



FACT SHEET

... on Institutions

Common Statement	In Fact
<p>The people left in those institutions are really very handicapped. They <u>need</u> to live in there. They couldn't live anywhere else.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People do not need to “pass a test” to live in the community. If people do not live in the community, it means we have taken away that right. • Living in the community is not linked to type or extent of disability of the person, it is linked to the ability and willingness of our society to provide the necessary supports and services that make life in the community both possible and practical. • Living in the community is not about fixing a person. It is about finding and providing the necessary supports and services. • We all need support to live in the community, it is a matter of different supports for different people. • There are no supports or services currently provided in institutions that cannot be duplicated (and enhanced) in the community. • Throughout this country, persons with significant disabilities and labels (of all extents and types) and about whom many said could never live in the community, have been successfully supported to leave institutions and are now living in the community. This is possible for all. • Believing that people cannot live in the community because of the presence of a significant disability reflects our inadequacies, not those of the person.
<p>What's so bad about institutions? People are well cared for in there.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When living in an institution, you are no longer seen as Joe or Jane, you become a number. You have no control over when you get up, when you eat, your daily activities, when you go to bed or doing anything that everyone else in the community does. • You have to live by rules and regulations which you had no part of developing. Yes, there are rules in the community but they are flexible. • You aren't encouraged to think of yourself. • There is no love, feelings or emotions, in fact these are discouraged. • You have no privacy. (i.e. group showers) • You are not encouraged to read the newspaper. In some cases, they don't allow newspapers saying that when the people who live there read the news, they will cause waves. • Abuse runs out of touch with the latest stats poll because people in there are not seen as people but rather as vegetables or worse. • Sexual abuse runs higher than stats would have you believe and it's more likely that 16 out of 20 sexual abuse incidents go unreported. • Abuse can be defined in many ways. There is verbal, sexual, physical, emotional, medical - and then there is intimidation.

Using degree or extent of disability as an excuse to keep people trapped in institutions is denying the reality of Canadian Society. Not only is it possible for people so labeled to live in the community, THEY ALREADY ARE!