

Presentation to LAM Board

2020 09 15

1. Thank you for the opportunity
2. Introduction about myself and the CP Association
 - a. ED of the CP Association for 8 years
 - b. Worked in the charity sector for 20+ years
 - c. CP Association gets no government funding – we fundraise every dollar
 - i. Association speaks for individual that cannot speak for themselves
 - ii. We were est. in 1974
3. Our partnership with PILC in the Spring of 2016, with a call from Joelle looking for information and letting me know about the pending Human Rights Case involving two of our members.
 - a. Amy Hampton & Tyson Sylvester
 - b. The basis of the complaint is that there are systemic barriers and lack of resources and services for adults with disabilities in Manitoba. You are cured at the age of either 18 or 21 depending on your diagnosis. These rules and regulations are set by the Government of MB and we argue that they are not Human Rights Compliant.
 - c. This Human Rights complaint is a cross disability complaint, it affects all Manitobans. It is a game changer for our members. The goal is to have resources and services based on need and not age or diagnosis.
 - d. Everyone is in need of a more equitable service and will need services at one point in time; it might be at birth, after an accident, or at the end of life. We all need a change in government regulations.
 - e. This case has gone on since 2016, and it is expected to go on for a few more years.
 - f. Without a Strong PILC, there would not be a complaint, our members, and individuals across Manitoba and Canada would be without a voice. The CP Association could not sustain a case with this complexity and length with out the resources, care and commitment of the employee`s at PILC

4. In terms of Disability Rights – The Stadler Case is another example of the game changing efforts of the Staff of PILC. It started in 2016, and could go on for many more years.
 - a. The current regulation of the Government of MB (in affect for many years) is that a person on EIA has to take the CPP payment early (at 60 instead of 65 years)
 - b. A systemic change needs to happen; the Case was won for Mr. Stadler and all Manitobans on EIA, at the court of Appeals.
 - c. The Province has asked for leave to the Supreme Court of Canada for the Stadler Case. . The Battle is not over to help stop systemic poverty for persons with Disability.

5. I just wanted to note for the record, that besides the Hampton / Sylvester Case and the Stadler case, PILC has been a champion for advancing Accessibility though:
 - a. Human Rights case to move residents out of MDC (Manitoba Development Centre)
 - b. Help to Create the Accessibility for Manitobans Act,
 - c. Barrier Free Manitoba,
 - d. systemic advocacy before issues become court cases,
 - e. fair pay for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

6. Disability Rights are Human rights! Living in Poverty is a Barrier for all Manitobans.

7. PILC is needed to amplify our voice, without PILC there is no Access to justice, to the courts, to change.

8. I would like to note that the Government of Manitoba has a duty to provide meaningful access to the courts.
 - a. In 2018, Right Honourable Richard Wagner, PC Chief Justice of Canada noted in a speech that:
 - Access to Justice is a Democratic Issue
 - Access to Justice is an Economic Issue
 - Access to Justice is a Human Rights Issue
 - b. Noted in his speech: The most people affected by lack of Legal Aid (and extension PILC) are women, people with disabilities, recent immigrants, Indigenous Peoples all are over represented with low income and lack of access.

9. With PILC, you get systemic change and human rights not on an individual bases. The Barriers are real! All of us are stronger than one of us.

10. The Public Interest Law Centre needs to be:

- Fully Funded
- Mandated in Law
- Independent of Political Interference
- Sustainable

11. Thank you for your time.