



**Gateway  
Association**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been a wonderfully invigorating and innovative year for Gateway Association, its members, Board of Directors, and staff. We are strong and resilient, as always, and continue to find new ways to support families. We are richer and better because of those connections.

Gateway Association saw immense growth in 2014, and the organization received much attention from the Alberta government, the media, the general public, families, and partners in the disability field.

We continue to push the envelope in print, video, and on social media to capitalize on this fantastic momentum in garnering support for our family support work, our MyLife project, and We Belong, our wholistic inclusive employment initiative.

2014 brought with it the advent of Gateway's own cash mob campaign, flash mobs, our immense story-building and historic banner project for our 40th anniversary gala, the rebuilding of two websites — [gatewayassociation.ca](http://gatewayassociation.ca) and [webelong.ca](http://webelong.ca) — and the creation of the We Belong app.

In February, Gateway kicked off Edmonton's first cash mob campaign of its kind, celebrating inclusive employers — those who hire inclusively by employing people with disabilities in meaningful, paid roles.

Over the course of the year, cash mobbers spent a total of nearly \$13,000 at three inclusive employers during Gateway's cash mobs. We hope to see more cash mobbers at each mob we host in 2015.

Our employment team presented at the Alberta government's Innovations At Work symposium May 22 and 23 on disability innovations. The symposium was attended virtually by thousands from across the province, the country, and the world.

Team members were also invited to present to a global audience on three topics at the 2014 TASH Conference — a place for innovators in the disability field from all over the world to connect and share ideas. The team's presentations on transition planning, our support broker model for Family Managed Services, and our wholistic approach to inclusive employment, was well received by all.

We celebrated 2014's International Day of Persons with Disabilities Dec. 3 with our flash mob "Beautiful People," which nudges the community to celebrate our differences as beautiful, rather than focusing on differences in a way that segregates. We will continue to flash mob around the community until the next International Day of Persons with Disabilities in 2015.

The family support team

had a busy 2014, with the addition of three new team members to help families do future planning through the Individual Support Planning process. The team also focused on the resurrection of the Families Forward Under 18 peer-to-peer support group, and the creation and addition of new workshops and more workshop dates for families.

October to December 2014 was MyLife's busiest quarter since we began the MyLife journey in 2010. We boosted our team to match the demand as more agencies expressed interest in taking part in the process, and gathered more anecdotal adventures along the way. The amalgamation of the Calgary and Edmonton offices has allowed us to build and cement a more cohesive team than ever.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank Gateway's staff for all of their hard work and commitment to the continuing success of this organization. I would also like to thank each and every member of Gateway's extended family.

Families are at the heart of what we do and our continuing quest to offer the best, most innovative support we can.

Thank you for another wonderful year.

Warm regards,  
Leonard Lozowy  
Board President

## Our board

### **President**

Leonard Lozowy

### **Vice President**

Andriko Lozowy

### **Past President**

Sydney Carriere

### **Treasurer**

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### **Director**

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Matthew Story

### **Director**

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### **Executive Director**

Cindy de Bruijn

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# Inclusive Employment

Our We Belong wholistic inclusive employment initiative continues to be busy and steadily growing.



We receive many new calls each week with job seekers and community partners interested in receiving our support to find meaningful, inclusive employment.

We continue to work with job seekers to find the best fit and go through our discovery process, research workplaces, build relationships with employers and find customized employment, where both the employees and the employers find success.

We have added to our list of partners, including NAT, Junior Achievement,

the City of Edmonton and City of St. Albert, and a recent partnership with a group of universities and agencies across Canada that are researching workplace culture and the business case for hiring inclusively.

Gateway's cash mobs have raised more than \$13,000 for inclusive employers to date.

They continue to gain momentum and bring awareness to the purchasing power of consumers who want to support inclusive employers.



*Nicole Almberg, one of our job seekers, works at The Organic Box, where she is a valued member of their team.*

# MyLife Surveys

This past year was one of ups and downs for the MyLife project.

We had some slow times, but ended the year with a bang. October to December was our busiest quarter in our My Life history.

As PDD focuses on personal outcomes in all areas, we are starting to notice agencies are more responsive to the MyLife process.

For budgetary reasons, we closed our Calgary office in June. Although we lost our Team Leaders and some Surveyors, we still have three Surveyors from the Calgary region that continue to be a part of Gateway staff.

The survey team that worked diligently to com-



plete our busiest quarter had three Team Leaders and seven Surveyors.

We continue to strive to find new ways to complete more surveys, but still value getting to talk to people about their quality of life.

**Here are some tales from the road:**

We had an exciting time with the MyLife project. In the past quarter, we braved the wacky temperature changes that make up our winter and traveled around Alberta. I traveled four out of five weeks right before Christmas!



*Teresa Galenski, left, and Annie Pipke, right, take in the scenery while working in Peace River.*

We worked in Red Deer, Didsbury, Olds, Lethbridge and a beautiful little town called Prairie Butte.

Many hours together on the road mean we have come to know each other so well. The days are long but very rewarding as people get to have their say on their quality of life.

— Glenda Elder, Team Leader

The MyLife team has bonded on our long road trips. Discussion topics covered include: how to survive the zombie apocalypse, favourite T.V. shows and comic book characters, and group story making.

We've met so many amazing people while doing the surveys and we have enjoyed getting to know the different communities."

— Annie Pipke, Team Leader

# Supports to Children, Family Support & Education, Families Forward

## Direct Support:

We provide one-to-one support for individual families who have children with intellectual disabilities aged 0+.

We assist families in their everyday lives in numerous areas. For example, our family support in children's services works with families to advocate for their children in schools and in community settings.

Our family support in adult services works with parents/guardians, staff, and self-advocates in areas of human resources, housing, post-secondary, and employment.

Our family support team is unique in that its members have both the lived experience of being family members and the experience in the service provider sector.

Additionally, we are now working with PDD in completing Individual Support Planning for FMS families.

Two family support team members typically complete this process: assisting



families to identify goals which help them plan for the future of their loved ones, and direct staff in working toward quality-of-life outcomes.

In the last year, our team completed ISPs with 35 families.

## Education:

We are contracted to present workshops to funds administrators as part of their FMS agreement. In the past year, we have taught Visioning and Valued Roles, Staff: From Good to Great, and Abuse Prevention. Since Fall 2014, we offer learning opportunities to staff supporting family members.

## Stats for FMS workshops:

Visioning (11 workshops) = 120 attendees

Abuse (nine workshops) = 71 attendees

Outcomes/Staff (six workshops) = 47 attendees  
More Than Just a Job (two workshops) = 27 attendees

We have offered several transition planning sessions to families who have children under the age of 18 who need to transition to the adult system.

Trans plan series (four sessions) = 62 attendees

We started a broker mentorship group, which meets bi-monthly. As well, we have had an evening of mentorship for FMS staff.

## Family Mentorship:

We endeavor to involve families in the planning of future directions for the group.

A good mix of both families having younger and older adult children have participated over the last year and have suggested topics for monthly Families Forward meetings.

Some of the topics covered include: storytelling, support home options, succession planning, public trusteeship, respite and a

conversation café on staffing solutions.

Gateway strives to connect families to one another as resources and supports.

The Gateway website falls into all these areas in that it has become the hub of education, family support and mentorship. For example, visitors to the website are now able to register directly on the calendar for learning opportunities, parents are able to connect to one another on the forum, and staff are able to access resources.

Gateway is known as a family resource centre and often we respond to calls that are outside of our mandate, in that there are families seeking advice outside of the scope of Family Managed Supports; there are staff from service providers who are referred to Gateway for resources; and there are others who come to Gateway for help with advocacy when they don't receive any supports at all.

## Financial report for 2014

### Family Support:

Gateway saw growth in this area, as we hosted more workshops, increased our scope of work, and added a contract with FSCD to allow us to support younger families.

We supported several families under a disability innovations initiative.

### Employment:

Our funding from the Human Services Ministry was maintained, and we transitioned our United Way funds to support this work.

We wrapped up our Youth Grant which supported high school students living with intellectual dis-

abilities to find meaningful, paid employment.

### MyLife

Funding for MyLife remained stable and we re-centralized operations back into our Edmonton office to increase efficiency.

### Other sources

We received our Com-

munity Operating grant from the City of Edmonton, hosted our casino in January, and received a grant that allowed us to hire a summer student.

We also spent much of the year planning and promoting our 40th Anniversary Gala, set for Feb. 6, 2015.



A starting place for families living with disabilities

104, 18304 105 Avenue Edmonton, AB T5S 0C6 780.454.0701 info@gatewayassociation.ca

## Our thanks ...

To all of our wonderful volunteers who generously donated their time supporting Gateway in 2014, a very sincere Thank You!

Adrian Nieto	Gail Falkner	Mike Otto
Ainsley de Bruijn	Glenda Elder	Oxanna Lozowy
Allan Roberston	Greg Morrison	Patricia Patterson
Andrew Dalwood	Ian Meier	Patti Schimpf
Andriko Lozowy	Jan Ardis	Renate Burwash
Anna Hill	Jim Mancini	Richard Perry
Annie Pipke	Jo-Ann Siebert	Sandra Zilka
Avril Juzwishin	Julie Hill	Sarah Preston
Barb Williamson	Ken Ambler	Sarah Providence
Betty Hahn-Sidor	Kendra Barber	Shawnay McRorie
Cheryl Kuzyk	Keri McEachern	Shelley Wywal
Christine Spottiswood	Kristie Nichol	Shelly Veats
Cindy de Bruijn	Laurel Horning	Sonya Babchuk
Dale Fetterly	Leah McRorie	Susan Dunnigan
Darcy Hines	LeAnne Woon	Sydney Carriere
David Jardine	Leonard Lozowy	Sylvia Weist
David Veats	Lori Crayston Almberg	Ted Shields
Donna Palfrey	Matthew Story	Valerie White
Erwin Kilotat	Megan Tischuk	Vickie Mancini
Filomena Traficante	Megan Vickery	Wayne Allchin
Frances Preston	Melissa Bokenfohr	Yonique Providence

## Congratulations to our 2014 Arbor Awards recipients

**Communitas Award**  
Community Leadership  
Presented to:  
**MacEwan University Music Department**

**Communitas Award**  
Community Leadership  
Presented to:  
**The McRorie Family**

**Confirno Award**  
Family Strength  
Presented to:  
**Karen Brashko**

**Confirno Award**  
Family Strength  
Presented to:  
**Filomena Traficante**

**Pomus Award**  
Youth Leadership  
Presented to:  
**Adam Hutlet Carly Miller**

**Fronodosus Award**  
Volunteerism  
Presented to:  
**Sylvia Weist**

**Ramosus Award**  
Service Sector  
Presented to:  
**Bev Laboucane**

**Opus Award**  
Inclusive Employment  
Presented to:  
**Weiss-Johnson**

### An extended thank you to all of our Donors and Funders in 2014:

- \* United Way \* Government of Alberta \* Persons with Developmental Disabilities
- \* Family Supports for Children with Disabilities \* City of Edmonton
- \* Government of Canada, Canada Summer Jobs



## Exciting Events to watch for in 2015...

- Our **Forty Stories; Forty Years** banner exhibit tour launches **April 7** at Edmonton's City Hall. Our goal: to exhibit at 40 locations in our 40th year. If you have an idea for a location, please email [barb@gatewayassociation.ca](mailto:barb@gatewayassociation.ca)
- Our **Mayor's Luncheon May 19** features Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson, St. Albert Mayor Nolan Crouse and keynote speaker Mark Wafer. Visit [Eventbrite.ca](http://Eventbrite.ca) to purchase tickets or a table.
- Our next **Cash Mob** is set for **May**. Stay tuned for details ...