



Annual Report

2022 – 2023

Independent Living Canada – Who We Are

Founded in 1986 by the Independent Living (IL) Movement Membership, Independent Living Canada represents the network of IL Member Centres at the national level. IL Canada performs several functions on behalf of Member Centres including: providing a collective voice on national issues; fostering and maintaining partnerships; building the capacity and scale of IL in Canada; and preserving the integrity and importance of IL in Canada on the national stage.

Vision, Mission and Mandate

Vision

Independent Living Canada envisions an inclusive and accessible society where people with disabilities are valued equally and participate fully.

Mission

Independent Living Canada is a national non-profit association of Independent Living Centres run by and for people with disabilities who promote the Independent Living Philosophy.

Mandate

Independent Living (IL) Canada's primary activities include:

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

The Independent Living Movement

Independent Living is a social movement of and by persons with disabilities. The IL movement started during the late 1960's in the United States. During the 1970's the Canadian consumer movement promoted human rights, deinstitutionalization and full participation of all persons with disabilities. The Coalition of Provincial Organizations for the Handicapped (COPOH) first introduced the Independent Living movement to Canadians with disabilities in 1980. In 1994, COPOH became the Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD).

Goals of the Movement

1. Persons with disabilities taking control of their lives, making choices, and advocating for themselves
2. Persons with disabilities direct and manage their own resources, including but not limited to:
 - Attendant Services
 - Nurturing Assistance
 - Transportation
 - Education
 - Health Care
3. The IL Movement has helped bring about significant changes in Through the IL Member Centres, we collectively:
 - Support individuals who have disabilities to live independently;
 - Support people to develop skills to manage their own home supports;
 - Bring people with disabilities together to share their expertise;
 - Provide accessible information, skills development and peer support;
 - Develop unique solutions;
 - Remove, prevent and provide education regarding

The Independent Living approach enables and supports persons with disabilities to examine choices, to make their own decisions and to take risks as a means of directing and managing their own lives. IL was created by and for persons with disabilities as an alternative to out of date services.

Independent Living is a way of thinking and living. It is about having the right to make choices, live where one wants to live, have control over the supports one needs and following one's dreams.

Accredited Member Centres

An Independent Living Member Centre (IL Member Centre) is a non-profit, consumer controlled, and community-based organization that has achieved the level of Accredited Member Centre with IL Canada. Membership in IL Canada is limited to organizations wishing to promote IL Canada objectives and whose application for membership has been approved by the IL Canada Board of Directors. Accredited Member Centre is the only category of membership.

We are proud and excited to relay that all Member Centres have successfully completed full, five year accreditation with IL Canada! This accomplishment comes at no better time than to coincide with our current three year operational funding grant. Congratulations to all of our Member Centres!

Our Board Members

The Board of Directors for IL Canada are comprised of a majority of people who themselves live with a disability and include Members at Large as well as a representative from each Province where an Independent Living Centre is located.

Your board of directors is comprised of the following members:

Tom Pugliese	National Chairperson, Member at Large
Jennifer Marchand	1 st Vice-Chair, Ontario Provincial Representative
Cathy LaFrance	2 nd Vice-Chair, British Columbia Provincial Representative
Sue Larocque	Treasurer, Member at Large
Jimmy Tessier Royer	Secretary, Quebec Provincial Representative
Kathy Hawkins	Newfoundland Labrador Provincial Representative
Jen Powley	Nova Scotia Provincial Representative
Sebastien Duguay-Nardini	New Brunswick Provincial Representative
Robin East	Saskatchewan Provincial Representative
Diane Kreuger	Alberta Provincial Representative
Teresa Bullegas	Member at Large

We wish to thank those past board members who served during this past year:

- Rob DiMeglio
- Joanne Jean
- Marie Rowland
- Barb Healy

Acknowledging Anne McRae – National Executive Director, 2021-2023

We sincerely hope that it goes without saying that the work and dedication that Anne McRae brought to IL Canada is greatly appreciated and will not soon be forgotten. Anne brought a true spirit of IL to IL Canada; always seeking to empower others and collaborate in a honest peer model with Member Centres, partners, funders and of course your board of directors.

Anne was instrumental in laying a foundation of renewal within IL Canada; not the least of which was her work and attention to the development and implementation of our Strategic Plan. Anne's legacy with IL Canada will be rooted in her desire to empower all persons with disabilities to be commanders of their own fate in all regards.

On behalf of the entire IL Canada Family; we sincerely extend much gratitude to Anne for all that she brought to IL Canada and the IL Movement in Canada.

Thanks kindly Anne!

Message from our Chairperson

It gives me great pleasure to author this year's message to our membership as it has been truly a year of growth and self-actualization for Independent Living Canada! At every turn, we have adapted and grown our resiliency as an organization and community of strong, proud people with disabilities. All along the way we've remained true to our core history while working in the present and looking forward to our future.

This past year has been a renewal for us in many respects: a real emergence from a brief chrysalis. We spread our wings - emerging a more unified, member-centric organization that is more dedicated than ever to providing the amazing choices that Independent Living offers all persons with disabilities. We strive to continue on this path and will look to add even more innovative and exciting opportunities that aim to enrich the quality of life, inclusion and dignity of all persons in our national community through each and every Member Centre.

There were several key accomplishments this year; not the least of which was the renewal of our Member Centre Partnership Agreements that returns our mutual relationship to one of a bottom up organization! Our fortitude and future is so vitally tied to our collaborative ability as a national collective, this change was fundamental in renewing this relationship.

Vitally important to our continued growth, was the successful negotiation of a renewed, three (3) year operational funding grant that creates the threshold to which we can securely continue to plan our future and continue to implement our Strategic Plan. As part of the concluding activities of our previous core funding agreement we successfully hosted 3 regional summits with all Member Centres that begins the important work of gathering statistical data and the real life experiences of persons with disabilities receiving Attendant Care Services across Canada. In addition to this, we successfully completed an important project in partnership with Muscular Dystrophy Canada: Disability in Action Plan that collected and mapped first hand experiences of Canadians with Disabilities' experience in an unstable and often impoverished economy.

We all share in these successes; for without our dedicated Member Centres; volunteer board of directors; and staff: true success would assuredly elude us. I look forward to our future and continued mutual prosperity and partnership: nothing is impossible when we work together!

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Pugliese

Message from our Treasurer

Wow! What exciting and unprecedented time we live in! Always interesting!

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 continue to adapt to a changing world by using more technology.

To the members of Independent Living Canada, I present the Audited Financial Statement for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023. The Financial Statement was prepared by Frouin Group Professional Corporation Chartered Accountants.

Total revenue for the year was \$1,626,576, and our total expenditures were \$1,603,850 which shows a surplus of \$22,726. At the start of the year, our fund balance was in a surplus of \$138,842 and at the end of the year March 31, 2023 our fund balance is in a surplus of \$161,568.

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

Message Regarding Immediate Future

Your board of directors would like to acknowledge that continuing on the theme of renewal this year, we are very pleased to relay the successful recruitment of Freda Uwa to the role of National Executive Director.

In addition to having an extensive business background and instinctive understanding of the IL Philosophy: Freda brings an obviously warm and genuine approach when collaborating and sharing her experience and understanding.

We are confident that Freda will provide a strong voice for IL Canada and a continued modernization of our work at the national level. Freda's leadership is well-rooted in the respect for where IL Canada has been and for where IL Canada ventures into the future!

Welcome Freda!

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 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

(image of ESDC logo – Canadian flag followed by name Employment and Social Development Canada, appearing both languages)

Our Partners

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

We extend a heartfelt thank you to the following and all of our partners as we are grateful for your contributions and hard work; we couldn't have done it without you.



Muscular Dystrophy
Canada



DAWN Canada



Canadian Accessibility
Network



Disability Leadership
Network



ARCH Disability Law
Centre



Disability without
Poverty Coalition



Inclusion Canada



Canadian Association
of the Deaf



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