
- Reducing anxiety on play dates and small groups
- Using reinforcement in anxiety reducing procedures
- Shaping alternative, regulating behaviours

A light lunch will be provided. Pre-registration is required. This event is intended for adults only. Childcare will not be provided.

When: Saturday, 25 June 2016 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

<http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/autism-ontario-anxiety-aba-workshop-with-leslie-cohen-mississauga-registration-25477905100>

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[MCSS announces \\$2.13 million for six innovative housing projects](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VNRB0f0FTA)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VNRB0f0FTA>

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Have a DRAMAWAY summer!

Please be reminded that summer camp registration, and 2016-2017 full year programming registration is now open! We have four camp options throughout summer.

1. Tuesday evening camp at our downtown location (Birch Community Living building near Summerhill subway 1 block west of Yonge)
2. Wednesday evening in Scarborough
3. Thursday evening at our downtown location
4. ActingWorks Day camp in the west end

Please visit the summer camp section of our website to learn more, and to enrol today:

[com/dramaway/programs/multiarts-enrichment-camp](http://dramaway.com/dramaway/programs/multiarts-enrichment-camp)

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Have a DRAMAWAY YEAR !

Full year programming for 2016-2017 is also now open! You can register online (or on the day of the annual shows, June 11th, in the front lobby of the PaperMill Theatre at 67 Pottery Road):

<http://dramaway.com/dramaway/registration/register-online>

Thank you all!

416-614-1078

www.dramaway.com

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<http://www.cbc.ca/news/health/zika-virus-explained-1.342266>

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Toronto Waterfront Marathon – Still Time to Register!

Spring is finally here! Time to get those runners on and get outside! Need some inspiration and coaching? For the fourth year, **Autism Ontario will be participating in the Toronto Scotiabank Waterfront Marathon and Charity Challenge on Sunday October 16, 2016.** This event provides a way to join fellow walkers and runners from the community raise awareness of Autism Ontario, while at the same time raising funds for your Chapter!

This year the Toronto Chapter will form a team!

[Registration](#) is now open at - scroll down the list to find Autism Ontario. Once registered, you can also set up your own fundraising page. Liz Phipps, Fund Development Coordinator, can answer any questions you may have about the logistics of registering, liz@autismontario.com.

Youth Training Group - Still Time to Register!

BlackToe Running (<http://blacktoerunning.com/>) an urban running specialty store in King West village since 2013, have graciously offered to pair up runners. Mike Anderson, owner and father, is really enthusiastic about this opportunity to encourage running and the benefits of physical activity and companionship.

Who is eligible? What is the format?

- Anyone between the ages of 12-21 who has a diagnosis of ASD
- Training will start in May (after the Victoria Day weekend) through October, once a week
- Location and time will be coordinated with the participant and the runner
- The participant must also register in the Charity Challenge as part of the Toronto team and raise funds for the Toronto Chapter
- There is no charge and this is voluntary; insurance is covered by BlackToe Running

If you are interested in being part of this unique training opportunity, please send an email with the following information to Monica Richardson, monicarichardson@rogers.com.

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Summer Creative Arts Program for Adults

L'Arche Toronto Sol Express is offering a summer day program for adults with intellectual disabilities. Creative expression, visual arts, movement, music.

When: July 4 - 21 and August 2 - 25, Monday - Thursday, 10am - 3pm.

Where: The Gathering Place, 186 Floyd Ave.

Costs: Cost: \$PLEASE CONTACT THE ORGANIZATION FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://app.box.com/s/vw8zthuz8cipffi681l2wfn7w8y90gh4>

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Social Skills and Self-Regulation Summer Camp

A play and learning based camp with teaching goals around social skills, self-regulation, and sensory-motor processing for children.

Camp programming is based on the well-established Social Thinking® curriculum and the renowned Zones of Regulation® program; led by a Speech-Language Pathologist and an Occupational Therapist. Sessions will include role-playing, movement-based activities, use of videos, kids yoga, arts & crafts, and games.

Session #1: Monday, July 11th – Friday, July 15th (Ages 5-6)

Session #2: Monday, July 18th– Friday, July 22nd (Ages 7-8)

Session #3: Monday, July 25th– Friday, July 29th (Ages 9-11)

Times: 9:00 – 11:00 am

Cost: \$PLEASE CONTACT THE ORGANIZATION FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://app.box.com/s/pu83fw1nmzkyjr9w9tfjviru4vdlmb9g>

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by [Caris Adel](#) (from one of my Christian websites)

Raising “social justice warriors”

I see that phrase a lot, the quotations implying we aren't legitimate, aren't to be taken seriously.

I saw that again this week and thought, that's right, I am a Social Justice Warrior, and look out world, because I am raising my kids to be warriors as well. I mean, aren't there some things worth fighting against and fighting for?

So, here is a list of things that I want for my little Social Justice Warriors:

Understand the systems that oppress people.

Know the role the world will give you based on your race and class. Find joy in subverting it.

Be warriors with – not for – other people.

Know that racism, sexism, and classism are the status quo and will not disappear unless people fight to dismantle them.

Understand the power and legacy that people and institutions have. See how it affects people.

Question everything and everyone.

Be filled with an avid curiosity at how the world can be so beautiful and so tragic.

Love all people. Be intolerant of the systems that keep them oppressed.

Have an appreciation and respect for different cultures. Learn the difference between appreciation and appropriation.

Learn the beautiful history of those who have fought for freedom and justice. Be empowered to do the work.

Learn the history of colonization. Decolonize your mind.

Know and trust your voice, knowing that, ‘the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing’. Say and do something.

Fight against systemic injustices, against the powers that conspire against people without power and wealth and whiteness.

Be warriors for acceptance and solidarity.

Don’t be afraid to be known by your empathy and willingness to have bleeding hearts.

Never be satisfied with the status quo.

See the rainbow of skin tones.

Create the world that everyone deserves.

Don’t settle for equality. Work for equity.

Love fully and completely, knowing the world will try to kill your humanity.

Refuse to let it.

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[Public school is place for autistic kids | Toronto Star
https://www.thestar.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editors/2016/04/14/public-school-is-place-for-autistic-kids.html](https://www.thestar.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editors/2016/04/14/public-school-is-place-for-autistic-kids.html)

[Youth with special needs demand a say in decisions affecting their lives | Toronto Star
https://www.thestar.com/news/queenspark/2016/05/10/youth-with-special-needs-demand-a-say-in-decisions-affecting-their-lives.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/queenspark/2016/05/10/youth-with-special-needs-demand-a-say-in-decisions-affecting-their-lives.html)

[How new technology can transform the world for people with disabilities | Toronto Star
https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2016/05/06/how-new-technology-can-transform-the-world-for-people-with-disabilities.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2016/05/06/how-new-technology-can-transform-the-world-for-people-with-disabilities.html)

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[Brockville resident pens book to help others
A tireless disability advocate can now add author to a long list of accomplishments.](#)

[**Gordon Ferguson** has spent the past year and a half writing, *Never Going Back, The Gordon Ferguson Story: Lessons from a Life of Courage, Strength and Love.*](#)

[The book details the struggles he had to endure as a resident of **Rideau Regional Centre** in Smiths Falls. Ferguson lived at the former institution for 16 years, beginning in 1958 when he was 10-years-old.](#)

[“The reason why I wrote this book was because I wanted people to find out about what happened to me a long time ago.”](#)

[It details how Ferguson ran away 13 times and how he finally left Rideau for good in 1974 - that’s really when he began to live a rich life in Brockville. He found employment, obtained a driver’s license, developed many friendship and would go on to marry his wife, **Donna.**](#)

[The importance of home has tremendous significance for Ferguson. He and Donna lived with his mother, **Audrey.** To him, having a home represents safety, having control, and having the choice to do what one chooses. A home also can’t be made into an institution.](#)

Following his mother's passing in 2011, there was a two-year struggle to have the ownership of the home transferred to Ferguson. There was also a push to have him admitted to a different type of institution – a nursing home. In the end, he was successful in obtaining ownership of the family home and that's where he and Donna continue to live today.

Never Going Back also covers Ferguson's passion for advocacy, which he attributes to his mentor **Pat Worth**. He also helped to establish the **People First chapter in Brockville**.

Over the span of three decades, Ferguson learned about the many issues affecting people who have a disability. He was also called for the closure of Ontario's institutions and was critical of selective abortions, euthanasia, and the sterilization of women who have a disability against their will.

Never Going Back sells for \$20 and is available by contacting the Brockville and District Association for Community Involvement.

Ron Laroche, Community Living Ontario

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[Dear stranger who disciplined my kiddo at the playground](#)

<http://babysideburns.com/2016/05/playground-dicipline/>

AMEN!

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The Michael J. Fox Foundation (MJFF) announced funding for two projects leveraging the promise of engineered stem cells to speed new therapies and deeper understanding of Parkinsons disease.

Advances in technology are allowing scientists to engineer dopamine neurons, which degenerate and die in Parkinsons disease, from skin and blood cells. Researchers are attempting to use these neurons to replace what is lost in Parkinsons and restore motor function. In addition, the cells can serve as research tools for exploration into the disease process and impact of therapeutic intervention.

The complexity and mystery of brain diseases make them incredibly difficult to understand and to treat. Stem cell technologies may offer a more sophisticated dopamine replacement approach and provide the opportunity to study the influence of disease and of interventions on these vulnerable cells.

Watch a webinar on how researchers are using stem cells to develop new treatments and to learn more about Parkinson's disease. <https://www.michaeljfox.org/understanding-parkinsons/webinar-registration.php?id=4&e=1123890&k=E4C4CED54807C916F3514F777142262F>

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Champagne is not only delicious. It turns out that it can also have positive effects on memory.

New research is showing that the bubbly drink contains phenols that counteract age-related memory problems, such as dementia.

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FYI - In a [May 26th interview with CBC's Metro Morning](#), TDSB Trustee Gerri Gerson stated that, "We don't know exactly why the drop has occurred... Our projections are usually quite accurate and we do feel that there's some factor having to do with the sexual health curriculum." This coverage of the issue follows on the heels of the [article in the Globe and Mail](#) we told you about last week. And [National Post columnist Chris Selley had his own take](#) on the parent victory at Thorncliffe Park PS, writing that Education Minister Liz Sandals calling the new s/x-ed curriculum essential or necessary was a "bluff"-and parent protests called that bluff!