

Self-Advocate Council Goals:

- To hold meetings once a month on the first Tuesday 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. at the administration office
- Discuss important issues that impact Community Living participants
- To develop opportunities for self-advocates to be involved in community activities and celebrations
- Advocate at the government level through the Board of Directors
- To provide education on a variety of topics for people receiving service from Community Living
- Make recommendations to the agency toward improving services (such as advocating for community employment opportunities, etc.)
- To attend and/or host self-advocacy conferences
- To maintain our website and provide an outreach of information to the St. Catharines community
- We want to always remember why we started this committee and why its important to each of us
- We want to see people with disabilities enjoy the same rights and freedoms as everyone else.

Self-Advocate Council Members:



Emily Beauchamp - Chairperson

2008-2009

I became a part of the Self-Advocate Council to help others speak up. I also sit on the Board of Directors for Community Living St. Catharines and speak on behalf of all self-advocates.



Melissa Abrams - Secretary

2000-2009

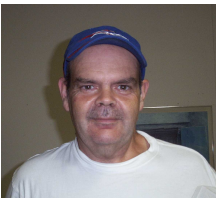
I want to be a part of the bigger picture – I have a voice and I want everyone to hear it.



Bill Lockhart – Treasurer

2007-2009

I like to help out, go to meetings and learn new things.



Terry Egan – Past Chairperson

2005-2009

I like helping people.



Clyde Peters – Member

2005-2009

I became a part of the Self-Advocate Council to learn more about my rights.



Randy Eden – Member

2005-2009

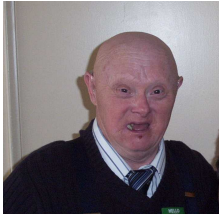
I became a part of the Self-Advocate Council to meet new people and talk.



Sheila Fleming – Member

2002-2009

I became a part of the Self-Advocate Council because I like to hear about new things and help out.



Dennis Buchanan – Member

2000-2009

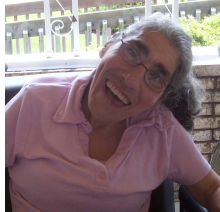
I became a part of the Self-Advocate Council because I like to talk about new stuff.



Joanne Wood – Member

2002-2009

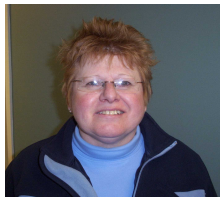
I became a part of the Self-Advocate Council because I am speaking for the ones who can't speak for themselves.



Nicky Tassone – Member

2003, 2009

I became a part of the Self-Advocate Council because I like to be a part of the group and help others.



Claire Olive - Advisor

2006-2009

I became a part of the Self-Advocate Council because I believe everyone has Rights.

Rights

What are Rights? ~ Rights are the rules that help make people equal. All members of our community share the rights and freedoms provided to them through the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Why are Rights Important? ~ They give all of us choices so we can make decisions about how we want to live our lives.

What are my Responsibilities for exercising my Rights? ~ As a member of the community, you have the responsibility to obey laws and respect everyone's rights.

*Three **Rights** important to us are:*

RIGHT TO CHOOSE OWN ACTIVITIES

I have the right to work or not work
I have the right to work and get paid fairly for the work that I've done
I have the right have a meaningful day
I have the right to information about what there is to do with my day

RIGHT TO ACCESSIBILITY

I have the right to move around inside my home
I have the right to move around inside my workplace
I have the right to move around my neighbourhood/community – allowing me to perform the role of shopper, customer, patron, etc.

RIGHT TO BE HEARD

I have the right to speak up and tell people what I think
I have the right to be treated with dignity and respect
I have the right to use communication systems to help me tell people my thoughts