



The Every Canadian Counts Coalition

NEWSLETTER VOL. 3 Issue 2

INTRODUCTION

The summer has been steady for the Every Canadian Counts Coalition but not without purpose or intent. As indicated in our last volume the spring was a very busy and in some ways formative time for advancing the cause of promoting a national publicly funded disability insurance program with the IIDL Conference in Australia, the commitments of the Minister and the growing support for the Coalition by unions and others. There was also Every Canadian Counts engagement with the Office of Disability Issues of Employment and Social Development Canada as they look to revise their programming options in consultation with the partners in the disability sector. Those consultations are now over and we await the presentation of the new programming initiatives.

With these important developments in mind, Every Canadian Counts thought there was a need to better anchor the discussion about national public insurance that was going to be needed in Canadian Society if support for such a major social program was to ever see the light of day.

To that end Every Canadian Counts is in the final stages of producing its touchstone document/discussion/white paper “**Moving Forward: Building a Framework and Public Support for an Inclusive Future for People with Disabilities and their Families in Canada**”. It will be available soon so please watch our website for posting. It will be circulated to ECC supporters and to the wider interested community. It will also form the basis for a wide variety of communication activity stemming from its content.

STAFFING AND VOLUNTEERS: *ECC CONTINUES TO GROW!*

Every Canadian Counts is now pleased to report that it has a Quebec representative, **Jonathan Marchand**. Jonathan describes himself:

Jonathan Marchand is a 40-year-old senior network engineer from Quebec City. He has worked in Quebec and in Australia for many years. He's been institutionalized since 2010 against his will because of his disability.

He's a founder and president of Quebec Independent Living which aims to create a new provincial personal assistance program in Quebec using the cooperative model. Preparations are underway to enter negotiations with the provincial government.

We are delighted to have Jonathan join us. Jonathan has expressed an interest in joining the Board and we hope to address that soon.



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Elsewhere **Allison O'Neill** of British Columbia has just joined an organization 'Friends with Diverse Abilities' which sells items and products for persons with disabilities. Some of the funds are being raised for Every Canadian Counts. Our thanks to Allison. Please visit the website at:

<https://shop.spreadshirt.ca/FriendsWithDiverseAbilities/new+products>



The Accessible Technology Development Fund

Every Canadian Counts met with Krista Campbell, Director General, Data and Digital Programming Branch, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada to discuss the Accessible Technology Development

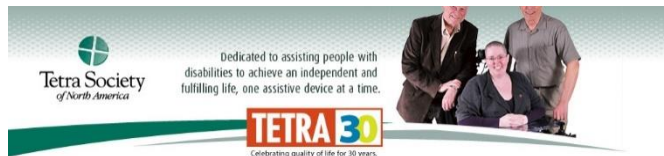


Wesley Clover

Fund, a \$23 million dollar funding envelope designed to encourage innovation in disability related technologies. In preparation for the meeting Every Canadian Counts met with representatives of Wesley Clover, an investment

management firm and holding company with interests in IT.

We also met with Paul Marriage, the Ottawa Chapter representative of the Tetra Society, which designs assistive devices to tackle barriers to mobility, personal care and communications. They facilitate education, work and recreation.



Following our initial meeting, we are planning another following the release of our 'Moving Forward' report. Every Canadian Counts is looking to be an intermediary between the funder and the organizations that engage in innovation and technology development and has the assistance of **John Cooper**, a senior management consultant with a broad range of consulting and management experiences and a primary focus on developing and exploiting information technologies to deliver value to institutions and individuals. He advises enterprises in the Kanata North high-tech community in working more effectively with governments.

WHAT NEXT?

The 'Moving Forward' Report is a seminal step for Every Canadian Counts. It is our objective to have it as widely circulated as possible – to agencies, organizations, governments, parent groups and individual Canadians – as well as to the new Minister Kent Hehr. The objective is to foster national awareness, discussion and engagement; to provide the seed bed for the Every Canadian Counts public engagement Project. More on the Project in the next Newsletter.

We hope you will join us in getting the 'Moving Forward' discussion going by circulating the report to everyone you know when the time comes. Please stay tuned; this will be very soon.