



December 21, 2015

Hi Everyone:

Thank you for your feedback on the letter we sent out on December 7th with respect to questions that arose from the recent announcements about sheltered workshops across the province of Ontario.

By way of update, we received a request from Assistant Deputy Minister of Community and Social Services (MCSS), Karen Chan, for a tour of our ARC Industries building in Guelph. This tour occurred on Monday, December 14, 2015. After the tour we met briefly with Ms. Chan as well as other Ministry staff to update them on the work we have done thus far with the Employment Modernization Grant that we received from MCSS in February 2015. The goals of this funding are as follows:

1. enhance community based employment opportunities
2. research the possible development of co-op or social enterprise opportunities
3. transform day program services for those not participating in community employment

We are partnering on this project with Torchlight Industries, Second Chance Employment Counselling and Ontario Co-Operative Association.

Our initial focus has been on enhancing community based employment opportunities. To that end we have increased our Supported Employment staffing and contracted with Second Chance for a temporary Community Job Developer to explore and develop additional opportunities for employment across our communities. Stay tuned for further updates on this important initiative.

On December 17th we received a Fact Sheet from MCSS which we have attached to this letter for your information.

Ms. Chan offered to attend a Community/Family information session that would be hosted by CLGW. We are committed to organizing a session in mid to late January 2016. Please stay tuned for more information.

As stated previously, our commitment is to take an individualized approach towards integration and social inclusion within the community through finding employment for those who are interested while still offering in house opportunities and activities that promote people having a meaningful day.

As our Mission Statement says..."*We are dedicated to facilitating opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to realize their potential and dreams in their communities*"

We wish you all a wonderful Holiday Season! We will be back in touch early January 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Hanley".
Laura Hanley
Interim Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernie Mitchell".
Bernie Mitchell
President, CLGW Board of Directors