



**BC Association  
for Community Living**

*Supporting people with developmental disabilities and their families*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **BCACL JOINS NATIONAL PARTNERS IN DENOUNCING FILM**

**New Westminster, BC, August 15, 2008** - The BC Association for Community Living (BCACL) joins its national partners, the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) and People First of Canada, in denouncing the film *Tropic Thunder* for its negative portrayal of people with developmental disabilities and its liberal use of oppressive language. Striving for humour at the expense of people with developmental disabilities, the film reinforces harmful and dangerous stereotypes.

BCACL echoes CACL and People First Canada when they write:

There is a distinct difference between comedy which uses satire and irony to unsettle stereotypes and actually illustrates the absurdity of hate and discrimination, sometimes in a shockingly funny way; and comedy that is simply exploitative, victimizing, and at another group's expense. The use of this word in a comedic film, validates and perpetuates bullying, abuse, and hate towards people with intellectual disabilities. We as a society have to ask ourselves why is it that we do not understand this experience of marginalization? We understand very clearly how dangerous, demeaning and hurtful it is to use racist or sexist slurs. It's time we understand this community's history of oppression and fight back against it today.

Michael Bach, Canadian Association for Community Living &  
Shelley Rattai, People First of Canada

"BCACL has been working for over 50 years to promote inclusion and citizenship; much of our work includes bringing awareness to the direct affect that oppressive language can have on the lives of people with developmental disabilities," says Rory Summers, BCACL President. "A movie like this is not only a setback for the community living movement, but it is also a personal affront to our members who have a developmental disability and their families - people who are confronted with negative stereotypes every day."

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BCACL is a federation working with partners to build community and to enhance the lives of children, youth and adults with developmental disabilities and their families by supporting abilities, promoting action and advancing rights, responsibilities and social justice.

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