

## Measuring-Up Fund: REPORT

### Section One - General

1. Community Name: Kelowna Measuring Up
2. Primary contact information: Paul Arney, Executive Director  
The Kelowna & District Society for People in Motion  
#280 - 1855 Kirschner Rd.  
Kelowna, British Columbia  
V1Y 4N7  
250.861.3302
3. Attach a final summary of your initiative. Please include specific details about activities undertaken as a result of receiving a Measuring Up grant. (ITEM I)
4. Attach a list of members of your Measuring Up Committee. (ITEM II)
5. Did you hire people to help complete this initiative?

☒ Yes (please complete this section)      ☐ No (please skip to Question 6)

How many people were hired? 3

Do any of the people hired have a disability?

☒ Yes      ☐ No

Was money from the Measuring Up grant used to pay the people you hired?

☒ Yes      ☐ No

6. Attach copies of any media coverage related to your initiative.  
(ITEMS IV, IV a, IV b, IV c)

## Section Two - Financial Information

Please provide final budget information for your initiative in the format below:

		IN KIND RESOURCES		MEASURING UP FUND
Expenditures	AMOUNT	Amount	Source	Amount
Web site - 50% discount	7,436	3,700	Artistech	3,736
Contractors	15,161			15,161
Other misc	537			537
Photocopying	360	360	People in Motion	
Meeting space	75	75	Kelowna Community Resources	
disABILITY disPATCH notices	300	300	People in Motion	
Totals:	23,915	4,435		19,462

## Section Three - Measuring Up Guide

- 1) Did you develop additional tools to supplement your use of the Measuring Up Guide?  
(ITEM V)

☒ Yes (please complete this section)

☐ No (please skip to Section Four)

## Section Four - Other Information

Attach any other information, stories or comments you would like to include that reflect on your initiative.

## Section Five - Report Declaration

I certify that:

- To the best of my knowledge all the information contained in this Report and any attachments is true and complete.
- Measuring Up, 2010 Legacies Now and the Province of BC were given appropriate recognition as a funding partner as per the Guidelines provided in the Contribution Agreement.
- I have submitted the Final Report in accordance to the approved deadline.

### Authorized Representative:

Name (please print): Paul Arney      Position: Executive Director Kelowna & District People in Motion

Signature: Original Signed      Date: November 14, 2008

### Mail completed AND signed Final Reports to:

Measuring Up Fund  
2010 Legacies Now  
400 - 1095 West Pender  
Vancouver, British Columbia V6E 2M6  
Phone: 778-327-5153

## **Measuring Up Kelowna 2008 Summary**

**Submitted to:**       **Rebekah Mahaffey**  
                              **Coordinator, Measuring Up 2010 Legacies Now**  
                              **400 - 1095 Pender Street West Vancouver BC V6E 2M6**

**Submitted by:**       **Paul Arney**  
                              **The Kelowna & District Society for People in Motion**

### **INTRODUCTION**

People in Motion guided the Measuring Up process in Kelowna through the development and facilitation of a Steering Committee comprised of community members and agencies interested in assessing and promoting accessibility and inclusion for all citizens.

Since 1987, The Kelowna & District Society for People in Motion has been actively involved in working to remove barriers for people with disabilities and is currently implementing awareness and capacity-building programs to promote the spirit of the Measuring Up initiative. The foundation built by People in Motion with 2010 Legacies Now continues to address the issue of accessibility, and will continue to play a lead role as set forth by the work of the steering committee, the city of Kelowna and People in Motion.

As the host agency of Measuring Up, People in Motion facilitated the process of reviewing the Measuring Up guide aware of the need to engage the broader business community, academia and other community leaders throughout the development process.

People in Motion provided administrative support, a point of contact for all participants and more importantly, engaged with Kelowna community citizens to promote participations, dialogue and public awareness regarding accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities. The Measuring Up guide was and is an exceptional tool to direct this process.

The City of Kelowna and the Mayor need to be acknowledged for their foresight and commitment to matters related to accessibility and while there will always be room for improvement; the city of Kelowna is approachable and attentive to the needs of people with disabilities. Using past practice as a measure people with disabilities and their needs can expect to remain a priority with the city.

In order to maximize the benefit to the community, it will be important to secure support from sectors including both public and private to move forward with the recommendations outlined in this report. The Kelowna & District Society for People in Motion looks forward to working in partnership with all sectors to continue to keep Kelowna at the forefront of accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities.

## PROCESS

The process began by working with the Central Okanagan Access Awareness Team (COAAT) and the City of Kelowna's Disability Advisory Committee. These two long established groups seek to promote accessibility and inclusion in our community and have been and are currently working toward many of the principles held by the Measuring Up initiative; however, funding, human resource and time constraints limit the extent to which they could direct the Measuring Up process. In January, 2008 People in Motion was approached and agreed to champion this project.

At the January 24<sup>th</sup> 2008 meeting of the Kelowna City Council, the Measuring Up Initiative was endorsed by the Mayor and Council of the City of Kelowna with a resolution (*attached ITEM I*) endorsing the Measuring Up Initiative and the work of the steering committee.

A list of individuals (*attached ITEM II*) and groups with an interest in awareness and inclusion for people with disabilities was developed to engage them and to guide the Measuring Up process. People with disabilities were both part of the committee and frequently consulted throughout this process to ensure that their voice contributed to creating a fully accessible, welcoming and inclusive community. Five facilitated meetings were held.

An online survey was developed (*attached ITEM IV*) based on the categories outlined in the Measuring Up Handbook and the trends developed from the Measuring Up Steering Committee. The survey was promoted by word of mouth and through notices placed in local media directing all members of the community to the online survey.

## ANALYSIS

The group identified areas where work had already been done, such as *Guidelines for Accessibility* Endorsed by City Council – April 7, 2003 and *The Affordable & Special Needs Housing Task Force*, November 15, 2006, and additional areas that may require further attention.

Participation in the online survey was disappointing, with very few surveys completed. As a result, more reliance was placed on the outcome of the discussions at the facilitated meetings. The candid contributions of the steering committee participants were invaluable in bringing to the fore the realities of the world for persons with disabilities, and in reaffirming why the Measuring Up process was so crucial.

Two recurring themes resonated throughout the Measuring Up process. One is inclusiveness in the community, which is a central element. Too often, persons with disabilities are treated separately – often unwillingly segregated – from other parts of the community. This is not always in the best interests of the person concerned, nor is it ever in the best interests of the community as a whole.

Another theme is accessibility. This can be physical accessibility to buildings, or it can mean accessibility in other ways. For example sensitivity to proper signage for

the visually impaired, not having to lobby event organizers for sign language interpreters and providing accessible information and communication technologies, such as universal design which benefits everyone. Measuring Up also addressed related issues such as ensuring personal mobility, where that is a problem and facilitating independent living.

These trends, coupled with discussion and review of feedback, resulted in the identification of two key priorities: **ease of access to information** and the need for an **improved and dedicated transportation system**.

### **Improving Transportation in Kelowna**

***“Kelowna is a wonderfully accessible city in comparison to others I have lived in. I have access to sport and entertainment venues and enjoy many cultural events. Unfortunately the ease of access to these venues is often tainted by the frustration of getting to the event and worrying about whether I will be able to get home should the event end after public transit ceases operation.”*** Measuring Up participant

This was a theme recurrent throughout the Measuring Up discussions; the acknowledgement that overall the community was accessible and generally receptive to recommendations related to improving accessibility and creating inclusiveness. The barrier was the reliability of transportation both to and from activities and events. The committee recognized that, despite the best efforts of the local transportation services, systems were stressed up to and often beyond the capacity to keep up to demand. Found lacking were flexibility and availability of reliable public transportation. Where a person with a disability did not have their own means, transportation was solely dependent on public transit, HandyDart or a limited number of accessible taxis. Challenges often arose arranging suitable transportation back from an event as an event may end after public transit or HandyDart has concluded operations for the day. The Measuring Up committee concluded that freedom of movement needs to be an inherent right for everyone and inadequate and inaccessible transportation remains an obstacle that confronts people with disabilities. Access to transportation is vital to independence; it affects the employment, political participation, entertainment, socializing, and religious attendance of all people with disabilities.

### **Improving Access to Information**

***“We just moved here. What services are available for my daughter? And where can I access support for her disability?”***

***“Where can I find out if the theatre/store/restaurant is accessible for my needs?”***

Access to information is an essential component in the provision of more equitable opportunities for everyone. By bringing the various stakeholder groups together to discuss accessibility and inclusion many were surprised at their common challenges

and frustrations. The Measuring Up Committee felt that a central clearing house of information where people with disabilities could access information on activities and events in the community and share experiences of frustration and success would benefit all sectors. A centralized source of information could address the sensitivities toward need and fulfillment for people with disabilities.

A key challenge for 2010 Legacies Now, the City of Kelowna, People in Motion and other organizations, together with the media, is to adequately explain and legitimate the intent and spirit of the Measuring Up initiative to the community. To not only reach out to disability stakeholders and constituencies, but also to professionals, such as rehabilitation specialists, doctors and architects. Information needs to be disseminated so that everyone can fully respect the needs, rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.

A consistent and accurate source of information that addresses the needs of people with disabilities would provide a common voice on disability issues that would lead to the development of policies and projects from both the public and private sector. A central resource specific to people with disabilities would promote the sharing of information and resources across service providers through joint programs and activities. Benefits would include raising the awareness of disability information services and the involvement of relevant government and non-government agencies.

To that end the opportunity of messaging the masses and specifics becomes much simpler if by utilizing the website which is now state of the art and drives individuals to the information source directly. This donation of this partial donation of this website is a remarkable addition to the overall plan and helped enormously in the ease of data input and ease of connecting.

We must continue to work with two local special needs writers in both local valley wide papers, the community paper, Capital News and Subscription valley wide paper the Okanagan Newspaper group. Together as two written papers with the new website, the messaging will allow for the entire valley to understand the concerns and needs on many levels to people with disabilities and how they deal with issues on a daily basis.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Continue the momentum created by the Measuring Up initiative to support readily accessible information that is of interest and necessity for people with disabilities. A centralized source of information sharing around awareness and inclusion, the hallmarks of Measuring Up, will promote advances in all areas of consequence for people with disabilities. This should be built on the investment in the Measuring Up web presence and promoted in partnership with print media to reach out to the disability community and the greater community as a whole in order to raise awareness, promote inclusion and educate the community.

Improved community accessibility, along with improved access to transport and access to information will contribute to awareness and inclusion.

- **Kelowna information network for disabilities (KIND):** establish a disability information network to link people with disabilities to those working in and sensitive to the disability sector in Kelowna and the Okanagan. KIND would seek to develop a higher profile for disability services, while at the same time developing a support network for people with disabilities. Building on the foundation started by the Measuring Up initiative, the establishment of the information network for disabilities would represent a strong endorsement of the need for a disability voice across all sectors of the community.
- **Create an on-line 'Accessibility Guide'** in a format that can be accessed on-line and downloadable for dissemination in hard copy. This will provide an important service and will promote universal design in the community.
- **Establish a network of accessible vehicles and volunteer drivers** that can be booked to provide reliable transport to and from events and or daily activities. This would include the continued support of accessible public transit and expansion of HandyDart hours of operation as well as support to increase the number of licenses for accessible taxis.

## CONCLUSION

Accessibility is a fundamental consideration in the process of the equalization of opportunities in all spheres of society. Accordingly the City of Kelowna, the Province of British Columbia and the private sector need to continue to undertake measures to improve access to information and the built environment, and mandate that the design, manufacture and construction of products and environments be usable by all people and, to the greatest extent possible, to lessen any need for adaptation or specialized design. The spirit of Measuring Up provides that society must implement programs of action to make physical, social and virtual environments more equitable and accessible.

Effective change can best be accomplished at the local level. The 2010 Legacies Now Initiative has been the impetus in the disability field to inspire local considerations where the real effectiveness of Measuring Up will occur. Now that Measuring Up is the provincial standard to determine awareness and capacity on disability supports, the main challenge ahead is to effectively harness the momentum to ensure that the discussion goes beyond just words and is acted upon to improve accessibility at the local level.

Effective implementation will now be the key. That will require effective and coordinated action by disability organizations, which have worked so diligently to date in the Measuring Up process. Continued support and vision shown for these initiatives will bring us closer to the goal of full accessibility and the full potential of the Measuring Up initiative will be achieved.



**Measuring Up Kelowna Committee Members**

- 1) Access To Employment - Ellen Boelcke
- 2) BC Paraplegic Association - Arlene Pilgrim
- 3) Campion Marine Inc. - Paulette St. John
- 4) Can Am Mobility - Clint Ponte
- 5) Can Am Mobility - Ed Stang
- 6) Canadian Mental Health Association Kelowna, - Amanda Swoboda
- 7) Canadian National Institute for the Blind - Carla Lundy
- 8) Canadian National Institute for the Blind - Gerry Stolz
- 9) City Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities - Sherri Newcomen
- 10) City of Kelowna - Counsellor Michelle Rule
- 11) City of Kelowna – Mayor Sharon Shepherd
- 12) Colleen Evans - Member at Large
- 13) Community Living BC - Lisa Bourget
- 14) Community Recreational Initiatives Society - Bill Mah
- 15) Deb Perry - Member at Large
- 16) iQuest Healthcare Services - Lorne Friesen
- 17) Kelowna Chamber of Commerce - Marilyn Johnson
- 18) Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society - Coreen Jenner
- 19) Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society - Jayne Aleck
- 20) Measuring Up Facilitator - Daniel Sloan
- 21) Michelle Britton - Member at Large
- 22) Paragon Pharmacy - Nancy Warner
- 23) Raymond James - Gerry Austgarden
- 24) Seniors Outreach Services Society - Vi Sorenson
- 25) T.I.E.R. Support Services - George Arambasich
- 26) The Arthritis Society, Interior/Okanagan - Trudy Battaglio
- 27) The Kelowna & District Society People In Motion - Paul Arney
- 28) Western Institute for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing - Karen Kelly

Sharon Shepherd  
 Mayor  
 City of Kelowna  
 City Hall  
 1435 Water St  
 Kelowna B.C. V1Y 1J4



**Re: 2010 Legacies Now Measuring Up**

Your Worship Mayor Shepherd,

The Kelowna & District Society for People in Motion is dedicated to the inclusion and equality of children and adults with disabilities throughout the city of Kelowna, the Okanagan Valley and visitors from around the world. People in Motion promotes its mission of inclusion by developing and sponsoring programs, services, and advocacy efforts on behalf of, and with, people with disabilities.

2010 Legacies Now has received a \$2-million grant from the Province of BC to establish the Measuring Up Accessibility and Inclusion Fund ([www.2010legaciesnow.com/measuring\\_up/](http://www.2010legaciesnow.com/measuring_up/).)

This fund will support community projects aiming to improve how people with disabilities can actively participate in, and contribute to, their communities.

The fund, which provides approximately 70 grants of up to \$25,000, supports the provincial government's goal to build the best system of support in Canada for people with disabilities.

The Kelowna & District Society for People in Motion has been approved for a \$25,000 grant and has received \$12,500 to begin to facilitate the Measuring Up process in Kelowna.

As the host agency for the Measuring Up grant, People in Motion will facilitate the process of reviewing the Measuring Up guide; prepare an inventory and initiate the assessment of accessibility and inclusion in our community.

2010 Legacies Now sees passing a council motion or resolution as one of the first, and one of the most important, steps that our community can take to begin implementing the Measuring Up guide and process. The intent is that it will reinforce our community's commitment to increasing accessibility and inclusion and influence others to participate in this process.

We respectfully submit the attached Measuring Up Resolution for consideration.

In addition we request the most recent survey's, studies and audits that address accessibility issues in Kelowna.

Sincerely

Paul Arney  
 Executive Director

## **2010 Legacies Now Measuring Up Resolution**

WHEREAS accessibility and inclusion are fundamental factors in empowering people with disabilities to fully participate in and contribute to society and the City of Kelowna strives to take a leadership role in creating an accessible and inclusive community for all its citizens;

AND WHEREAS The City of Kelowna has established an Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities to advise Council on the issues of Accessibility and Inclusion.

AND WHEREAS The City of Kelowna wishes to continue to build on the excellent work that has been accomplished by community organizations to create a community that is both accessible and inclusive;

AND WHEREAS The City of Kelowna recognizes that this work is important to all its citizens and there is still much to be done to make even more progress in the future and maintain our reputation as leaders in this field;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City Council endorse Measuring Up as a resource to improve accessibility and inclusion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City propose a resolution that a formal request be made to the Provincial and Federal governments to allocate infrastructure funding to support accessibility and inclusion initiatives in the City of Kelowna.

**Media releases and communications sent to the following:**

- **ASTRAL MEDIA-STANDARD RADIO THROUGHOUT THE VALLEY AND SILK FM**
- **CAPITOL NEWS AND DAILY**
- **CBC RADIO**
- **CHBC TV**
- **COLUMNIST JOHN THOMSON**
- **COLUMNIST MAXINE DEHART**
- **COURIER DAILY**
- **LAKE COUNTRY CALENDAR**
- **OKANAGAN LIFE**
- **OKANAGAN NEWSPAPER GROUP-WEEKEND VALLEY-WIDE EDITION OF THE  
COURIER**
- **RADIO STATIONS POWER 104 & B103**
- **SENIORS CHOICE**
- **SHAW TV**
- **STUDENT NEWSPAPER THE PHOENIX -UBCO & OKANAGAN COLLEGE**
- **WESTSIDE WEEKLY**



For immediate release: Kelowna B.C.

September 10th 2008- 4:00 p.m.

Measuring up needs to hear what you have to say!

People in Motion, a long standing local Kelowna organisation dedicated to working with people with disabilities have been actively coordinating the 2010 legacies Now ~ MEASURING UP~initiative.

Measuring up is a guide designed to assist communities throughout B.C. to assess the degree to which their citizens with disabilities are active participants and included in our community life. Areas from throughout the province are ~MEASURING UP~ until October 31st 2008 in hopes that we can become more inclusive for all members of society.

Mayor Shepherd states, "Although Kelowna is an active city by virtue of its 4 season's we hope to showcase those in our community with disabilities as being welcomed here and encouraged to become part of our cultural mosaic. I strongly urge those with a disability as well as the general citizen to visit the website and fill out a survey which will help us assess where Kelowna is at and what we still need to do to reach the goal of inclusiveness for all members of society".

The opportunity for social change and improvements for people with disabilities is upon us and British Columbia has dedicated to building the best system of support in Canada for people with disabilities.

Mayor Sharon Shepherd and the City of Kelowna have been longstanding champions in promoting inclusivity and accessibility. The partnership with People in Motion and 2010 Legacies Now means that public awareness is high, making it an opportune time to advance "access" and "inclusion" issues. The entire community still have the opportunity to take part in the on line survey at [www.peopleinmotionbc.ca](http://www.peopleinmotionbc.ca). This website was kindly co-sponsored and created by locally owned Artistech New Media.

People in Motion Executive Director Paul Arney explains, "With an aging population, skill shortages and the immense task of hosting the 2010 Olympics and Paralympics as a province, the results from this survey will be taken very seriously as they will relate to improvements socially and accessibly for people with a disability. SO far, the candid observations which have been on our on line survey have been invaluable in revealing the realities of the worlds for People with disabilities and in reaffirming why our task is so crucial as city, a region and a province."

Input from the community at every level is still needed as it will help to identify gaps and develop strategies to facilitate and enhance better accessibility in the City of Kelowna.

For more Media information:

Allison McNeill 250-212-483

Measuring up website : [www.peopleinmotionbc.ca](http://www.peopleinmotionbc.ca)

# disABILITY disPATCH

ITEM  
IV b

by Derek Watters

This monthly disABILITY disPATCH page is a joint community project of the Kelowna Capital News, People In Motion and the United Way. To suggest a topic for a 300-word Focus feature article, or to submit a Bulletin or Community Kudos of 100 words or less, email [derekwatters@pimbc.ca](mailto:derekwatters@pimbc.ca) or phone People In Motion at (250) 861.3302. Focus topics are planned several months in advance.

## JULY'S disABILITY FOCUS:

In June, I tried something for the first time in my entire life – to sail a sailboat! At Central Okanagan Sailing Association, it was a perfect late spring day. On Okanagan Lake the wind was about 8 knots, the temperature hovered in the mid 20's, and scattered clouds cruised lazily across the sun-face.

My sailing lesson was given by the Disabled Sailing Association (DSA; [www.cosa.ca/dsa](http://www.cosa.ca/dsa)). My DSA instructor, Robin Taylor, first used a dock-mounted lift to transfer me from my wheelchair into the front seat of the Martin 16 sailboat. To facilitate my transfer, the Martin 16 sat motionless & stable in its wooden "crib," which raised it partially out of the water.

World-renowned yacht designer Don Martin of Richmond BC, designed the Martin 16 especially for people with disabilities, including high quadriplegics. (See cut-away side-view, below). The long centre-board and its 300-pound weight mean the Martin 16 cannot flip over. In addition, enough flotation is built right into the hull that, even if filled with water, the Martin 16 still floats.

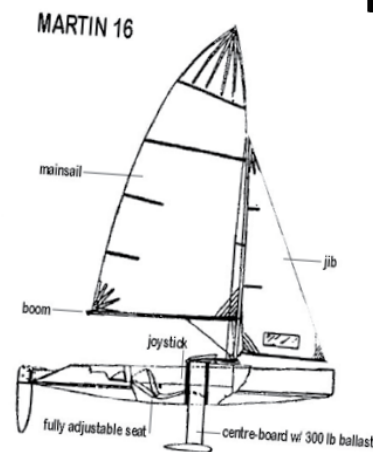
When aboard, Robin sat right behind me, had his own set of controls, and taught me what to do, step-by-step. Once we were away from the dock, the wind picked up. First, Robin demonstrated my three controls – mainsail sheet (rope, or line), jib sheet, & joystick for steering, linked to the rudder at the stern.

Early on in my lesson, Robin encouraged me to take over control of the sailboat on my own. I was a bit nervous because I had no idea what to expect. But Robin assured me not to worry, since he could take back control from his seat in an instant. So I grabbed the joystick in both hands, pushed it right & left, and observed that the Martin 16 responds slowly and easily.

The next task for me to learn was how to feed out & haul in the mainsail sheet, in order to change boat speed. I learned that our boat speed depended on the wind direction and our desired destination point on shore.

We sailed like this for more than an hour – back & forth, and up & down Okanagan Lake. But since I kept hurling Robin a barrage of questions about sailing terms & concepts, the time flew by.

Sailing is clean, quiet and can be either relaxing or exhilarating – depending on your skills & mood. There's no loud engine noise, no smelly exhaust pollution and no burning of fossil fuels. I can't wait to sail out onto the water with DSA again! To arrange your first sailing lesson, call Miriam (250.860.7990) or Merv (250.717.0315).



## Bulletins



❖ From dawn until dusk on Friday September 12, the Pihl & Associates Swing into Action Golf Marathon takes place at Shannon Lake Golf Club, in support of brain injury prevention. Forty-five participants can each golf a total of 100 holes in one day. Prize money for Holes-In-One totals \$70,000! This year's goal is to raise \$65,000 for brain injury education and prevention programs in the Okanagan, coordinated by BrainTrust Canada. BrainTrust Canada is a leader in injury prevention, as well as rehabilitation, maximizing independence for persons with brain injury. To become a sponsor, donor, participant or volunteer, please contact Magda Kapp at 762-3233, [mkapp@braintrustcanada.com](mailto:mkapp@braintrustcanada.com) or visit [www.braintrustcanada.com](http://www.braintrustcanada.com)

❖ On Friday August 15th, The Good Samaritan Society (GSS) will host the 1st Annual VanMar Constructors Inc. "Spirit of Caring" golf tournament at the Kelowna Springs Golf Club. This year, the "Texas Scramble" format features a 7:30am Shotgun Start. The \$175 registration fee includes a \$75 tax receipt, continental breakfast & BBQ luncheon. Proceeds will help to purchase a wheelchair-accessible bus for the over 250 residents of Mountainview Village, 1540 KLO Road. For more details, please phone Annette or Jon at (250) 762-2192. For more information on sponsoring the tournament or to make a monetary or prize donation, please contact Alicia Glenn at (780) 431-3781 or [aglenn@gss.org](mailto:aglenn@gss.org).

❖ Measuring Up Kelowna is a partnership between 2010 Legacies Now and The Kelowna & District Society for People in Motion. The goal of Measuring Up Kelowna is to develop livable, disability-friendly, senior-friendly, universally designed communities. The project addresses accessibility & inclusion and uses the "Measuring Up" guide & tool created by 2010 Legacies Now. Through locally-controlled initiatives, and with strong support from the City of Kelowna, the project aims to increase the participation of seniors and people with disabilities, in employment opportunities, tourism activities, economic development, sustainability efforts and cooperative ventures. The intent is to build a better community that includes all citizens. The project engages local governments, disability & seniors organizations, businesses, and citizens in active dialogue, assessment and planning for their community. The objective is to determine priorities by seeking input from local citizens. You are invited to contribute your views by completing the on-line survey at [www.pimbc.ca/measuring-up.html](http://www.pimbc.ca/measuring-up.html). You can also have your say by contacting People in Motion directly at 250.861.3302.

❖ The Association for the Benefit of Children with Disabilities (ABCD) presents FRED PENNER on Saturday, September 20, 2008 at the Kelowna Community Theatre. Show times are 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Tickets are available from Ticketmaster: [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca), 250-860-1470, or at any Ticketmaster retail location. Don't miss out! Be sure to buy your tickets early for this fantastic family event. Fred Penner hosted the internationally acclaimed television series "Fred Penner's Place", received 2 Juno Awards, 4 Parents' Choice Awards, 2 Honorary Doctorate Degrees, and is a Member of the Order of Canada. All proceeds go to ABCD. For more information or to make a charitable donation, please visit: [www.abcd-ok.com](http://www.abcd-ok.com) or call 250-801-6130.



## Kudos

❖ For all you independent & foreign film fans out there! The new Kelowna Film Society (KFS) Board of Directors has graciously agreed to honour the Access 2 Entertainment (A2E) Card. The A2E card provides free admission (or a maximum \$3 charge) for support persons accompanying a person with a disability, who pays the regular KFS admission (\$7 last season). KFS' upcoming season of Wednesday Night Movies begins September 10th. KFS films are screened at wheelchair-friendly Orchard Plaza 5 Cinema. Come September, check out KFS' film lineup at [www.kelownafilm.ca](http://www.kelownafilm.ca). And to apply for your A2E Card, visit [http://access2.ca/english\\_default.html](http://access2.ca/english_default.html).

Thank You!



# disABILITY disPATCH

ITEM  
IV c

by Derek Watters

This monthly disABILITY disPATCH page is a joint community project of the Kelowna Capital News, People In Motion and the United Way. To suggest a topic for a 300-word Focus feature article, or to submit a Bulletin or Community Kudos of 100 words or less, email: [derekwatters@pimbc.ca](mailto:derekwatters@pimbc.ca) or phone People In Motion at 250-861-3302. Focus topics are planned several months in advance.



## OCTOBER'S disABILITY FOCUS:

In every corner of Canada, autumn's arrival means one thing: HOCKEY SEASON! And the young & eager members of the Central Okanagan Wildcats Special Hockey team are certainly no exception.

Eight Wildcats hit the ice two years ago, under the leadership of Head Coach Phil von Unruh. As the parent of a child with special needs, Phil wanted to give these children (with autism, developmental delays or attention deficits), a supportive environment in which they could all play safe & fun ice hockey together, adapted to each child's ability level. Together with the local charity ABCD - the Association for the Benefit of Children with Disabilities, and Westside Parks and Recreation, Phil was able to make his vision a reality.

Last weekend, seventeen Wildcats suited up for their first practice of their '08-'09 season. According to Coach Phil, "Seven were able to skate around and handle the puck and ten were learning how to skate. There was a marked improvement in just the first hour."

Hockey is all about scoring goals. Therefore, Wildcat players, coaches & parents work together to ensure that every child experiences the personal thrill & team triumph of scoring. Other positive spin-offs for Wildcats include learning life skills such as dependability, concentration, willingness to share, & personal accountability.

Another benefit is experiencing the notion and emotion of being part of a "TEAM," a rare but priceless opportunity for anyone with special needs. To view two CHBC-TV news-clips of Wildcats in action, visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and type in "Wildcats Special Hockey." In the March '08 story, notice the players' remarkable progress after only one year of playing hockey. This Special Hockey program, unique in Western Canada, provides ice time to any player who is: aged five or older, male or female, physically able to play, but unable to participate in any other organized program due to his or her developmental disability. The Wildcats play at Jim Lind Arena, Mount Boucherie Community Centre, 2760 Cameron Road, Westbank. To register your child as a Wildcat, call Christy Fenwick, Westside Parks & Recreation, at (250.469.6160).

The soaring success of the Wildcats is spawning new Special Hockey teams up & down Okanagan Valley. This September, eighteen skaters suited up in Vernon for their first practice on the ice at Priest Valley Arena. Sherry Demetrick (250.542.0989) is Vernon's team manager; their Head Coach is Rob Morris, and Christine Bosworth is also a Coach. To find out how to register your child, call Greater Vernon Parks & Recreation (250.545.6035).

This coming January, Penticton parents will also try to field a team. For more info, call Carol Flynn, Penticton Recreation Dept. (250.490.2438) or email [Carol.flynn@penticton.ca](mailto:Carol.flynn@penticton.ca)

The main sponsor of Wildcats Special Hockey is CIBC Wood Gundy. Additional funding has come from Kal Tire, Advanced Power Lines, Prestige Hotels, & the Automotive Industry Assoc. Local charity ABCD administers Wildcats Special Hockey.

If you would like to contribute to the Wildcats' wonderful work, please plan to attend the Wildcats upcoming major fundraiser at Summerhill Winery on Friday November 14 at 7 pm. Your \$50 ticket provides you with two glasses of Summerhill wine, a selection of appetizers, access to a silent auction, chances for great door prizes, musical entertainment by Chris Thompson, and Doris Janssen of CHBC-TV as MC. Next month's disABILITY disPATCH will describe this Wildcat fundraising event in greater detail. Tickets are available from Wildcat parent Sue Noble (250.764.7769), Coach Phil von Unruh (250.763.0732) and ABCD President Keri Grenier (250.979.2512).



## Bulletins



According to the 2007 HungerCount Report, persons with disabilities are at increased risk of experiencing hunger across Canada. Similarly, a large percentage of homeless individuals have significant physical and/or mental disabilities.

The Poverty and Homelessness Action Team of the Central Okanagan (PHAT-CO) works to educate the community on the causes of poverty & homelessness. PHAT-CO members also strive to reduce stigma, to eradicate prejudice, and to encourage the community to take positive steps to eliminate these social injustices.

So, from Saturday October 11 to Friday October 17, PHAT-CO will be presenting the Poverty and Homelessness Action Week (PHAW). This is a Provincial Campaign aimed at spreading awareness around the many issues that affect persons living in poverty and absolute homelessness. They have many exciting things planned this year, so please visit [www.phatco.ca](http://www.phatco.ca) or call Lenetta Thordarson (250) 763-7161 for more details.

MEASURING UP wants to hear what you have to say! Measuring Up is the province-wide guide to help B.C. communities assess whether their citizens with disabilities are included as active participants in all aspects of community life. People in Motion, a long standing Kelowna organization dedicated to working with people with all disabilities, is coordinating the 2010 Legacies Now Measuring Up initiative.

Mayor Shepherd states, "Although Kelowna is an active city by virtue of its 4 seasons, we hope to showcase those in our community with disabilities as being welcomed here and encouraged to become part of our cultural mosaic. I strongly urge those with a disability as well as the general citizen to visit the website and fill out a survey which will help us assess where Kelowna is at and what we still need to do to reach the goal of inclusiveness for all members of society." To take part in the online survey, please visit [www.pimbc.ca](http://www.pimbc.ca) and click on the Measuring Up button.

Coast Architectural Group has been awarded the contract to design Agur Lake Camp, a facility for children with special-needs and their families to be built near Summerland.

"Coast just 'gets' what we're about," said camp society president Penny Ritchie, referring to the complexity of designing a barrier-free facility for people with all types of special-needs.

The camp group was favourably impressed by Coast having a staff member with first hand knowledge about accessibility issues.

Coast's design technologist, Tyler Tingle, is a paraplegic and advocate for people with special-needs.

The final design is expected to be completed in early spring.

Westside residents with disabilities are very grateful to Scott Lain of the BC Ministry of Transportation for improving access to one of the traffic islands at Highway 97 & Butt Road. Earlier this year, Scott took the time to meet with Westside residents Sherri Newcomen, Cesar Gomes & Gord McNeil and listen to their concerns. The meeting took place at that busy intersection so that Scott could see and learn firsthand the particular access problems faced by people using wheelchairs trying to cross these roads.

## Measuring Up Kelowna 2008 Survey

Thank you for taking the time to participate in, and fill out, this important community survey. Your anonymous responses will help guide the planning of future services for seniors & people with disabilities.

For each question below, please indicate only one answer.

Do you have a disability?    ☐ Yes    ☐ No

Does someone in your family, or someone you know well, have a disability?  
☐ Yes    ☐ No

How would you rate the *accessibility of public buildings* in Kelowna for seniors and people with disabilities?

☐ Very Poor    ☐ Poor    ☐ Average    ☐ Good    ☐ Very Good

**Comment ?** \_\_\_\_\_

How would you rate the *accessibility of Kelowna businesses* for seniors and people with disabilities?

☐ Very Poor    ☐ Poor    ☐ Average    ☐ Good    ☐ Very Good

**Comment ?** \_\_\_\_\_

How well does *Kelowna's HandyDart service* meet the transit needs of its citizens with disabilities?

☐ Very Poorly    ☐ Poorly    ☐ Average    ☐ Well    ☐ Very Well

**Comment ?** \_\_\_\_\_

Overall, how easy is it to get *information on services* for people with disabilities?

☐ Not at all    ☐ A little    ☐ Average    ☐ Mostly    ☐ Very

**Comment ?** \_\_\_\_\_



How would you rate the *availability of financial supports* for seniors and people with disabilities?

☐ Very Poor   ☐ Poor   ☐ Average   ☐ Good   ☐ Very Good

**Comment ?** \_\_\_\_\_

On average, how much *respect and understanding* do you think people in Kelowna have, for the needs of people with disabilities?

☐ None at all   ☐ A little   ☐ Average   ☐ A lot   ☐ Total

**Comment ?** \_\_\_\_\_

On average, how much *respect and understanding* do you think people in Kelowna have, for the needs of senior citizens?

☐ None at all   ☐ A little   ☐ Average   ☐ A lot   ☐ Total

**Comment ?** \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any other comments, ideas or suggestions?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.