

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMUNICATION UPDATE AUGUST 31, 2016**

I hope everyone had a safe and happy summer. It sure was a hot one! I appreciated my new life in the county living on a Lake. Toronto (my former home town) was pretty unbearable I hear from friends and family. Luckily we all had the Olympics to occupy us during those very hot summer nights wherever you were in the province.

Life at BPACL has been very busy over the summer. I appreciated all the busy days as they provided me with a very comprehensive orientation to my new role as Executive Director. I am settling in and feeling more comfortable and confident in my role.

Here is an update of some of the activities that have kept all of us very busy at BPACL over the summer months:

**Compliance Review:** MCSS [Ministry of Community and Social Services] completed their annual inspections of our programs in June. The annual compliance review consists of a comprehensive review of all our programs by Ministry representatives. The inspectors, and there were 4 of them, were here for 3 days in early June. A lot of work goes into preparing for, participating in and then making the necessary improvements to ensure BPACL is in compliance with all Ministry Standards. BPACL received our letter of Compliance on August 7<sup>th</sup> indicating that we are in compliance with MCSS standards. A big thank you to all the teams for working hard each and every day to ensure we continue to meet our funder expectations in supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities.

**Employment Support Program:** Paul Ferretti, Supervisor Employment Support Services resigned his position with BPACL in July. The change in management provided an opportunity to complete a review of our Employment Support Services. We are very lucky to have seconded staff from our already established partnership with Owen Sound to continue the work with us during the transition period as well as assist in the review process. We are conducting surveys of our customers and employers with the goal of improving our services. If you have any feedback regarding our Employment Support Services, please take a moment and complete a survey or contact Lisa McCartney at [lmccartney@bpacl.ca](mailto:lmccartney@bpacl.ca).

**New Build Proposal:** For a few years, the Board of Directors have been working on a proposal to construct a new building for our Residential Program. This summer there has been significant movement on the project as a whole. In early August, with the help of Bruce County Planning, BPACL's zoning change proposal was brought forward to the **Planning Advisory Committee** of Bruce County for consideration as our application required a change to the zoning on the land of the proposed development. The Planning Advisory Committee recommended that council approve the required zoning changes to allow a single story building under one roof that will contain four small apartments. On August 16, 2016 the Town Council

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met and considered the application and agreed to receive it as proposed. Council will make final determination on the application at the September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. We are hopeful that BPACL will receive final approval on the rezoning application on September 6<sup>th</sup> and we can then begin to move forward to the development phase of what we believe will be an asset to the street and the community.

Next Steps in the process will be the creation and submission for approval of a Site Plan for the property that will focus on footprint, drainage, vegetation and landscaping. Preparation of the property once the site plan is approved is the third step and then we will apply for a building permit. So, we still have a few hurdles to clear before we have the final approval and can put shovels in the ground. I will update you periodically throughout the process but if you have any questions please feel free to email me at [mbell@bpacl.ca](mailto:mbell@bpacl.ca).

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Trail Ride:** Annual fundraiser is scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup> 2016. The event is hosted at the Trask Family Farm on Bruce Road 8 between Sauble Beach and Hepworth. The Association is so fortunate to have the support of the Trask Family and access to such a fabulous setting.

**Fishing Derby:** Mark your calendar: **Sunday September 18th, 2016**. Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living together with Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association invites you to an afternoon of great fishing, an amazing fish fry and exceptional entertainment. The Fishing Derby begins at 2pm and is located at 611 Nothacres Road, Wiarton. Pot luck desserts are welcome. Please sign up by calling BPACL's main office at 519-534-0553. We hope to see you all there!

**Annual Ontario Community Living Conference: September 21 to 23 2016.**  
Visit the Community Living Ontario Website for all the details of the conference.

<http://communitylivingontario.ca/2016-conference-and-agm>

**Enjoy the last days of summer! I will provide another update some time in the fall.**

**Michele Bell**  
**Executive Director**