

Trillium Tidbits

Issue No. 5



President's Report



Reflecting En Route to Monterrey

On a recent flight to represent Canada at an International conference on Inclusion, some thoughts crossed my mind. Each plane submits a flight plan with a specified destination. The process of gaining flight involves accelerating down the runway to become air-borne. Upon reflection, I likened my flight to my mission of promoting Inclusion. Inside the plane, the focus is on serving the needs of its passengers through the onboard staff. Persons with intellectual development disabilities, in a similar fashion, have needs that are heralded by inclusionists. In flight, there were moments of turbulence. The pursuit of Inclusion will subject its proponents to turbulence of a different kind. They will experience systems that are out of touch with the understanding that everyone has the right to human dignity which must include access and opportunities to fully participate in society. My window seat provided a panoramic view of the take off from the ground and then through a thick cloud cover and into the open blue sky. In peering below the buildings and vehicles appeared reduced in size. They remained unchanged in size, but from a distance, to the discerning eye seemed smaller. My vision saw them differently. So too in one's pursuit of inclusion, it is essential that our vision and related understanding are open to change. What perspective do I bring to the concept of inclusion? Is it one of categorization, or in my mind, positions in society that are assigned based on one's perspective? What factors inform my vision of others? In reviewing them, are changes needed? The plane in flight does not, and cannot remain stagnant. It must be in motion at all times. Advocating for inclusion must be ongoing. This involves working collaboratively with partners in society to enact positive change in communities; working from the grass roots level to the halls of government. My gaze through the window revealed clouds of every shape, size and shade. It reminded me of our communities which are composed of similar differences. My presence at the UNICEF conference, in Monterrey Mexico, highlighted my philosophy to a multitude of future educators. I was reminded that no one walks alone in their promotion of the concept of human dignity. I view myself simply as a "guide on the side" in the validation of our 'differently-abled' citizens and humbly share the podium with like-minded leaders in the field. Mexicans have a saying that aligns nicely with the concept of inclusion: "Mi casa es su casa" (My home is your home).

Dr. Ashleigh Molloy

Dates to Remember

Jul. 1st, Canada Day

Aug. 5th, Civic Holiday

Sept. 2nd, Labour Day

Sept. 9th, TheAAIDD Monday Program resumes

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OUR MISSION

Mission Statement:

AAIDD promotes progressive policies, sound research, effective practices, and universal human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

AAIDD's Principles:

AAIDD has adopted a 13-point set of principles (or core values) relative to its mission:

1. Achieving full societal inclusion and participation of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
2. Advocating for equality, individual dignity and other human rights.
3. Expanding opportunities for choice and self-determination.
4. Influencing positive attitudes and public awareness by recognizing the contributions of people with intellectual disabilities.
5. Promoting genuine accommodations to expand participation in all aspects of life.
6. Aiding families and other caregivers to provide support in the community.
7. Increasing access to quality health, education, vocational, and other human services and supports.
8. Advancing basic and applied research to prevent or minimize the effects of intellectual disability and to enhance the quality of life.
9. Cultivating and providing leadership in the field.
10. Seeking a diversity of disciplines, cultures, and perspectives in our work.
11. Enhancing skills, knowledge, rewards and conditions of people working in the field.
12. Encouraging promising students to pursue careers in the field of disabilities.
13. Establishing partnerships and strategic alliances with organizations that share our values and goals.

AAIDD's Goals

AAIDD's goals are to enhance the capacity of professionals who work with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Participate in the development of a society that fully includes individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Build an effective, responsive, well managed, responsibly-governed, and sustainable organization.

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All About Us!



Lindsey Molloy

Lindsey loves her full schedule. She enjoys the Monday outreach program with her friends. This is a learning experience as well as a social gathering for Lindsey. Since Lindsey has started at the Toronto Zoo as a volunteer, she is certainly kept busy with the 3 hour zoo shifts. She loves to meet and greet people. She is indeed a social butterfly. On Thursdays, she volunteers at Variety Village with her former class from Pope John Paul High School. After all this, Lindsey still finds the time to play scrabble and send emails. Way to go girl!



Rocel Enverga

I enjoy this program because it lets me be involved with the community and it helps me to be more successful. For example, with the Sunshine Gang I dance at the seniors' homes. I love to volunteer at St. Joseph's Church as an Altar Server during mass on Sundays with my family. On Fridays, I go to another program at Variety Village where I do many activities that keep busy. I enjoy playing piano, hanging out with my friends/ family and eating my favourite foods. Thank you for having me in the program and for all the support that helped to make it a successful year. I will miss everyone! Have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you in September!

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Kathleen Woo

Kathleen has her first-degree black belt in Taekwondo. She was also part of the Variety Village Team Synchro team for many years. Kathleen currently continues with weekly wheelchair basketball sessions. She plays the piano, recorder and drums. She is passionate about her photography. Kathleen loves to dance and play dj for her friends. She enjoys using emails, texting and facebook daily. Most of all, she thrives at learning new things when given the chance. Kathleen is a very big Toronto sports fan! Leafs, Blue Jays and Raptors all the way!



Kristen Lamb

I like doing the fitness and self-defense with Jackie and Johann. Carmen taught us how to say the months and barn animals in Italian. In our group we do geography and study maps with Christian. I do different measurements with Aidah in Math class. We all like doing art and crafts with Sue and Denise. Carolyn taught us about fire safety and with Jennifer, we learned about habitats. I really enjoy dancing with my friends and Danielle while Dr. Ash plays his guitar!



Carmen Lombardo,
Teacher

My year at the program was different from what I originally thought it would be. I was not too sure what to expect, but I quickly learned that amazing people surrounded me. It did not take very long to understand that we were all a special group of individuals who brought something different each and every week. I slowly realized that even though I was a teacher, I was learning from other fellow teachers, but more importantly, from the students. Overall, I believe that the year was very successful, full of lessons, activities, experiences, and fond memories. Every time I reflect on the past few months, I remember special events, such as social gatherings, lessons, Sunshine Gang performances, or even something small, such as early morning chat times. Each week, we all learned something new about one another and we learned how to embrace a variety of cultures, as well as differences. I wish that I had started the program from September, but I look forward to a new start with everyone. I know that this program has helped me grow as both a teacher, as well as an individual.

Carmen Lombardo

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Jennifer Haddad,
Teacher

What an inspirational experience I have had at AAIDD Ontario, teaching such lovely ladies and collaborating together with my fellow colleagues to create an educational program rooted in equity, diversity and inclusivity. Summer is finally here and it is a time to reflect upon our blessings, the achievements and talents of the ladies and the professional knowledge that I gained through this compassionate learning community. As a new member to the team, I developed holistic teaching strategies to deliver a Science unit on animals. The ladies investigated animal habitats, sounds, senses, necessities and body parts through several activities that included maps and handouts, visual aids and interactive ICT resources through the use of the Smartboard. In addition, lessons in other areas of the curricula such as math and drama were taught to ensure that they were exposed to a variety of learning materials in different subjects. The ladies welcomed me with open arms and together we embarked on an educational journey based on encouragement, inclusion and continuous effort. I look forward to working with the team again in September and I wish everyone a joyous and relaxing summer!

Jennifer Haddad



Jackie Gomes,
Parent Volunteer/ Fitness Instructor

This year was a good one! We surpassed our expectations in fitness and introduction to karate. The students started out with basic stretching exercises and slowly increased the radius of movements to points where they are noticeably more flexible. The introduction to Karate; which consisted mainly of blocking, kicking and punching, was quite a success in my opinion due mainly to the genuine interest and focus of the students displayed each week. I am looking forward to taking our training to the next level in the new school year and working along with the students and the rest of the AAIDD Ontario staff.

Jackie Gomes

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Carolyna Vasquez,
Teacher

When I started working with Dr. Ashleigh Molloy I wasn't sure what to expect. I completed my Special Education additional qualification online, but after finishing the course I felt lost. I had no real-life experience teaching students with exceptionality until I started volunteering for the Toronto Catholic District School Board. I worked with a bright and fearless student name Matteo, who has a learning disability in reading and writing. I honestly felt like he taught me more than I did to him. He helped understand that all students are capable of accomplishing many things, but each student might achieve their goals a bit differently. However, it was at AAIDD Ontario that I learned to view the *ability* in the word: dis-ABILITY. Rather than focusing on students' handicap, I learned to embrace and foster their capability and achievement. The experience taught me to challenge assumptions, open my mind to distinct viewpoints, and to release my potential to solve unexpected problems. Rocel, Lindsey, Kathleen, and Kristen were great teachers. They taught me to comprehend the characteristics of Down syndrome and to see the world in a positive point of view. Their heart-warming and accepting manner inspired me to challenge myself professionally in developing lessons and unit plans that conquered obstacles. I have been truly blessed with everything that has happened this year: getting into the TCDSB, volunteering and developing challenging and creative lesson plans for AAIDD Ontario, and growing professionally. Thank you ladies for a great year!

Carolyna Vasquez



Danielle Violo,
Teacher/ Dance Instructor

This past year I have worked with the Sunshine Gang. We have performed at many places and have learned so much about ourselves and each other. We have grown as a group and as a team. We have helped each other and seen each other through whatever difficulties we have had, just as a good team should. We are all different. We are all unique. We are all special in our own exceptional way!

Danielle Violo

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Aidah Chawanda,
Teacher

I am Aidah. Before coming to Canada, I was a teacher in Zimbabwe. When I was invited here, I was very impressed with the program. I am now teaching Math to the girls, where we have been working on taking measurements. It has been a great experience. I have been very impressed with the efforts of the students. It is my belief that they can learn most anything under the right tutelage.

Aidah Chawanda

SUMMER ACTIVITIES!



Nova's Ark

Nova's Ark offers opportunities for individuals with special needs to join trained and confident youth leaders to explore the many interesting animals and activities located on our ten acre property during our Summer Camp. Each individual is connected with 3 to 5 youth volunteers who become the *Circle of Friends* which is key in assisting with their program needs. The focus continues to be on social and communication skills through exploration, sensory stimulation and structured interactive activities. These programs provide, key life skills development, physical involvement and respite time with weather appropriate activities.

For more information, Please contact Mary-Ann for more information:

T: 905.706.1009 E: camps.novasark@bell.net or visit <http://www.novasark.ca/>

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Toronto Zoo

The Toronto Zoo is a dynamic and exciting action centre that inspires people to love, respect and protect wildlife and wild spaces. Don't forget to visit our resident Panda Ambassador, Lindsey, and the Zoo's new Panda exhibit this summer!

For more information, visit <http://www.torontozoo.com/ExploreTheZoo/Admission.asp>

Canada's Wonderland

Canada's Wonderland is Canada's premiere amusement park. It's where families come to spend quality time with each other and their good friends. Canada's premiere amusement park features such thrilling rides as Vortex, Shockwave, Behemoth and the 301-foot WindSeeker. And for the kids, there's Planet Snoopy and the new Dinosaurs Alive! Seven acres of Jurassic fun with over 40 life-sized dinos. And if you like water park thrills, Canada's premiere amusement park features Splash Works, a 20-acre water park featuring The Plunge, Super Soaker, the Lazy River and enough thrill rides to leave you and your family closer and prunier than ever.

AAIDD Ontario has discounted day passes available for \$41.50, contact us at aaidd.ont@gmail.com or [\(416\) 697-4067](tel:(416)697-4067)

Ontario Science Centre

The Ontario Science Centre delights, informs, and challenges the communities that it serves. It enriches people's lives and their understanding through engagement with science of local, national and global relevance. The Science Centre is the public centre for innovative thinking and provocative dialogue in science and technology.

For More Information visit, <http://www.ontariosciencecentre.ca/VisitUs/>

Royal Ontario Museum

The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) is among the world's leading museums of natural history and world cultures. In combining a universal museum of cultures with that of natural history, the ROM offers an unusual breadth of experience to audiences from around the world. The ROM includes more than six million items and forty galleries. It contains collections of dinosaurs, fossils, minerals, art, and Canadian History.

For More Information on prices, directions, programs, etc. please visit <http://www.rom.on.ca/en>

Rouge Park

Rouge Park is a great location to enjoy the outdoors and experience many beautiful nature sights! Rouge Park is over 40 km², protecting two [National Historic Sites](#) and a variety of ecosystems. A variety of natural landscapes is found in the Park, from the rolling hills of the glacial Oak Ridges Moraine north of Toronto, to the vast wetlands and sandy beach where the Rouge River empties into Lake Ontario. Rouge Park includes many of the best examples of forests, meadows, ponds and wetlands in the highly populated area near Canada's largest city. They undertake a wide array of restoration projects to improve the quality of the Park's habitats for future generations. For more information, please visit <http://www.rougepark.com/>

Black Creek Pioneer Village

Black Creek Pioneer Village is full of many buildings and artifacts. At Pioneer Village, you will become immersed in the lifestyles, customs, and surroundings of early residents who built the foundations for modern Toronto and Ontario at the typical crossroads community village found in the Toronto area during the 1800's. For more information, please visit <http://www.blackcreek.ca/>

Wild Water Kingdom

Wild Water Kingdom offers many different water attractions, events, and rides. It includes a big water park, drive-in, Zumba Fitness, beach festivals, and various services. It is a great way to cool off this summer! For more information, please visit <http://www.wildwaterkingdom.com>



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Dr. Ashleigh Molloy represents Canada
at

International Conference on Inclusion

Monterrey, Mexico

June 2013

Proudly sponsored by UNICEF



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WE NEED VOLUNTEERS LIKE YOU!

Change your Life! Gain New Skills! Love the Experience!

You are cordially invited to share your time and talent! Our association provides a weekly program on Monday (9:00am to 3:30pm excluding July & August). The program consists of teaching a variety of essential skills designed to meet the needs of our students with special needs. We seek to empower them so they can take their rightful place as fully contributing citizens. This program will be of particular interest to those college/university students pursuing a career in educational related fields, retired teachers and community volunteers. The program models a professional learning community where ideas and strategies are communally shared. The staff learns from each other and from the students themselves. Time commitment is flexible.

Further information and questions are welcomed by contacting Dr. Ashleigh Molloy at aaidd.ont@gmail.com or (416) 697-4067.

SPECIAL OFFER!

Canada's
Wonderland

AAIDD Ontario has discounted day passes available for our families and supporters. The day pass is usable on any day of your choice.

This is a significant saving for this entertainment venue. Our association offers this at our cost directly to the purchaser.

Regular Price: \$61.50

Our Price: \$41.50

Please contact us by email at

aaidd.ont@gmail.com or (416) 697-4067.

Payment by cheque can be made payable to AAIDD Ontario.

Ministry of Education Resources



www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/iep/iep.html

www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/guide/resource/index.html

www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/transition/transition.html

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/shared.pdf>



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Acknowledgement with Thanks

It is with sincere gratitude that we acknowledge the generous support that our association has received from Next Steps, Starbucks, Knights Village, John McErlain at Metro and Kamyar at Tim Horton's. These organizations have gone above and beyond to provide us with the assistance we require in hosting the programs presented by the Ontario Chapter of AAIDD. They have demonstrated their concern for persons with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities as collaborative community contributors. They have been a major support for our student programs enabling us to pursue the mission and vision of AAIDD Ontario.

Thank you! Xie Xie!
Merci! Shukran! Muchas gracias!
Salamat! Nanri!



The Ontario Chapter



Volunteer Board of Directors

President: Dr. Ashleigh Molloy

Treasurer: Blaine Morlock

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(Special Projects/ Facebook): Danielle Michele

(Outreach): Danielle Violo

(Community Activities): Michael Quan

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Newsletter: Johann Gomes

Videographer: Mark Christian

Visit our new website for regular updates

www.aaiddontario.org

Follow us on Twitter @AAIDD_Ont

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