

For immediate release

National Report Card released today says most Canadians with developmental disabilities are still poor, unemployed and excluded.

Media Contact:

Danielle Kelliher, BCACL Director of Communications

(604) 777-9100; ext. 527

dkelliher@bcacl.org

New Westminster, December 3, 2009 – Today, on the International Day for Persons with Disabilities, the Canadian Association for Community Living released their stark 2009 report card on the [Inclusion of Canadians with Intellectual Disabilities](#). According to the report, the overwhelming majority of Canadians with developmental disabilities experience poverty, unemployment and exclusion.

The report highlights and examines how Canada measures up on three of a ten-point, ten-year Agenda, which was designed to guide Canadians and governments into building a more inclusive Canada. The three objectives explored in the report card are: Closing Institutions (Deinstitutionalization), Eradicating Poverty and Achieving Employment Equality for Canadians with Intellectual Disabilities.

The report calls for a new approach that would ensure a life of inclusion for all, requiring leadership and innovation at both a national and provincial level. In BC, the BC Association for Community Living calls on the BC Government to ensure the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities and their families at decision-making tables. We ask the government to repeal recent changes made to the Community Living Authority Act that remove a guaranteed place on the Community Living BC Board of Directors for people with developmental disabilities and family members.

“Exclusion and poverty are not inevitable,” says BCACL President Rory Summers. “In a time when we have the knowledge, tools and wherewithal to support and improve the lives of persons with disabilities, the results of this report card are a call to action.”

View the report card here:

http://www.cacl.ca/english/documents/ReportCards/REPORT_CARD_2009_ENG_web.pdf

Visit the BCACL website for more information on recent changes to the Community Living Authority Act: www.bcacl.org