

Towards a 10 Year Agenda and Action Plan for for CACCL and its Membership

Presented to
XIV World Congress, Inclusion International
By Michael Bach
Canadian Association for Community Living

November 2006

Outline

- Need for a Vision and Agenda for Change
- Main Challenges in Advancing an Agenda
- A 3-Track Strategy to Address these Challenges
 - Clarifying our Vision and Agenda
 - Federation Action Planning and Implementation
 - Building a grassroots National Family Movement

Need for an Agenda

- We have accomplished
 - statutory human rights
 - examples of inclusion to point to
 - knowledge on how to make it happen
 - commitment from a growing number of partners...
- But our successes for actual individuals and families are adhoc – the majority remain excluded in one way or another
- For example...

Need for an Agenda

- Persistent threat of a new eugenics
- Still 270 facilities with 10 or more 'beds' housing over 10,000 people with intellectual disabilities
- 250,000 children with intellectual disabilities 0-19
 - Almost 30% refused childcare because of their disability
 - 23% of children with disabilities live in families that experience 'food insecurity'
- Families provide the bulk of supports on their own

Need for an Agenda

- Parents of children and youth with intellectual disabilities:
 - Over 45% have to work fewer hours;
 - 30% quit working;
 - 25% turned down a promotion or better job.
- Parents of children with intellectual disabilities are almost twice as likely to face these challenges as parents of children with other kinds of disability.
- Education – 60% of children and youth with intellectual disabilities not yet fully included
- Over 20% have to leave community to go to school

Need for An Agenda

- Disability supports – 2/3 of adults with disabilities don't have the supports they need
- Rates of abuse and violent victimization higher than for any other group – people still aren't safe in communities
- Only about 1/3 of working-age adults with intellectual disabilities (total = 500,000) are in paid employment, compared to over 75% of the non-disabled population.
- Over 75% of adults with intellectual disabilities live in poverty
- Globally – the issues are the same – but far worse in developing countries

Main Challenges in Advancing an Agenda

- Establishing a Clear Agenda, Goals, Benchmarks to Track Progress
- ‘Scaling up’ examples of inclusion – to make them systemic
- Building public solidarity, political leadership, and community capacity for our cause

3-Track Strategy to Address Challenges

- Clarifying our Vision and Agenda
- Federation Action Planning and Implementation
- Building a grassroots National Family Movement

Track 1 – Define Vision and Agenda

- Vision Statement (Nov 05)
- 10 Goals and Benchmarks to 2015 (Nov 05)
 - Achieve Equality Rights and Recognition
 - Close Institutions and Assure a Home in Community
 - Secure Child Rights and Needed Supports
 - Ensure Families have Needed Supports
 - Achieve Inclusive Education

10 Goals... cont'd

- Secure the Right and Access to Disability Supports
- Establish Safe and Inclusive Communities
- Eradicate Poverty
- Achieve Employment Equality
- Make a Global Impact on Inclusion

Track 2 – Federation Action Planning

- What is it?
 - Proposed mechanism for CACL and PT ACLs to work together:
 - on each of the 10 goals
 - on joint strategies
 - as 14 organizations – not in a hierarchy but in a network

Federation Action Planning...

- What is it?
 - Shared leadership on shared priorities
 - Coordinated planning and strategies
 - Shared resourcing of strategies and action plans
 - Joint monitoring and reporting on progress

Federation Action Planning...

- Why now?
 - We need joint action for systemic change – to ‘scale up’ what works –
 - Issues cut across local, PT, national, global levels
 - Need to share limited resources to be effective
 - Knowledge and expertise not adequately shared
 - Need more effective tracking of progress nationally, and public reporting on status of people with intellectual disabilities

Initial Planning by CACCL and PT Associations

- Common strategies for social change
- 4 shared priorities for action
- Development of National Action Plans

Common Strategies for Social Change

- Public Awareness and Dialogue
- Community Capacity Building – partnerships, solidarity-building, leadership development, training
- Research and Information
- Knowledge Networking
- Political Leadership and Policy Development

4 Shared Priorities for Action

- Closing Institutions
- Inclusive Education
- Right to Disability Supports
- Support to Families

Development of National Action Plans

- CACL and PT ACLs inventory current and planned resources and activities in each priority area – in public awareness, research, capacity building, etc.
- Establish National Action Committees
 - Meet to develop and coordinate plans in 4 areas
- Establish benchmarks for tracking progress
 - For our Association
 - For Canada
- Issue Annual Report to Canadians

Track 3 –

Building a grassroots National Family Movement

- Why focus on building a movement?
 - Not currently organized to mobilize the change needed
 - The answer to need 50 years ago - develop supports and services
 - Our vision has changed – to inclusion – and with that the scale of issues has grown
 - Need broader public and political momentum
 - Need a larger movement than our membership

Building a movement... What does it take?

- Initial thoughts from the CACL Grassroots Task Force
 - Recognize difference between organizations and the movement
 - Organizations should serve the building of a movement
 - Re-defining our purpose at local to national levels: from building/delivering services to building a movement that leads the way in helping Canadians create an inclusive society

To do this, we need ‘movement organizations’ that

- Distinguish family support and supporting families in collective social change
- View everything they do through a ‘family lens’
- Can engage families young and older
- Help build a value base and vision
- Provide families a central voice
- Respond to innovation and family leadership
- Allocate resources to family leadership development
- Reach out and build networks with families
- Link families local-to-provincial/territorial-to-national-to-global

Questions this approach raises

- What are the vehicles for nurturing & supporting the grassroots?
- What are the best models/approaches for engaging families and supporting collective action for change?
- Can local members, which are primarily service providers, be transformed to be the vehicles for building a movement for change?
- Does family engagement and service provision need to be distinct?
- How do our ACL organizations link effectively with a growing movement of non-aligned families and networks beyond our organizations?