

Plain Language Summary of *Re-Imagining Community Inclusion*

What is *Re-Imagining Community Inclusion*?

Re-Imagining Community Inclusion is a project started in May 2018 by the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. The Minister works for the government to give people in British Columbia the support and services they need or want to live a good life.

Every person with an intellectual or developmental disability has the same rights as all Canadian citizens. This project started on the basis that all people with intellectual or developmental disabilities should have the same opportunity as everyone else to live a good life that they choose for themselves.

The goal of Re-Imagining Community Inclusion was to answer three questions:

1. What should services and supports for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities be like in 10 years?
2. How can we get there and what is our plan to get there?
3. How do we work together?

Who was part of *Re-Imagining Community Inclusion* and how did it work?

Partnership Table – A group of over 50 people were asked to answer these three questions with the help of a *facilitator*. The *facilitator* is the person who works together with the Partnership Table to make sure everyone's voices are heard.

This group was called the Partnership Table and included:

- People who have a developmental or intellectual disability.
- Family members

- People from organizations that give support or service to people with disabilities.
- Indigenous organizations
- Advocacy organizations
- People from government

The members of this group met every month from October 2018 to March 2019. Members from the Partnership Table also met in small groups and talked about Housing, Community Engagement, [Truth and Reconciliation](#), Healthcare, Self-Advocacy, Family Leadership, and more.

Community Meetings - The *facilitator* also had meetings with people from the community to ask about the same three questions. By doing this, different thoughts, opinions, and voices were heard. The meetings took place in Vernon, Nanaimo, Surrey, Fort St. John, Smithers, Prince George, Castlegar, Burnaby, and Victoria.

The *facilitator* took everyone's ideas and thoughts and the Partnership Table created a [report](#) about what they heard. The [report](#) includes the next steps that the Community Living Sector will take to create full community inclusion for people with disabilities. The Community Living Sector is the system of organizations that give supports and services to people with disabilities.

This paper is a summary of that [report](#).

What was important to remember during the *Re-Imagining Community Inclusion* journey?

Our History: It's always important to remember our past when making a plan for the future. Here are some important dates:

- Until the 1980s - people with disabilities were often put in institutions where they had no rights, no choice about where they lived or who they lived with, and were mostly told what to do.

- 1950s - families began to speak out about changes they wanted to see for their loved ones.
- 1970's to now - Self-advocacy, people with disabilities are speaking up for their rights and making choices and decisions that are important in their lives.
- By 1981, the BC government worked towards closing institutions.
- 1996 - the last people with disabilities in British Columbia moved out of institutions.
- 2001 - organizations that give support and services, families, individuals, and government partners spoke up as there was a need for change and more options. This led to the idea to create [Community Living BC](#).
- 2004 - the creation of [Community Living BC](#) – the part of the government responsible for connecting adults with developmental disabilities and their families to services and information in their community.

[Community Living BC](#) is not the only part of the government responsible for supporting people with disabilities and their families. The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, and others all have roles to play.

Build on Successes:

The Partnership Table agreed that it was important to build on the good work already happening, like:

- Supported decision-making with Representation Agreements.
- Better financial security through the Registered Disability Savings Plan.
- BC Self-Advocacy Movement.
- More real work for real pay.
- A [Poverty Reduction Plan](#) to lower poverty and homelessness in BC.

- Inclusive Post Secondary Education.
- Services To Adults with Development Disabilities (STADD).
- The new CLBC Welcome Workshops and planning to help with changes in their lives.
- The Inclusive Housing Plan of Community Living BC and Inclusion BC.
- A focus on people with many different needs.
- More use of trauma informed practices. It means that more organizations are understanding of what trauma does to a person. They give services and supports that are understanding, healing, and sensitive to people who went through trauma.

What did people talk about that was NOT part of the ***Re-Imagining Community Inclusion*** project?

People who went to the community meetings talked about some concerns and challenges that are part of other government work or just too big for the Re-imagining Community Inclusion project. Some of these challenges and concerns were:

- Getting more help and health supports to people with disabilities through the program called PWD (Persons with Disabilities Assistance).
- Getting more money to families who are the main support of their loved ones with disabilities.
- Getting more money for inclusive housing that is fairly priced.
- Getting more home care, mental health, and addictions treatment.
- Getting more transportation options.
- Making it so that more people with different abilities can get support from CLBC.

What came out of the *Re-Imagining Community Inclusion* journey?

The Partnership Table took everything learned from each other and from the people who were in the community meetings and came up with:

- ❖ **A Vision for 2028** – *People with disabilities thrive fully and equally with everyone.* A vision is what we want to see in the future. What we want to see in the future is people with disabilities living life to their fullest as equals.

- ❖ **Inclusion is the most important thing** we keep in mind during this journey. Inclusion supports the rights of people with disabilities. Inclusion means:
 - We respect the history, traditions, and culture of Indigenous peoples.
 - People with disabilities and families take part in the creation of policies, practices, and services that involve them or that they use.
 - Individual well-being, the opportunity to have friendships, and to give back to the community.
 - People with disabilities and their families can choose the help they need to live a good life, and that there are enough of the services they need.
 - Communities welcome and value people with disabilities.

- ❖ **The Plan to reach the vision** - The Plan shows what people believe should happen over the next 10 years so our vision succeeds.

The Partnership Table and the people in community meetings also talked about **what success would look** like. They said success means that people with disabilities:

- Enjoy living in welcoming communities, including those that are far from the city centre, with meaningful friendships, relationships, and living life to its fullest;
- Are as [self-determined](#) and independent as they need and wish;

- Have opportunities to learn, grow, get healthcare, work, meet [spiritual needs](#), and be part of the social, cultural, and spiritual life of the community;
- Make enough money so they can live comfortably, including being able to choose where to live, having the right kind of support for their families and caregivers;
- Can choose flexible services and supports they want or need and are able to use it when they need it; and
- Indigenous people and communities will have a say in the services and supports they need, and these services are provided in a way that is respectful to their culture.

The *Re-Imagining Community Inclusion* ‘Plan’:

The Plan includes 5 key destinations (where we want to get to), milestones (signs that we’re getting closer), and steps needed to get there.

The 5 Key Destinations are:

1. **Services are person-centred and focus on the support needs, choices, dreams, and goals of people with disabilities and their families.**
2. **People with disabilities have every opportunity to live a full and meaningful life.**
3. **Communities are welcoming, accessible, and inclusive.**
4. **Services for Indigenous peoples are [self-defined](#) and [self-determined](#).**
5. **The Community Living Sector has a strong interest and ability to research new ways of doing things so supports and services are always getting better.**

Destination #1 - Services are person-centred and focus on the support needs, choices, dreams, and goals of people with disabilities and their families.

This destination is about assisting people with disabilities to easily get flexible supports and services. Along with this, ongoing person-centred planning *with* people with disabilities and families.

Milestone 1.1 - Better services for individuals.

Steps to get there:

- a) Make easy ways to receive supports in a way that feels respectful.
- b) Build on person-centred planning and services to make it better.
- c) Strengthen supportive relationships with people other than those who are paid to be in your life.
- d) Create flexible housing options.

Milestone 1.2 - Better supports for families as caregivers.

Steps to get there:

- a) Getting rid of things that make it difficult for people to get services and supports.
- b) Give resources and help make it easier to get services and supports.

Milestone 1.3 - Better ways of working together with different government groups to support a person throughout their whole life.

Step to get there:

- a) Build ways to work together and find ways to overcome the challenges we've had for a long time.

Destination #2: People with disabilities have every opportunity to live a full and meaningful life.

This destination is about people with disabilities having the right to the same opportunities in life as everyone else, like getting more education or finding employment. It's about how the school system can help people with disabilities get ready for their adult life.

Milestone 2.1 - People with disabilities are ready for an inclusive adult life.

Steps to get there:

- a) Teach students about disability, self-advocacy, and inclusion from Kindergarten to Grade 12.
- b) Build the skills of schools to include and support students with disabilities in fully inclusive classrooms from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

Milestone 2.2 - People with disabilities have more and better opportunities for employment.

Steps to get there:

- a) Keep teaching people about what is great about employment.
- b) Make it easier to get to employment services.
- c) Get people ready for the workforce.

Milestone 2.3 - People with disabilities have equal opportunities for post-secondary education and life-long learning.

Destination #3: Communities are welcoming, accessible, and inclusive.

This destination is about how supports and services for people with disabilities can help with important things like connecting and giving back to the community; having friends and other relationships in your life.

Milestone 3.1 - Supports and services know the importance of building lasting relationships and community connections in a person's life.

Steps to get there:

- a) Better support for meaningful connections with friends and community.
- b) Better support for intimate and romantic relationships.
- c) Know the importance of relationships when getting and giving services.
- d) Be there for people who don't have supportive relationships and connect them with people who are not paid to be in their lives.

Milestone 3.2 - The needs of people with disabilities are seen and are a part of greater government plans, projects, and policies.

Steps to get there:

- a) Encourage BC Transit and other transit organizations to think of transit options.
- b) Make it easier to get health services.
- c) Make it easier to get mental health services.
- d) Find, join, and help with projects that work on building welcoming and inclusive communities.
- e) Support work and conversations about community inclusion.

Milestone 3.3 - People with disabilities fully use and enjoy their rights and citizenship.

When people use their rights, they understand *what rights are* and know *what their rights are*. They speak up for themselves and have help to speak up. They can change their mind and have the right to say no. Most importantly, people are listened to.

Steps to get there:

- a) Support self-advocacy.
- b) Bring more awareness and knowledge of services by different communities and accessing these services.
- c) Support being treated fairly in the justice system.

Destination #4: Services for Indigenous peoples are self-defined and self-determined.

This destination is about acknowledging and recognizing that Indigenous people need services and supports that are respectful towards their culture.

It's important to work with Indigenous people and communities to make the service systems on and off **reserve** better. **Reserves** are land that many Indigenous people live on.

Milestone 4.1 - Services for Indigenous peoples are judged from an Indigenous point of view.

Milestone 4.2 - Services that are respectful to their culture are there for Indigenous peoples.

Milestone 4.3 - Non-Indigenous services are more culturally thoughtful and fitting when used by Indigenous peoples.

Milestone 4.4 - Become better at working together to make a plan.

Destination #5: The Community Living Sector has a strong interest and ability to research new ways of doing things so supports and services are always getting better.

This destination is about looking for and trying out new ways of doing things. It's about making good decisions about services and supports that are there for people with disabilities. To do that we need to keep learning about what works well and what doesn't.

Milestone 5.1 - There are more opportunities for research and to figure out what works and what doesn't.

Milestone 5.2 - The people and organizations involved in community living are better able to try new things, change what doesn't work, and keep doing what works.

What happens next with the *Re-Imagining Community Inclusion* project?

This Re-imagining Community Inclusion [report](#) is the first step towards change. Government and the Community Living Sector will need to come up with a plan on how to do this work including who is involved in the next steps and how they are involved.

The Partnership Table believes the work that comes next should include people with disabilities, families, organizations that give service and supports, and government people. It is important that people with disabilities have meaningful roles and are equals in what happens next.

Words [Underlined and in Blue](#) are in the Glossary

Glossary:

Truth and Reconciliation

- The past actions of the Canadian government hurt the Indigenous people greatly.
- Right now, the government acknowledges how unfairly Indigenous people were treated and are working towards creating healthy new relationships that are respectful.
- This relationship can only be built through truth and making the wrongs right. The government is trying to support the healing in many ways.

Self-defined

- It means that YOU are the one defining it.
- YOU describe it.
- YOU give meaning to it – what something means to YOU.
- Self-definition is being able to know who you are and what your purpose is in life.
- Other people do not “define” or describe who you are or what something means to you.

Self-determined

- If you have self-determination, this means you are in charge of your own life as much as possible.
- You are living the way you want to live.
- You are in control of your life.
- If you do not have self-determination, then other people are in charge of you and decide how you will live your life or tell you how to live your life.

Spiritual needs

- Spiritual means something that involves your spirit or soul.
- It's something that brings you peace and hope.
- Spirituality means different things to different people. It might be your religion, faith, culture, or beliefs. It might mean your connection to nature, the earth, sun, stars, or seas.