

**The Stunning New Video**



Dear Supporter,

Robert Mcivor, a 30-year-old Vancouverite with Aspergers Syndrome, called Inclusion BC this April frustrated that after five years of actively looking for work, he still had not landed a job.

**75% of adults with developmental disabilities are unemployed—not because they can’t work. But because they aren’t given a chance.**

Employment was inconceivable in 1955 when families came together to form Inclusion BC. The urgency was freedom; bringing their children home rather than placing them in institutions like Woodlands, Tranquille and Glendale. Today, we know these institutions as places of brutality and abuse. At the time, families had no supports, no services for their children. Just a dream of a better life.

As Inclusion BC prepares to celebrate our 60th Anniversary in 2015, we remember those fearless families who, with one simple decision, created a tidal wave of change. These parents said NO to institutions for their children. They were then joined by a few more, then a few more and then a few more.

**We owe a great debt to these families, who not only started a sweeping movement for human rights for people with developmental disabilities, but a movement that has advanced the rights of us all.**

**NO More Institutions!** As people take their rightful place in homes across the province, we remember Jo Dickey, a mom who put her foot in the door of Woodlands, refusing to leave without her son.

**Stop Hurting Kids.** As we advocate for a ban on the use of restraint and seclusion on students with special needs in schools, we remember the parents who fought so hard to have their children attend public school along with their peers.

**Ready, Willing & ABLE.** As we work to give employers the tools they need to hire people with developmental disabilities, we remember sheltered workshops and self advocates who fought for Real Work For Real Pay.

Ready, Willing & ABLE recently launched an initiative that matches people with developmental disabilities and business leaders for a one-day mentoring experience. Mentorship is a great way for employers to understand the value those with developmental disabilities can bring to the labour market.

This program’s plan will close the employment gap for people like Robert, who has been paired up with Jeff, a senior programmer at Electronic Arts.

Isabelle Paynter, who has wanted to work in a laundromat for some time, was paired with Angelina Brunet, owner and operator of Overalls Laundromat, where Isabelle is now working.

**We’ve come a long way, but there is still so much work to be done.**

Inclusion BC continues a 60-year legacy building on the success and courage of individuals and families who faced immense barriers.

Will you lend your support to keep this important momentum going? Will you honour those fearless families of 1955, and keep moving their dreams forward? It’s a simple decision for you, but it means so much to so many.

Visit our website to watch a stunning new video that was made to honour and remember the civil rights history of people with developmental disabilities in BC: [InclusionBC.org/our-foundation](http://InclusionBC.org/our-foundation). The video showcases rare historical footage and photos from our archives to produce what we believe is a compelling celebration of human perseverance and courage.

Sincerely



Faith Bodnar

**PS. Video stills from *This is the Story of a Civil Rights Movement* are from the Tranquille Blockade.**

In July 1983, the BC government announced that Tranquille, an institution outside Kamloops, would be closed by December '84. This left a mere 18 months to move more than 300 people back to the community. It was a daunting task but it was undertaken with gusto! The Ministry of Social Services and Housing was persuaded to fund community developers to assist local associations.



Inclusion BC developed and led a strategy to ensure our members and families had what they needed to support people with developmental disabilities to live in community. Right in the middle of all this activity, the funding axe fell: people who used wheelchairs were given the label “extended care eligible,” which meant that they would be moved to a hospital instead of the community simply because they could not transfer from a chair to a bed without assistance.

The result was a major confrontation with government. A blockade was erected at the entrance to Tranquille. More than fifty family members, self advocates, and supporters from all over the province gathered in the pre-dawn rain to protest the transfer of 25 individuals who were being moved to Glendale instead of to the community. In the days and weeks that followed, we made headlines, we held vigils, we wrote letters, and we demanded that those individuals be given the right to return home. *Deinstitutionalization Not Reinstitutionalization* was the slogan. Finally, on September 23, 1985 then Minister of Health Jim Neilson announced a change in policy that would allow those people labelled “extended care eligible” to live in group homes.

**▶ Play it forward!**

We’ve directed you to a special video, made for you, our inner circle: [InclusionBC.org/our-foundation](http://InclusionBC.org/our-foundation)

We hope that you will share the public version of this video with your family members, friends, neighbours and co-workers to introduce them to the amazing story of the community living movement in BC. It is right on our home page at [InclusionBC.org](http://InclusionBC.org)

You can DONATE ONLINE at [InclusionBC.org/our-foundation](http://InclusionBC.org/our-foundation) or fill out and return the enclosed form. If you require assistance, call 1-800-618-1119.