

## **Board Mandate**

Community Living Kingston is a community voluntary organization supporting citizens with intellectual disabilities. It is committed to the advancement of a community that assures:

- that all individuals have equal opportunity to participate and contribute to community life;
- the right of all individuals to enjoy the benefits and responsibilities of independence;
- the dignity and worth of every individual.

To realize this mandate, the Community Living Kingston works in partnership with individuals with intellectual disabilities, families, staff, volunteers, and other persons and organizations by providing leadership in advocacy, skill development and community education.

We believe that individuals with intellectual disabilities should embrace the right to live as independently as possible, experience the security of inclusion in communities that uphold that right, and have reliable support to the extent necessary to counter the effects of disability in a manner that uses and respects the ordinary resources in the community.

The fulfillment of this community responsibility will require providing the necessary resources and supports, both natural and organized, to assure the following outcomes:

- That individuals are nurtured within a family environment and, as a consequence, enjoy the benefits of family life;
- That children go with their neighborhood friends to their neighborhood schools where they grow and develop together;
- That throughout their lives, people have access to and participate in leisure and cultural activities;
- That as they grow, people can aspire to and gain worthwhile career options involving real work for economically commensurate pay and appropriate recognition of accomplishment;
- That, in adulthood, people can retire at the age their peers retire, to enjoy a life style and activities of their choice; and
- That legislation which supports the ability of individuals to achieve these outcomes will be enacted and enforced.

Further, these outcomes will be undertaken through partnerships that enable and empower people:

- To make clear choices in self-defined terms, however these choices are expressed;
- To enjoy friendships and other naturally supportive relationships; and
- To express opinions, aspirations and goals in an environment that respects all people.

Community Living Kingston is committed to fulfilling its mandate within the legal framework provided by By-Law 2A as revised June 10, 1987, letters patent and the constitution (Charter).

The Board of Directors acts as trustee-owners to carry out the mission of Community Living Kingston. Values, vision and the empowerment of Board, staff and the membership are emphasized. In this spirit the Board of Directors will:

- determine its philosophy, its accountability and specifics of its own job/Board process;
- focus chiefly on long-range planning, defining which human needs are to be met, for whom and at what cost; (**ENDS**)
- establish the boundaries of acceptability within which staff methods and activities can responsibly be left to staff; limiting policies that apply to staff means rather than to ends; (**EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS**)
- make clear the manner in which it delegates authority to staff as well as how it evaluates staff performance on provisions of the ENDS and EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS policies. (**BOARD-EXECUTIVE RELATIONSHIP**)