



# Community gathers to talk inclusion

On June 11, over 50 people gathered at Summer Street to discuss evolving the organization and creating the most inclusive community possible.

The Summer Street Society Board knew that bringing together a diverse group from inside and outside the organization was essential to creating a relevant long-term vision. To that end they hired Marram Consulting to develop a day long conversation "Evolving for the Future" with focus on the organization, clients and the community.

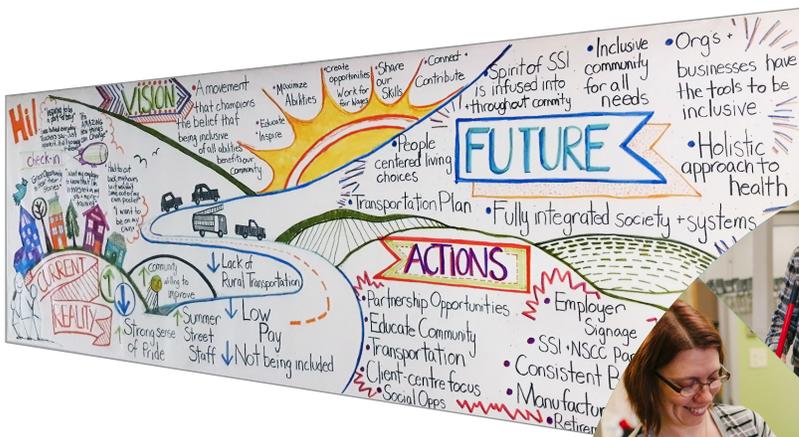
The tone of the day was set by the Client Council who shared accounts of their lives. Stories were emotional, encouraging and also troubling. The group described the positive feeling of connecting socially and through employment but also the realities of alienation and frustration of barriers.

The importance of education and training were viewed as key to inclusion while transportation and income issues were major obstacles. It was clear that minimal stipends and claw-backs for employment income make getting ahead or goals of independence almost impossible.

As general discussion progressed, recurring themes were noted. Working groups formed to focus on key subjects and brainstorm ideas for moving forward.

A report based on recommendations from the event will now be an important part of strategic planning.

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## Creating the most inclusive community we can imagine

Participants in Evolving for the Future, identified six key areas to explore moving forward:

- 1. Network of community champions.** People who can open doors and create opportunities for meaningful relationships.
- 2. Government as “enabler” rather than “disabler”.** Work with government to ensure policy and practices create opportunities not barriers.
- 3. Client Council role in leading change.** Ensure full engagement by those who are directly effected by strategies and decisions.
- 4. Better transportation solutions.** Without accessible, available and cost-effective transportation, realities for inclusion are very limited.
- 5. Future for clients not interested in employment.** Addressing the needs of ALL clients regardless of interest and ability.
- 6. Saving and planning for retirement.** Strategies to ensure continued quality of life for aging clients.



Vocational Training  
 Personal Development  
 Employment Services  
 Health & Wellness  
 Literacy  
 Recreation

### Programs and Services

## Achieving work life balance

Our mission is to create opportunities for people with intellectual disability. As a person-centered organization we meet the unique and diverse needs and desires of individuals as much as possible. Our spectrum of services take into account personal interests and varying degrees of ability and independence.

Although programs range from personal care and health to social skills and employment, there is considerable interconnection. On any given day, a client might participate in a day program, volunteer in the community and later work as an employee in one of our social enterprises. While this might meet the expectations of one client it could be out of the question for another. We are always working to provide a wide enough range of opportunities to include everyone.

As new skills are developed, levels of independence, desires and opportunities can change and new doors open. Our goal is to provide choices that help each client achieve a meaningful work life balance of their choosing. At the end of the day, all outcomes are measured by whether or not we have improved a client’s quality of life.

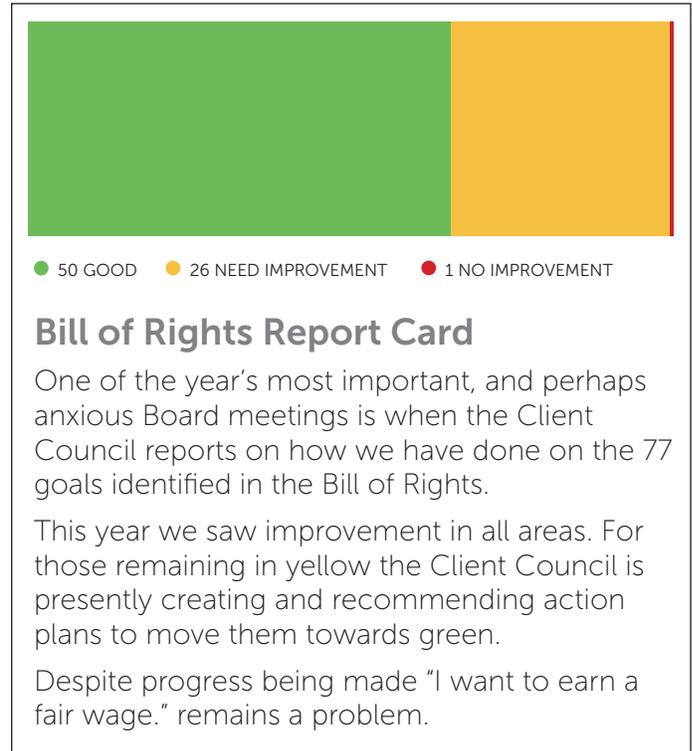
# 2014-16 Board and Management Priorities

5 Key Priorities were set for 2014-16. To-date each has resulted in significant positive outcomes for our clients:

1. Address wait list
2. Maximize client participation wherever possible
3. Facilitate new opportunities beyond our existing spectrum of services
4. Maximize return on social enterprises
5. Enhance communication with government

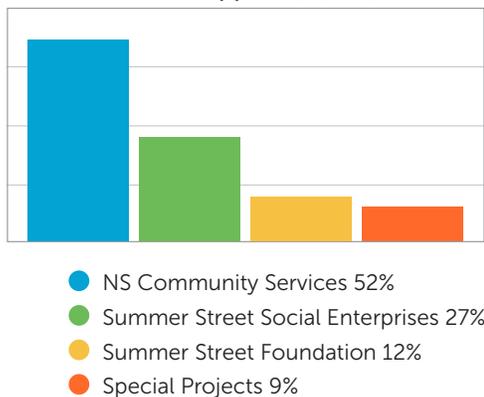
Along with these priorities, new policies were established with global outcomes that align with Department of Community Services (DCS) goals including:

- Access to labour market
- Community inclusion
- Health and safety
- Meeting the basic needs of individuals
- Control over one's own life



**Summer Street clients contributed 14,600 hours volunteering in our community and earned \$701,064 in employment wages from over 60 employers!**

Summer Street Support \$2,728,432

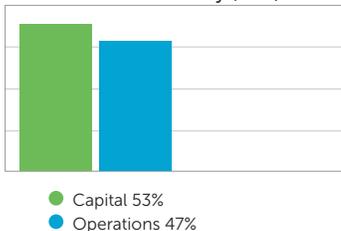


## 2016 Financial Snapshot

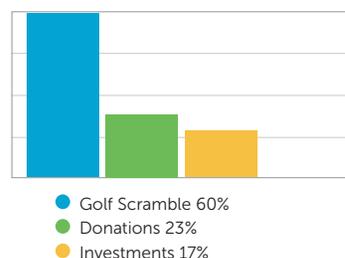
We continue to achieve our goals and mission due to the generosity of our donors and the ongoing commitment of the Department of Community Services. DCS is our most significant funding partner and we share a common person-centered vision for our clients. Our other primary funding comes through the Summer Street Foundation and our social enterprises.

*Generous donors to this years Summer Street Scramble, raised over \$167,000, bringing our all-time total over \$2,605,940! **THANK YOU!***

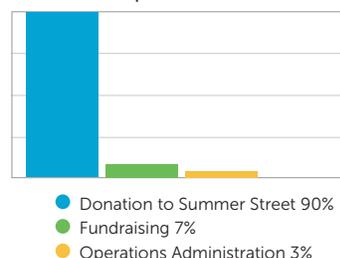
Foundation Donation to Summer Street Society \$406,700



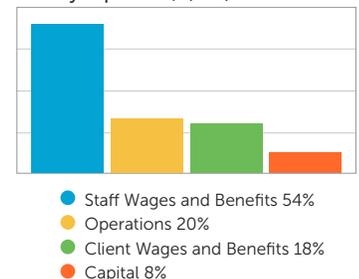
Foundation Funds Raised \$287,186



Foundation Expenses \$449,421



Society Expenses \$2,729,666





## Meaningful day programs enhance quality of life

Our day programs are designed to maximize the quality of life for clients who may not wish or be able to participate in vocational training or employment. Activities combine learning, recreation, health and wellness and often overlap into our social enterprises. Opportunities are provided for social engagement and community volunteering.

## Counselling Therapy: personal support beyond programming

With the addition of Counselling Therapy to our services, clients have important, professional support when dealing with issues like anxiety, stress, grief, addiction, depression and conflict.

Programs and individual sessions include: anger management, de-escalation techniques, stress and anxiety management, coping skills, healthy boundaries, inappropriate workplace behaviors, self-esteem, and respect.

Mental and emotional health risk assessments and evaluations aid in formulating support plans when working with mental health counsellors, addiction services, health professionals and colleagues from supporting agencies. Our therapist also works with residential services, law enforcement and the court system to ensure the best possible, consistent outcomes for our clients.



## Over 25% of our revenue comes through social enterprise

More than 100 clients participate in Summer Street social enterprises which offer valuable training and employment. Experience gained often provides the necessary skills for other community employment.

Visit [summerstreet.ca](http://summerstreet.ca) to book or learn about:

- Catering and Space Rentals
- Trophies and Awards
- Subcontracting Services



### Thank you Roger!

Roger Swarbrick's untiring commitment and selfless work have contributed immensely to our growth as a person-centered organization in every role he has played.

Learn more, find out how you can help or just stay connected: [summerstreet.ca](http://summerstreet.ca)

