

Independent Living Canada Annual General Report 2021 - 2022

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214 Montreal Road, Suite 401
Ottawa, Ontario, K1L8L8
613-563-2581
www.ilc-vac.ca

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The Independent Living Movement

Independent Living was created by and for persons with disabilities as an alternative to out of date services and has brought about significant changes in Canada.

Independent Living (IL) is a way of thinking and living. The IL approach enables and supports persons with disabilities to examine choices, to make their own decisions, live where one wants to live, to have control over the supports one needs and following one's dream.

Founded in 1986 by the IL movement membership, IL Canada is the national umbrella organization, representing and supporting the network of IL Centres at the national level.

Our Mission

IL Canada is a national non-profit association of IL Centres run by and for people with disabilities who promote the IL Philosophy. IL Canada supports the development of IL Centres, and provides education and leadership for its member organization, partners and communities.

The Independent Living model has been proven to be the most successful model of programming for persons with disabilities.

Our Mandate

- Promoting the development of IL Centres in Canadian communities;
- Articulating and promoting the IL vision, philosophy and work of the IL Centres at the national level;
- Providing organizational assistance, training and the implementation of programs to IL Centres; and
- Acting as a liaison between the IL Centres, various federal government departments, and Members of Parliament.

Message from the Board

Dear IL Membership

It brings us great pleasure to offer this report on behalf of the Board of Directors for IL Canada and first and foremost we would like to acknowledge the continued effort and leadership that Anne MacRae has devoted as our National Executive Director. Anne is completing her first full-year term in the role, and has certainly undertaken the challenge with respected tenacity and grace. In addition we wish to express a heartfelt thank-you to all of our collective membership for always putting IL and our vast consumer family first!

Without stating the obvious, we continued to work within the context of COVID 19 this past year and all the added uncertainty that this has brought us all. Working and managing within a pandemic has surely been challenging for us; and it was often inspiring to hear how you, the membership, navigated these ever changing, additional challenges. Your ability to provide the amazing programs and services to our collective consumers during this time is truly something we should all celebrate.

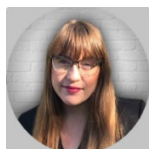
At the national board level, we were keenly focused on achieving some key objectives this past year. In particular, the successful application for renewed investment in IL Canada with SDPP-d funding was prepared and delivered. While the application process itself was completed successfully; there will likely remain no information regarding the presumed success of this until late fall. It is impossible to predict what the final outcome will be; however, we are convinced that the importance and value of that which we collectively bring to the disability landscape in Canada has been effectively conveyed.

In addition to this important undertaking, we were also invested in several areas of work:

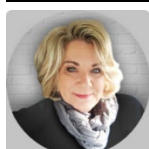
- We successfully completed the development of a strategic plan in partnership with Common Good Solutions. This detailed strategic plan provides a roadmap for our future successes and is ready for implementation.
- We ensured our collective voice was strong on issues related to disability that are national in scope. In particular, collaborative partnerships were forged to ensure our concern regarding MAiD law in Canada as well as our contention that COVID 19 responses have had a greater negative affect on persons with disabilities, are included and heard. We continue to make inroads on these fronts.

As we continue forward as a collective, we acknowledge that strengthening ourselves from within is more important than ever. Slowly emerging from a COVID context, we are committed to rebuilding and renewing our communication and transparency with you all, the collective voice, effort and determination. We look forward to the exciting work and future that is ahead of us all in Independent Living!

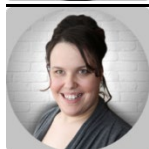
Meet the Directors



Kathleen Odell
National Chair
Member at Large



Carrie Ernst
2nd Vice-Chair
Nova Scotia Provincial Rep.



Samantha Walsh
Secretary
Member at Large



Jimmy Tessier Royer
Quebec Provincial Rep.



Cathy Lafrance
British Columbia Provincial Rep.



Stephen Wheeler
1st Vice-Chair
Newfoundland Provincial Rep.



Suzanne Larocque
Treasurer
Member at Large



Kimberly Yetman Dawson
Member at Large



Ken Taylor
Saskatchewan Provincial Rep.



Anne MacRae
National Executive Director

IL Canada and the IL Centres are leaders in creating opportunities and volunteer experiences for Canadians with disabilities. Last year, 80% of the Boards of Directors at IL identified as a person living with a disability and over 900 volunteers were supported.

Message from the National Executive Director

It brings me great pleasure to present to you IL Canada's Annual Report for 2021-2022. As this is my first full year in the role as National Executive Director, I can say I am still amazed at the passion and tremendous amount of work that our Centres, staff and volunteers (including National Board members) have put into the advancement of the Independent Living Movement in Canada.

I would like to publicly thank all Staff members, the board of Directors and the various consultants who have been hired over the year, your dedication to the IL movement and the amount of time you have devoted to IL Canada have been greatly appreciated. As you may recall there were a few key priority areas that we wanted to accomplish when I was first hired in December of 2021. They were:

1. Continue to expand the relationship with our Centres and begin looking at ways to grow the movement. This work would include accrediting 9 Centres this year and 11 next year.
2. Form partnerships with other national organizations to bring an IL Lens to the national stage.
3. Diversify funding and
4. Create a new strategic plan for the organization.

I am pleased to say that we have completed all of these deliverables.

Strategic Plan: We hired Common Goods Solution to help us to create a 3-year Strategic Plan. This plan centers on 4 interconnecting impact areas:

1. **Member Impact:** IL Centres feel like they are part of a strong, well-connected national organization; they see the value of being an accredited Centre.
2. **Social Impact:** IL Canada is the leader of the cross-disability independent living movement in Canada.
3. **Operational Impact:** IL Canada has meaningful national partnerships and delivers national programs that address the needs of persons with disabilities and IL Centres.
4. **Financial Impact:** IL Canada is financially sustainable, enabling them to support IL Centres and be a strong voice on issues of national concern to its members and partners

We have now begun the work of operationalizing this plan.

Partnership Development

A significant part of my time this past year has been focused on developing partnerships at the national level. We have lent our voice to the concern about Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD). While we respect every individual to make choices, we are very concerned that more and more individuals are choosing MAiD because of the abject poverty they live in or because of the lack of supports they are being provided (including appropriate housing) and see no other way out and choose death over life. IL Canada will continue to work with its partners under the capable leadership of ARCH Disability Law Centre to ensure that the law is changed to better protect the lives of people with disabilities.

We also worked with ARCH Disability Law Centre to voice our concerns about COVID-19 and the disproportionate impact COVID-19 has had on people with disabilities in Canada. We conducted a national survey and outlined our findings in a report called “Disability Related Barriers to COVID-19 Vaccines: Highlights from the COVID-19 Vaccination Accessibility Survey 2021.” We made recommendations in 7 key areas: disability and human rights awareness, information, policies, booking systems, transportation, vaccination sites and medical research.

We were also very excited to lead the work to ensure that the voice of marginalized and hard-to-reach people with disabilities will be heard in the creation of the first ever Federal Disability Inclusion Action Plan. We have been delighted to partner with Muscular Dystrophy Canada in this project. There are four Pillars that are guiding our work. They are Financial Security, Employment, Public Spaces and Modernizing Disability Supports. We are pleased to work with the four Pillar Leads, the Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work, Inclusion Canada (in partnership with Every Canadian Counts), Eviance (in partnership with People First Canada) and the Canadian Association of the Deaf – CAD (in partnership with Rick Hansen Foundation and Spinal Cord Injury Canada) to consult with Canadians with disabilities from Coast to Coast to Coast. This project will be completed by March 2023.

Diversifying Funding:

Over the past year, a lot of work has gone in to diversifying our funding. We secured funding with the DIAP project described above, and we have been applying for various grants in partnership with other community partners and our 24 Centers. We are waiting to hear if these applications will be successful. We have also submitted another 3-year application for core funding ESDC. If successful, this will provide us with funding from 2023-2026.

Strengthen Relationships with our IL Centres:

One of the pleasures of this job is that I get to work with such an amazing group of individuals who are so passionate about Independent Living. Over this past year, I have met monthly (virtually) with the Executive Directors of our 24 Centres. We share information and find ways to partner together. This past year we were able to provide a small amount of funding Centres to create training that can be provided to all Centres. This training will be provided to the Centres, once the Centre portal is created on our website.

My work with the Centres will always be a work in progress, and therefore there is always work that can be done to improve relationships and part of that involves better communication and providing opportunities for Centres to be more involved in the work of IL Canada. Part of the work of the National Executive Director, going forward is to work with the Centres to create a plan to enhance the relationship between IL Canada and Centres.

In March of 2022, I resigned from my position as National Executive Director and agreed to stay on in a new role involving partnership development that was to be eventually fully defined. I am pleased to relay that I have since agreed to remain on in my capacity of National Executive Director for the immediate future. I am very excited to continue to work with you all as we move the Independent Living Movement forward.

Respectfully submitted,
E. Anne MacRae
National Executive Director

Message from the Treasurer

Wow! What a year! Still living within a pandemic!

Nonetheless, we have continued to strive, work hard and diligently towards our goal of a more inclusive and independent living movement for all persons living with a disability. We have adapted to a changing world by using more technology and have conducted more of our daily business using Zoom and such other products. Working remotely sure has its challenges.

I am pleased to continue as your Treasurer.

To the members of Independent Living Canada, I present the Audited Financial Statement of the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022. The Financial Statement was prepared by Frouin Group Professional Corporation Chartered Accountant.

Total revenue for the year was \$1, 570, 083 and our total expenditures were \$1,559, 020, which shows a surplus of \$11, 063. A contribution of revenue has been deferred in the amount of \$144, 779 and at the end of the year March 31, 2022 our fund balance in a surplus of \$138, 842.

The work of IL Canada would not be possible without the contributions of our funders to which I would like to express a sincere thank you for your continued support and belief in our organization. We look forward to our continued successful partnership with you.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Larocque, Treasurer
IL Canada Board of Directors

Accomplishments

- Strengthening Governance and Accountability Virtual Retreat June 2021 for Board of Directors included the development of Strategic Plan
- Accreditation Process was reviewed and updated and 9 IL Centres completed their accreditation assessment.
- Strengthened and aligned the process of Memorandums of Understanding for IL Centres.
- Funding provided to some Centres to create training sessions for Centres as part of ongoing Centre development training.
- Worked in partnership with ARCH Disability Law Centre to create and circulate a national survey and released a report called Disability Related Barriers to Covid-19 Vaccines: Highlights from the Covid 19 Vaccination Accessibility Survey 2021. Data gathered used to inform the government of barriers to access, to improve services post-pandemic and preparation for future pandemics.
- Participated in National Accessibility Week and International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- Created 12 Training Webinars for IL Centre members
- Worked in partnership with Disability Without Poverty Coalition to provide the government with our input on creating a Disability Benefit
- Hired summer student to assist with increasing social media presence, and promote IL Philosophy and celebrate 35 years of service to the community. The student remained with IL Canada under an internship and created 6 podcasts.
- Conducted monthly meetings with IL Centre Executive Directors.
- Worked with a consortium of 15 organizations concerned about Canada's Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD), to challenge legislation in Canada.
- Our partnership continues to evolve with Accessible Media Inc. AMI tv Channel. AMI-tv features an extensive variety of programs to appeal to the widest possible audience and help individuals of all abilities share in the magic of television. All programs are described and open captioned. IL Canada is involved with two projects. One is to establish a Disability Issues Office for the television and film industry and the second project is to create a Best Practices Guide to ensure that people with disabilities can participate in all aspects of the television and film industry.

- In partnership with Muscular Dystrophy Canada, hired a Project Coordinator for the Disability Inclusion Action Plan Engagement Project. This project will ensure that the Disability Inclusion Action Plan created by the government of Canada will include the voices and input of marginalized and hard-to-reach Canadians with disabilities.

The Independent Living movement promotes human rights, demedicalization of disabilities, de-institutionalization and full and equal participation for all in society.

Our Funders

On behalf of IL Canada and our member IL Centres, we would like to recognize and thank our funders and partners. Investing in the human and economic contributions of persons with disabilities is a win-win situation.

The financial support from Employment and Social Development Canada – Social Development Partnership Program helps us continue in our mission to provide core programming to millions of people living with a disability across Canada. ESDC-SDPP-d also supports our Disability Inclusion Action Plan project and provided funding to support a summer student.



Employment and
Social Development Canada

Emploi et
Développement social Canada

United Way Centraides makes strategic local investments to achieve meaningful and lasting change in Canadian Communities.



IL Canada and the IL Centres is the largest employer of people with disabilities in Canada. 74% of all staff identify as a person living with a disability

Partners

We believe in creating partnerships with other organizations, mainstream services and the public and private sector. IL Canada and the IL Centres developed 300+ NEW partnerships just last year alone.

A special thank you to those who teamed up with IL Canada this year. We are grateful for your contributions and your hard work and we couldn't have done it without you.

- Enable Ottawa Planning Committee
- Parks Canada
- DAWN Canada
- Canadian Accessibility Network
- Disability Leadership Network
- Eviance
- ARCH Disability Law
- Disability without Poverty Coalition
- Muscular Dystrophy Canada
- Inclusion Canada
- Canadian Association of the Deaf
- Canadian Council of Rehabilitation and Work

IL offers hundreds of innovative programs and services that facilitate greater social, cultural and economic inclusion for Canadians with Disabilities and are committed to the development of programs that complement, rather than duplicate existing community services. Hundreds of thousands of people access our services yearly.

Our IL Member Centres



VERNON
INDEPENDENT
LIVING



DISABILITY
RESOURCE
CENTRE
KAPUSKASING



OTTAWA
INDEPENDENT
LIVING



COWICHAN INDEPENDENT LIVING
Promoting a new perspective on disability



SUDBURY
MANITOULIN



CENTRE for
INDEPENDENT
LIVING
TORONTO



RICHMOND
CENTRE FOR
DISABILITY



RISE IL
PARRY
SOUND



VIA
AUTONOME
MONTRÉAL



**Victoria Disability
Resource Centre**
Promoting a new perspective on disability



BREAKING
DOWN
BARRIERS
COLLINGWOOD



VIA AUTONOME
MONTEREGIE
SAINT-JEAN-sur-
RICHELIEU



Independent Living
Resource Centre
Calgary



INDEPENDENT
LIVING
KINGSTON



VIA AUTONOME
ABITIBI
TÉMISCAMINGUE
VAL-d'OR



NORTH
SASKATCHEWAN
INDEPENDENT
LIVING CENTRE



INDEPENDENT
LIVING
NOVA
SCOTIA



SOUTH
SASKATCHEWAN
INDEPENDENT
LIVING CENTRE



**Independent
Living Centre**
London and Area



Vie Autonome
Péninsule Acadienne inc.

Voir au-delà du handicap

Then and Now: 36 Years in the Making



Henry Enns (1943–2002). In 1982, Henry initiated the first IL Centre in Kitchener, ON and was a founding member of IL Canada in 1985



Allan Simpson (1939-1998). In 1984, Allan became the Executive Director of the Winnipeg IL Centre and was a founding member of IL Canada in 1985



Henry Enns, The Honourable Jake Ebb and Allan Simpson at funding announcement for IL Canada and the IL Centres.



Sandra Carpenter (1954 – 2020) was in the forefront of 1970's disabled rights activists who demanded the right and means to independent living. She was a founding member of IL Canada and was the Executive Director at the Centre for Independent Living Toronto



IL Canada Board of Directors all gathered for a Board Retreat and Strategic Planning Session at the AGM Conference in 2017 in Ottawa, Ontario



IL Canada Board of Directors 2009-2010 all gathered for the 2010 AGM Conference.



IL Canada Board of Directors and Staff gathered for a Board Strategic Planning Retreat in Ottawa, Ontario in 2015



IL Canada and Voting Delegates from IL Centres all gathered for the 2016 AGM Conference in Ottawa, Ontario. Each are holding a commemorative plate celebrating IL Canada's 30th anniversary.