

Aug. 15, 2011

‘Include an MLA Initiative’

Dear RPs,

We believe that when an individual with disabilities and/or families who have a relative with a disability build meaningful and lasting relationships with their MLA, their representative understands what is important to them and their family. Their MLA will also make more informed decisions when setting policies and creating budgets.

My name is Christina Thomas and I am working with BCACL as the coordinator of the ‘Include an MLA Initiative’. We are seeking families who have a relative with a disability and would be interested in participating.

We are looking for families who are willing to share both their struggles and their successes. It’s important for MLAs to hear stories of what is working and what is not.

The Saskatchewan Association for Community Living (SACL) documented some of the statements of the families that participated in a similar initiative called “Adopt an MLA”;

“An important part of the home visit is that politicians meet our children. Those elected officials leave our homes understanding some of the realities posed by the disability. There are MLAs who have possibly never met someone with a disability, so this meeting can give the issues real meaning”(says Laurie Larson, a parent and one of initiator of the campaign.)

“Having him come into my one was relaxing and non-threatening. It was good not to have to go out to a meeting, especially when you have 5 children. We all gathered around the table, like our own little parliament,”(explained P. Lenuik, a parent participant)

Other families have used words such as ‘empowering’ and ‘positive’ to describe their coffee visits”

Please feel free to call me (see below). You may be interested yourself or you may know a family in your region that may be interested. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your time and interest in this grassroots approach to increase the awareness of the disability community.

Sincerely,

Christina Thomas
Include an MLA Coordinator.

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