

**Voices and Choices in Accommodation and Care:
A presentation to the Continuing Care Leadership Council
October 27th, 2006.**

Context

- There is a '**crisis**' in continuing care.
- Persons with disability and their interests are 'nested' within the common issues of an elderly population.
- There are fundamental differences in '*assets accumulation profiles*' across the lifespan.
- Special populations have been recognized as a priority within the MLA task force report and standards documents.

Our recommendation

We recommend the development of a community and government partnership and strategy to address issues arising in the continuing care continuum for special populations.

Our approach

We recognize the need for a collaborative strategy involving stakeholders and government. Our question:

"How can we help each other in accommodating the needs of special populations in the continuing care continuum?"

Fundamental principles

- **Ageing in place** – given proper support, persons with disability can remain at home rather than entering long term care facilities.
- **Dignity** – programs must be designed to fit the needs of persons of all ages such that they maintain dignity within and across the continuing care continuum.
- **Partnerships** – non-profit groups with community resources can partner with government in finding solutions to the continuing care crisis.
- **Specificity** – '*one size does not fit all*' - often specific disability groups have unique needs.
- **Communication** – an open avenue for communication is required between stakeholders and decision makers.
- **Commitment** – resources should be committed to this 'population' consistent with the implementation strategies around accommodations & services.
- **Person Centered** – consistent with the principle of self-determination persons with disability must be involved in accommodation and care decisions affecting their lives.

Key themes

Possible solutions to continuing care issues may be organized under key themes (please see Choice in Accommodation and Care document).

Themes

- **Choice** – for persons with disability with regard to continuing care *accommodations and services* needs.
- **Age appropriate programs** – age appropriateness of programming for persons with disabilities in the continuing care continuum and at different stages of their lives.
- **Access** – to infrastructure/buildings & accommodations, community & professional *services*, best practices and qualified staffing
- **Flexibility** – of caregiver assistance & financial support based on demographics, medical, social & psychological needs.
- **Support** – of families and support networks of persons with disabilities in the continuing care continuum.
- **Avenues** – for consultation, conflict resolution & complaint