

ILRCC

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Annual Report

Independent Living Resource Centre of Calgary



Chairperson's Message

I am honoured and privileged to have served as your Chair and very proud to be a member of an organization that is committed to the success of supporting people with disabilities and focused on making a positive difference in Calgary.

The ILRCC has a unique mission: To provide referrals, training and programs to persons with disabilities in Alberta to assist them in achieving their own level of independence. We continue to be focused and committed to deliver better and more effective programs for all people with disabilities; we have focused a great deal of energy on sustainability. Just like all volunteer organizations throughout Canada, ILRCC is challenged with having to develop new methods of funding and operating in a business organizational structure.

Our Milestones for 2015 - 2016

Our focus was on the development of new partnerships and fundraising activities. We have made connections and developed a fundraising partnership with Go Lawn and Snow. Our presence at Ranchman's during the Calgary Stampede as well as working at the Shaw Classic means that more people know about the ILRCC, the tremendous work that is done and the programs and support that we provide to people with disabilities.

ILRCC participated in the first annual "Independent Living across Canada" day. ILRCC is one of 25 centres across Canada and we came together for one day to announce who we are and what we do. Everyone across Canada will remember us for what we do and continue for many years to come.

Moving forward, ILRCC will have an opportunity to collaborate with the Canadian Government with a unique chance to work with them on a nationwide series of consultations that will be looking at how we can build a more inclusive country. We will work together with Nicholas Kang, Special Assistant for Policy and the Office of the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the board members of ILRCC who deserve special thanks for their commitment and enthusiasm and for all the hard work they put in to achieve the goals of ILRCC.

I would like to thank the Staff of ILRCC, led by our able and energetic Executive Director, Matthew who deserves a big THANK YOU for all their wonderful work during the past year. Thank you to Matthew, Gloria, Vanessa, Shannon, and Debbie. Without their hard work and commitment, ILRCC could not have attained organizational and financial stability and provided the important services for people with disabilities and to disability communities.

I would also like to thank each member of the Board for all the work and time you have given to ILRCC this past year.

A final thank you to our funders United Way and Independent Living Canada.

I would like to end on a personal note. After serving as the Chair and director of ILRCC for 13 years, I have decided to step down. I know that ILRCC is now well placed to grow from strength to strength and the board has members with talent and leadership qualities to take it to further heights. I have always believed that it is better to leave when people want you to stay and not when they push you out! I wish ILRCC stability and continued growth in the future years and all success in attaining its important mission.

I would like to close with a quote I recently found....

"The future depends on what you do today."
— [Mahatma Gandhi](#)

Thank you Everyone!

Diane Kreuger Chairperson



Executive Director Message

ENCOURAGING INDEPENDENCE

This year marks the 32nd year that our organization, ILRCC, has been making a difference in Calgary and Area by creating opportunities for independent living and equality for the consumers and clients we serve. A year ago a new team formed here at ILRCC and has sustained itself through challenging economic and social times.

The team has come together to promote and provide superior LEARN programs, Personal Empowerment Program (PEP) partnerships, workshops, and referrals, and volunteer opportunities to deliver the services to new and existing local Consumers and Clients.

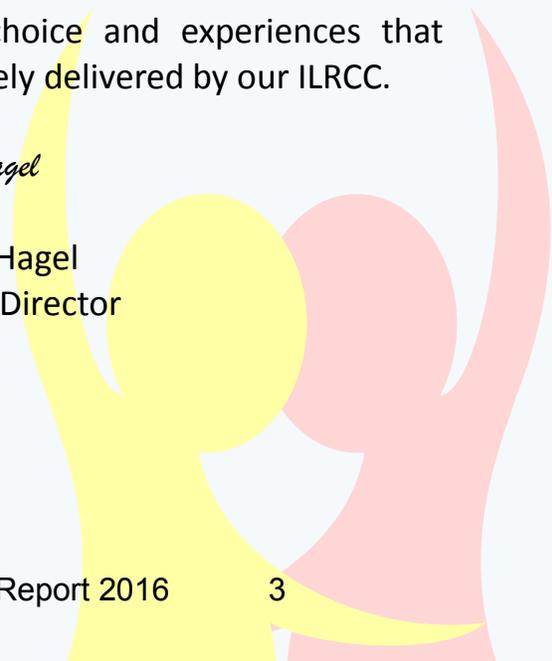
With the support of our Funders at the United Way and Independent Living Canada and new funders such as the RC Diocese of Calgary as well as numerous individual donors and various Calgary companies we continue our Mission.

We are delivering and impacting more individuals and families, adults and seniors who rely on our services to meet their needs by delivering vital services such as education, information and programs.

2017 will be a year of enhanced programs partnered with positive energy including new volunteer positions and placements. We will strive for new ways to market and communicate our Vision via website and social media. Our new strategic plan for 2016-2019 is in place and we continue to pursue new partnerships and relationships with other community organizations that connect Clients and Consumers offering choice and experiences that are uniquely delivered by our ILRCC.

Matthew Hagel

Matthew Hagel
Executive Director





Our Programs

LEARN Program

The LEARN Program continues to grow at a steady rate. The need in the community for Recreation and Leisure for Persons with Disabilities has increased in our communities.

There has been a 30% increase over the year for individuals transitioning from youth into adult programming, wanting more activities, involvement and support.

Over this last year LEARN has had a 100% increase in available spots for consumers, 264 to almost 500 available spots.

LEARN evaluations show Consumers becoming more involved in a variety of programs and creating friendships outside of the classes. Evaluations show Consumers have a 96% favorable rating and indicate ILRCC has excellent programming and Instructors. LEARN continues to increase the variety of programs.

As the picture to the right indicates the renovation of the program room with new paint and participant pictures has been a great success creating a welcoming wonderful space that is used for Art, Acting, Yoga, Social Club and other programs.





Our Programs

Personal Empowerment Program (PEP)

With PEP, life skill building opportunities are offered through cross disability workshops, courses, and presentations. Participants learn about disability related initiatives including the RDSP savings program through the Federal Government, Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) and workshops aimed at helping Caregivers as well as Consumers who can learn about new programs in achieving their own level of independence.

One on One coaching by the Coordinator, Goal Setting and support to ensure self-advocacy for the consumers and clients has resulted in over 80 individuals and family members supports. As well, the Coordinator has established over 30 new partnerships in Calgary and Area.

The Pep Coordinator continue to play a key role in planning the International Day of Persons with Disabilities as well as participate in key community committees.





Our Programs

Volunteer Program

The Volunteer Program has been evolving over the past year. Successes with the Casino in February with about 20 volunteers as well, as the Shaw Charity Classic in August meant many of the 50 current volunteers saw greater opportunities to participate. As well, the LEARN program benefits from on going Volunteer involvement for its 18 programs.

The Volunteer program also enhanced its program using some “practicum students” who assisted with inputting for LEARN databases, helped with IT projects like the Braille machine and setting up wi-fi for the computers in the program room.

Externally Volunteers also participated in helping other Local charities and non profits like the Salvation Army and Meals on Wheels.

Volunteers worked to distribute brochures for ILRCC to many northwest neighborhoods as well, as partner with a local landscaping company that trains disabled to start their own companies.

Thank you to all volunteers for their continued commitment and support of ILRCC.





Our Centre



Administration & Bookkeeping

Gloria Rubio is celebrating over 2 years with the ILRCC. She brings a Positive Pro-active Attitude to work and works well with the Chrissie, our administration volunteer in organizing the audit box and general accounting files.

Gloria also handles many of the administrative processes and is always supporting her team mates with the programs and coming up with great new ideas to improve our centre.

Gloria successfully participated in AGLC training this year to assist with how we use the Casino Funds that are vital to the sustainability of ILRCC.



Committees

Staff are involved with many collaborative efforts of networking and community involvement including these highlighted committees:

Calgary Ability Network (CAN) Committee:

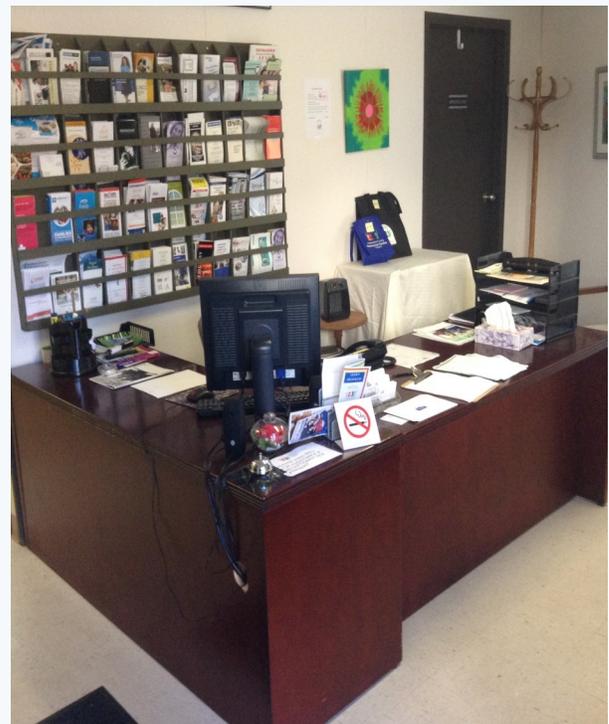
Addresses various issues affecting people with disabilities. Working committees focus on poverty, transportation, recreation, accessible housing and human rights.

The Persons with Disabilities, Chief Advisory Board:

Assists the Calgary Police Service and the Chief of Police recognize, identify, and be aware of the vulnerable population and how they can better be assisted.

International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPD) Committee:

Helps celebrate recognize and create awareness of People with Disabilities.





Board & Staff Members

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Diane Kreuger—Chairperson

Abraham Rahim —Treasurer

Diane Stevenson —Secretary

Allison Wemyss—Director

Angelah Kusero—Director

STAFF

Matthew Hagel
Executive Director

Gloria Rubio
Bookkeeper/Administration

Debbie Starling
LEARN Program Coordinator

Vanessa Wood
*Personal Empowerment
Coordinator*

Shannon Kocyba
Volunteer Coordinator

Office Volunteers: Christie Mach, Cynthia Boley,
Diann Pretty, Amneet Nijjaf, Nisha Fadadu



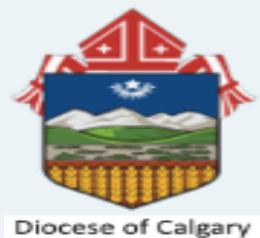
Donors & Supporters

Thank you to each of our donors and supporters, for helping us sustain and grow our vital organization.

Funders



Sponsors and Donors



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McMaster Technical Services

Michel Accounting

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