



Focus Disability Network Meeting

Please Note: Program Introductions will begin promptly at 8:45am

Date & Time: Monday Feb. 23, 2009
8:45 A.M. – 11:45 A.M.

Location: **Communitas Supportive Care Society**
103-2776 Bourquin Cresc. W
Abbotsford, BC
Tel: 604-850-6608

- 8:45 – 9:00** **Networking opportunities** with colleagues who assist persons with disabilities (bring your business cards, and brochures).
- 9:00 – 9:15** **Introductions, program updates**, information on new or changing community based programs or initiatives that are part of providing services to people with disabilities.
- 9:15 – 9:45** **Pamela Willis** from **Fraser Valley Women's Resource Centre** will give us an overview of their services, and how they facilitate inclusion of women and children with disabilities.
- 9:45 – 10:00** **Carol Paetkau** and **Jodie Millward** from **Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association** will be talking about their Community Mentors for Employment project for people with acquired injuries to explore potential employment options.
- 10:00 – 10:15** **Deborah Powell** from Outthere4u.com will share her website of places to go and things to do in various communities, and solicit feedback on making it more disability friendly.
- 10:15 – 10:30** **REFRESHMENT BREAK**
- 10:30 – 11:00** **Doug Lagasse** of **Ken Lagasse Inc**, chartered accountants, will explain what persons with disabilities need to know when applying for Disability Tax Credits and the new Registered Disability Savings Plan. There will Q & A to follow.
- 11:00 – 11:45** **Blake Williams** from the **Pacific Institute** will give a brief presentation on a new program designed and developed with notable disabled British Columbians called "Discovering the Power in Me - Creating a Future of Strength and Hope". Mr. Williams will describe the new program and its origins, key concepts, and how it is intended to help disabled persons, their families, and caregivers move toward a promising future. Already there is international interest in the program and he will field questions on how this new program might be employed in the Fraser Valley to help achieve improved rehabilitation, quality of life, and employment outcomes for persons with disabilities with service providers.

Contact: **Margaret Hardy**, Executive Director
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