



Community Living Dufferin (CLD) is a 65 year old organization that supports people with intellectual disabilities. We are primarily funded by the Ontario government and do some fundraising for certain areas that we do not receive financial support for.

For 47 years we operated QPAC a “Sheltered Workshop” providing packaging, assembly, mass mailing, and a catering service to businesses throughout the GTA.

It was closed last year due to new government regulations, which resulted in the unemployment of over 30 people.

For the past 30 years our Employment Plus (EP) team have helped people find and keep competitive employment in community jobs. We presently support 34 people through this vital program; some employed, some in volunteer positions and some still seeking employment.

Our goal is for all people who can work to have full time minimum wage job(s), be connected, welcomed and an active member of their community.

To achieve this we have created a grass roots initiative dedicated to creating co-operatives and small business ventures to support people looking to enter or re-enter the work force.

It is our goal that our agency diversifies and operates businesses that are sustainable; give back to the community and pay people at least minimum wages. These companies will put a large emphasis on adjusting the work environment to meet the needs of the people we are supporting, but also ensure that we have a good “bottom” line!

Presently we employ two people who operate the Grizzlies Grub café out of Georgian College on Centennial. We have partnered with Mochaberry to provide quality coffee; tea and lunch for students each Tuesday and Wednesday with a plan to increase that service to 5 days a week come the fall.

Our next project to open in June is the café within the County of Dufferin buildings on Zina Street. This project will provide the same kind of service currently offered at Georgian College but five days a week. This will provide employment for 10-20 people.

We are also in conversation with the Town of Orangeville about another exciting opportunity available to us.

CLD wants to be the "go to" agency in our community that helps other agencies and the people they support to achieve their employment goals.

And so, with a newly formed Social Enterprise Board and in partnership with both Family Transition Place (FTP) and Dufferin Child and Family Services (DCAFs) we will provide an opportunity to people whom they support to re-enter the workforce again in a more supportive environment.

Creating social enterprise opportunities where they are the employer/boss making fair wages is a concept we believe in strongly. A concept that will pull this marginalized group of people out of chronic poverty and social isolation.

We see a vision and opportunity to assist not only people we support but our community too by fulfilling a need that is currently wanting.

The future looks bright and we are excited by this initiative and what it will mean to so many in our communities.

Social Enterprise board

Phil Dewar, Brenda Seltzer, Robyn and Jason Gonsalves, Simran Bhamu, Vanessa Kreuzer, Terry Doel

FTP ED Norah Kennedy, DCAFS ED Jennifer Moore