

THE INCLUSION NEWS

September 2024 

Welcome

Summer was buzzing with excitement in planning for the Dr. Shelley Moore event. Even the children were planning by creating works of art for the Art of Belonging displays, which are now on display at ASCY. More information on the event can be found on page 5.

The Summer Camp Symposium led to a new bundle of resources created by resource consultants Claudia Testaguzza and Tanya Filce-Schryer. Ask any staff member for this to be used for PA days and other school breaks. Our Enhanced Classroom Support Identification Tool also has a new look. As we continue to update our resources with inclusive language, this tool now has a glossary of terms to support conversations, as well as a new name. Better representing its purpose, it is now known as the Inclusion Services Reference Guide.

Last but not least, we extend a warm welcome to Nikita Dhyawarkonda who has joined the East Team in the inclusion facilitator role.



Featured here is the Children’s Inclusion Services celebration board. Throughout the summer, resource consultants and inclusion facilitators have been filling the board, recognizing centres who successfully embraced inclusive practices. Congratulations to you all for your amazing programming!

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Special Needs Resourcing is provided through funding from the City of Hamilton

CREATING SPACE FOR LIVED EXPERIENCE

A POEM BY HUNTER COX

Autism is
unable to speak, or maybe
speaking too much!
Hugging everyone, or disliking touch
Escaping outside,
or trying to hide
Excitedly flapping
Inappropriate clapping
Autism varie's so much!

won't wear a coat, or wear's one all
year round
Fussy eater or would eat dirt from
the ground
Screaming or humming
Annoyingly drumming
Toys in a line
The same way every time
Autism varie's so much.

Struggling to learn or has
wonderful gifts
Obsessions of numbers, or cars,
film's or lift's
Spinning around
Throw's things on the ~~ground~~ ground
Constantly spitting
Aggressively hitting
Autism varie's so much!

Alone without friends or contrails
Every game
Always look's different, always
dressed the same
Swinging on door's
head banging on floor's
Break's at the dryer
Keep's climbing higher
Autism varie's so much
can't answer question's won't do
as they're told
In their ~~own~~ own world or bossy and
bold
over prepared
Anxious and scared
A spectrum so wide
But they all bring vs pride
When Autism touche's our lives!

Written by
Hunter Cox

Hunter Cox is a person supported
by Community Living Hamilton

When we refer to lived experience, we are referring to experience gained directly from a person who has lived through something, the choices made as a result, and the knowledge gained from it.

When we listen to those who have lived experience, we can gain insight and perspective that otherwise might go unnoticed.



COMMUNITY LIVING ONTARIO DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION STATEMENT

Community Living Ontario continues to be a leader for social change in disability rights.

Inclusion is at the core of what Community Living is all about. We see inclusion as the act of embracing people who are often excluded from our community. We do this by reducing barriers that prevent people from truly belonging and having meaningful lives. We include people by welcoming, supporting, respecting, and valuing all people and groups. Inclusion involves equity, ensuring fair and just practices, allowing all people access to resources and opportunities.

As the Province of Ontario continues to grow, our communities are becoming increasingly diverse. Barriers to inclusion and equality may happen because of a person or a group being identified only by their disability, gender, class, sexuality or where they are from. This list is endless.

Unfortunately, people are often excluded based on one, some or all these identities. We will develop more understanding of how these identities “intersect” and can lead to even greater barriers to inclusion. As Community Living Ontario continues to work towards creating inclusive communities across Ontario, we will be more purposeful about increasing our understanding of all people and improving our approach to inclusion.

There is more work to be done, but with our continued efforts at advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, we will get there.

FAREWELL TO REBECCA



Rebecca Salisbury has decided to retire – and try as we may, there’s nothing that we can do about it. Rebecca started in 1984 and has been a part of the evolution of inclusion in Hamilton. Walking the steps from segregation to the inclusive practices you see today, Rebecca has assumed the roles of Direct Support Facilitator, Support Facilitator, Resource Teacher and finally Supervisor and she will end her career as Children’s Inclusion Services Supervisor of Team West. Rebecca has been unwavering in her advocacy for inclusion of all children throughout the years and leaves behind the footprints of positive change as a legacy that cannot be replaced. We say farewell on September 27th.

Always true to the mission, vision and values that build great lives, above Rebecca stands in her office beside an old CLH sign where she adjusted the word helping to helped. Yes Rebecca, you truly have – and we thank you.



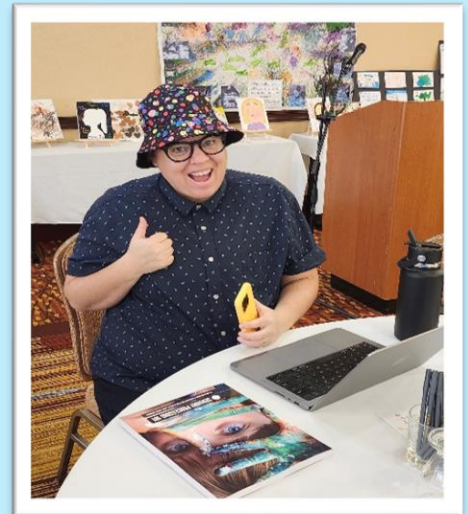
Dr. Shelley Moore Event – September 12, 2024



On the left, a packed room at the Courtyard Marriott where educators listened to Dr. Shelley Moore teach new ways to navigate inclusion. On the right, a sensory display representing the 7 sections of the resource book Sensory Processing 101 given out to participants at the event.



Dr. Shelley Moore never disappoints! Revolutionizing inclusive education in British Columbia, she travels internationally to tell her stories and offer new perspectives. Seen here, Dr. Shelley wears a polka dot bucket hat to demonstrate her support to Hamilton's adoption of the polka dot as a symbol of our commitment to inclusion.



To the left, just one of the art displays as part of the Art of Belonging where over the summer children created their own version of belonging. On the right, door prizes for the event were furry co-regulators called PURRBLES. Children can cuddle up to these characters to listen to their heartbeat and purring sounds as they calm themselves with this little friend.



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Important Dates

Special Needs Resourcing services will be unavailable on the following dates:

- *National Day of Truth and Reconciliation – September 30th*
- *Thanksgiving – October 14th*
- *Christmas Shutdown – December 25, 2024 through January 2, 2025*

COMMUNITY LIVING HAMILTON is an accredited not-for-profit organization and registered charity that offers a full range of services to people with special needs. We are one of the largest not-for-profits in Hamilton; each year we provide service to approximately **1,400 children, teens, adults and families.**

In offering a full range of services to our community, we support individuals with special needs from childhood through to their senior years. At Community Living Hamilton, **we hope to create a lifelong partnership to support the individuals and community we serve.**



For more information on Community Living Hamilton, please visit our website at:
www.communitylivinghamilton.com