



Summer, 2010

Notes & News



Inside:

- **A Home of My Own: Sharon's Story**
- **Bulletin Board**
- **Is Manitoba Barrier-Free?**

UN Enable: More about the Convention

In March 2010, Canada and many other members of the United Nations ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It contains a Preamble, eight Guiding Principles, and fifty Articles.

Guiding Principles of the Convention

There are eight guiding principles that underlie the Convention and each one of its specific articles:

- a. Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons
- b. Non-discrimination
- c. Full and effective participation and inclusion in society
- d. Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity
- e. Equality of opportunity
- f. Accessibility
- g. Equality between men and women
- h. Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities

Monitoring of the Implementation of the Convention

Article 33 explains that States must set up national focal points governments in order to monitor implementation of the Convention's precepts. States must also set up some sort of independent monitoring mechanisms - which usually takes the form of an independent national human rights institution. The full participation of civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations is essential in the national monitoring and implementation process. International monitoring is achieved via the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Conference of States Parties.

For more information go to UN Enable by following these links:

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?navid=17&pid=157>

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml>

A Home of My Own Sharon's Story



When I was living at home with my parents, I had dreams. I wanted to move into my own place, get a cat, and learn to drive. The first person to get me started was Kristen. She introduced me to Julie. Julie and I started to do things together, and came to be friends.

Next we started looking at apartments. We looked at one apartment that had a nice big living room, but the balcony was really cramped and crowded. Then we looked at another one, and we liked it. The best thing about it? It has a pool! I like that. Kristen took us shopping for furniture. That was fun! Then we did our first grocery shopping. That, and making our first meal, is my favourite memory about moving into our apartment. Oh, yeah, forgot to mention—Julie and I became roommates. Roommates and friends.

Living together, we had our share of excitement. We still had dreams of having our own places. Then Julie found a one-bedroom apartment to move into. She likes it there. It's a nice apartment too. It faces the street. I wish my apartment faced the street! But I have a pool, and I like that. I have something else now, too. I have Tinkerbelle, my cat. She's fierce and feisty, but I love her. So now I have my own apartment, and a cat.

I like it here in my apartment with Tinkerbelle. Julie and I are still good friends. We see each other often, going for walks and slurpees. We have movie nights every Friday. Two of my dreams have come true.



REGISTERED DISABILITY SAVINGS PLAN (RDSP)

The Government of Canada introduced an investment opportunity in December 2008 making it possible for persons with disabilities who are eligible for the Disability Tax Credit to participate with additional government financial support.

If you are a person with a disability, a parent of a child with a disability, or support someone who has a disability this may be valuable information in planning for the future

We invite you to come and learn more on how you can benefit by investing in a RDSP

We will be holding upcoming sessions in:

*Winnipeg Dauphin The Pas
Roblin Brandon*

To register for one of these sessions, or to make arrangements for a session to be held in a different location, please contact:

*Alison Duffy @
Ph. 786-1607
or email
aduffy@aclmb.ca*



Families who support children and/or adults with any diagnosed disabilities in South-Eastern Manitoba are invited to join a **Family Support Group** which meets the last Monday of every month at 7 pm in the Tea House in Oakridge Greenhouse and Garden Centre, 1 mile west of Steinbach on PTH 52.

**For more information, contact
Irene Maendel at 371-9721.**

partnersanew@gmail.com



Is Manitoba Barrier-Free?

Every day, 170,000 Manitobans with disabilities face barriers that prevent their full participation in activities most others take for granted. These barriers are in fundamental conflict with the basic rights of persons with disabilities established in the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and in federal and provincial human rights codes.

Can We Afford Not to Make Manitoba Fully Accessible?

A new Canadian study, just released by the University of Toronto-based Martin Prosperity Institute, has concluded that "releasing the constraints that limit full participation in the economy will create a significant force for economic growth." And its findings are clear:

COMMUNITY LIVING MANITOBA

#6 – 120 Maryland Street
Winnipeg, MB
R3G 1L1

Phone:
204-786-1607

Fax:
204-789-9850

Email:
aclmb@mts.net

Website:
www.aclmb.ca

"the demand for accessible goods, services, buildings and employment is not just large but growing, and will overtake the demand for their conventional counterparts. Of further importance is our finding that the impact of increased employment accessibility for Ontarians with disabilities will increase the average incomes of all Ontarians."

It has become obvious that ensuring accessibility in our province is both the right and the reasonable thing to do. This study now provides clear evidence that ensuring accessibility also makes excellent 'business sense.'

Can we afford not to make Manitoba fully accessible?

More Evidence to Build on the Ontario Experience

As part its activities to mark National Access Awareness Week and the fifth anniversary of its groundbreaking accessibility-rights legislation, the Province of Ontario released the long-awaited final report of the Charles Beer Independent Review on the implementation of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

To read more, to find links to reports, or to add your name in order to "endorse the call for strong legislation", go to <http://www.barrierfreemb.com/home>

We always welcome your feedback.
Our phone # is 786-1607. Email address: aclmb@mts.net