



P.A.D.D.—NEWSLETTER

PARENTS OF ADULTS WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

We meet on the second
Wednesday of each month. 741
Wallace Rd North Bay ON

July & August, 2019

Our Mission is to support parents, defend their rights and to transform our community!

“Tackling Housing” Series



For the next few months we will ‘tackle’ the housing issues for adults with developmental disabilities. We will have guest speakers to share with us how they provide this service.

First up is Tracey Love, the Housing Navigator for the North, from the DSO—
Developmental Services Ontario.

The DSO is the access point for adult developmental services funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) in Ontario. There are 9 DSO agencies located across the province; serving different counties and regions.

The role of the DSO housing navigator is to help you understand your housing options by:

- providing you with resources and organizations that can help you create a housing plan;
- providing you with a toolkit of resources to help with a housing plan;
- connecting you with family support networks to share information;
- supporting innovative approaches and planning for housing, beyond the traditional models available.

Looking forward to seeing Tracey again! Last January she also presented for us: “Technology and Creating a Supportive Housing Plan” last January.



Pop Can—Fundraiser!

Our Pop-Can – Fundraiser is progressing well! It is keeping Denis and I busy! Contact us if you would like to contribute and or participate.

lindat@email.com or call 705-478-9216

Also we have two very interesting projects that P.A.D.D. is participating in!

First Project: **“Uncovering People’s History Project”**, this is a provincial project.

<https://family-alliance.com/peoples-history-project/>

As the result of the historical settlement of the class action lawsuits brought forward by survivors of Huronia, Rideau and Southwest Regional Centers against the Province of Ontario; some of the remaining funds were allocated by the Superior Court of Ontario to provide one-time allocations to fund projects in order to help survivors to tell their stories, to capture the history of institutionalization and learn from this history so we do not repeat it.

Uncovering the People’s History, provides the opportunity for institutional survivors and families to share their stories, to honour their history, learn more about what life was like for them living within the institutional walls. As we have begun to have conversations with people; discoveries and uncovering of histories is occurring right before us.

P.A.D.D.’s role will be to find survivors and families who wish to share their story.

Second Project: **“The Truths of Institutionalization: Past and Present”** this is a National project.

The Canadian Association for Community Living, People First of Canada, and Community Living Ontario are working together with Canada’s Department of Canadian Heritage to complete this project. The goal of the project is to create learning materials and new opportunities for young people to learn about Canada’s history of institutionalizing people who have a developmental disability. We want young people to understand the impact of this history so they can imagine and create something better for the future.

P.A.D.D.’s role will be to think of what we would like to have in this curriculum.



Our Mission is to support parents, defend their rights and to transform our community!

Upcoming Elections! Please vote!

With the upcoming elections we would like to urge everyone to vote! In particular I am thinking about families with adults who have the right to vote but may be physically or intellectually incapable of voting.

Here is an excerpt from Elections Ontario that verifies we can vote for them:

<https://www.elections.on.ca/en/voting-in-ontario/accessible-voting.html#accordionElectionDay>

We provide the following accessible services at all our voting locations:

Election officials can bring the ballot outside the voting location to make the process more accessible.

Voters can request a transfer to another voting location that better meets their accessibility needs. The request must be made before election day at the returning office.

Voters may bring a friend or support person to assist with marking their ballot.

Voters may use their mobile phones as an accessibility device.

We provide magnifiers.

We provide ballot templates with Braille numbering and cut outs.

Voters may book an American Sign Language interpreter or intervenor through the Canadian Hearing Society or the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. Elections Ontario will cover the cost.”

Service animals are permitted in returning offices, satellite offices and in voting locations, unless excluded by law. All our voting locations meet our Site Accessibility Standards.

**Voters may bring a friend or support person to assist with marking their ballot-do not waste a vote!
Vote with and for your loved one!**



Our son Christopher voted for the first time last year. Our family ran a small campaign to raise awareness!
WE MATTER!
VOTE!



Last but not least. P.A.D.D.'s first ever project has come to fruition.

It all began when I went to the Beach with my grandchildren in Coburg, ON. Their on the beach was an accessibility mat. And people were using it! Those with mobility issues and other people as well. I said to my grandchildren we should have one of these in North Bay, where I live! I came home and asked myself who in our City deals with accessibility. And I found MAAC-Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee, I read the last four years of their minutes to see what they were all about. Each year the minutes showed that these mats were discussed however at the end of the year the minutes did not record a plan etc. So I discussed with my executive and got their permission to 'build a little fire' under this idea. I created a petition, got over 400 signatures, and decided to ask of other cities and towns what their experience with the mats. Plus I got letters of recommendation from agencies and other organizations that provide services for people with disabilities. Thus our campaign was complete. I joined the MAAC committee and presented the package. The city eventually agreed and we worked with them to get the first ever accessibility mat for Marathon Beach at the waterfront. Thank you to the City of North Bay, MAAC, and all those who signed our petition, shared their letters and those who enthusiastically and prayerfully supported P.A.D.D.'s very first project!

