

Member profile

Gateway Society for Persons with Autism

Learn more about the great work you all do. In this issue, CSSEA News turns to its Community Living Services division, profiling the award-winning Gateway Society for Persons with Autism.

From the outside, they look like lovely homes. However, once inside Gateway Society for Persons with Autism's facilities, a far more vibrant picture emerges: friendly, warm and busy places where people with autism receive the respectful care and treatment they need.

As BC's sole non-profit organization focused on persons with autism spectrum disorders, Gateway provides a full range of innovative programs and services for children, adults, families, care providers and stakeholders, from behavioural support and training to residential and community facilities. Started 28 years ago in Ladner, the organization has since earned an international reputation as a recognized leader in the field, serving clients across the Lower Mainland and in northern BC up to the Yukon border.

Gateway's groundbreaking work has helped hundreds of individuals and their families cope with this often disruptive disability. The ultimate goal is, whenever possible, to help clients stay in and/or return to their communities. To this end, staff travel hundreds of miles to visit families in their home settings. Over the course of a year, they work with them to develop individual treatment strategies and intervention plans that are best suited to the client and the family's needs. The results have been remarkable, enabling many clients to lead fuller, active lives.

Gateway's services include:

- Behavioural support services



- Provincial Children's Treatment Centre, BC's only fully-specialized residential facility for young adults unable to live at home
- Family care and staffed homes for children and adults
- Day and respite programs, including supported employment job training and community integration
- Training for MCFD social workers, school staff, families and other stakeholders
- Advocacy

"The uniqueness of Gateway lies in its ability to provide a full range of services," says Gateway's Executive Director, Sonia Osborne. "Thanks to our integrated teams, we can meet the evolving needs of clients and their families while providing caregivers and educators the tools they require to be effective and remain safe."

Gateway's accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. The organization is one of only seven BC agencies that received its first three-year Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accreditation with no recommendations, an outstanding accomplishment by any measure.

Gateway at a Glance

- Behavioural support services
- Provincial Children's Treatment Centre
- 4 staffed group homes
- 9 family care homes
- Crossroads day program
- Non-violent crisis intervention and certification
- Monthly workshops for care providers
- Family support services
- Respite programs
- Advocacy



Photos courtesy of Gateway Society for Persons with Autism

Long-time supporter Variety, the Children's Charity, this spring awarded the organization a \$150,000 capital grant for upgrades to the Provincial Children's Treatment Centre. And, most recently, the International Association of Non-Violent Crisis Intervention chose Gateway as one of five international sites of excellence in recognition of its quality Crisis Prevention Institute training and instructors.

Bravo!