

# The BCCL BURST

SUMMER 2024 VOLUME 06



Brampton Caledon  
**COMMUNITY LIVING**  
**INTÉGRATION**  
**COMMUNAUTAIRE**  
Brampton Caledon

905-453-8841

34 Church Street West,  
Brampton, Ontario, L6X 1H3

[www.bramptoncaledoncl.ca](http://www.bramptoncaledoncl.ca)



## IMPORTANT DATES

July 1st	BCCL Offices Closed
August 5th	BCCL Offices Closed
September 2nd	BCCL Offices Closed
September 9th	Caledon Connections Registration
September 11th	Brampton Connections Registration
September 26th	67th Annual General Meeting



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I prepare to retire after 24 years with Brampton Caledon Community Living, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the people and families we serve, the board of directors and all my colleagues for your unwavering dedication and support in furthering BCCL's vision and mission.

Congratulations to Charles Rego who I have had the pleasure to work alongside for many years. I am confident that under his leadership, BCCL will continue to thrive and positively impact the lives of people with intellectual disabilities.

Thank you for the incredible journey we have shared together. BCCL will forever hold a special place in my heart.



*Anne-Marie Hawkins*

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The board of directors would like to thank Anne-Marie Hawkins for 24 years of service to BCCL. Anne-Marie had many roles over her years including finance, human resources, and information technology. She demonstrated true leadership when she became the Executive Director for the past 4 years. She managed her team through extremely challenging times. We would like to thank her for her commitment and wish her all the best. She will be missed by the board, staff, families, and people supported. Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement!

We are pleased to announce Charles Rego will be our new Executive Director. Charles has been a valuable member of senior management team for the past 14 years. He has many years of experience working in a variety of roles. The board looks forward to working together to continue to support the vision of BCCL.

*Carmen Baker  
President*



[WWW.BRAMPTONCALEDONCL.CA](http://WWW.BRAMPTONCALEDONCL.CA)



## BCCL TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

### Assistive Product Spotlight

Do you or somebody you know face challenges when going about day-to-day activities and just can't find, or afford, a solution that suits the situation? You might be able to find something to make life a bit easier with the Makers Making Change project.

This group keeps a repository of DIY, 3D printed, and off the shelf devices that can modify everything from gaming, to carrying bags if you suffer from arthritis, to turning a light on and off. They can even help connect with local Makers who can help produce the designs.

To check out their database, or even volunteer your own "Maker Skills" check out :

[www.makersmakingchange.com](http://www.makersmakingchange.com)



## EYE SEE...EYE LEARN PROGRAM

All kindergarten aged children (children born in 2019 or 2020) are eligible for free glasses if required.

Eye exams for children ages 0-19 are covered by OHIP annually. If they require glasses, the Eye See... Eye Learn program will provide one pair of glasses per child.

To participate in the program the eye exam must be with a participating optometrist. Visit the website to find participating optometrists and for more information.



**Eye See...Eye Learn® Program -**  
**Ontario Association of**  
**Optometrists**



**Do you have a child in kindergarten?\***

Get a **yearly OHIP exam** for your child with a **participating eye doctor** and receive a complimentary pair of eye glasses.

### Eligibility:



JK and SK students  
born in 2019 or 2020



Eye exam with a  
Participating Optometrist



Eye exam  
July 1, 2024 to  
June 30, 2025

For more details and to find a participating optometrist near you scan:



ONTARIO  
ASSOCIATION OF  
OPTOMETRISTS



ONESIGHT  
Independent Foundation



MODERN OPTICAL  
CANADA

Or Visit:  
[EyeSeeEyeLearn.ca](http://EyeSeeEyeLearn.ca)



**[WWW.BRAMPTONCALEDONCL.CA](http://WWW.BRAMPTONCALEDONCL.CA)**

## SELF- ADVOCATE COMMITTEE UPDATE

As of March 2024, the current members of the self-advocacy group include Rosemary C, Ron S, Rebecca H, Raquel K, and Debbie A. In previous meetings, members engaged in discussions on various topics important to them. The current focal points for the group are: advocating for an increase to ODSP funding to meet the rising cost of living and the affordability of housing, and addressing safety concerns for pedestrians due to e-bikes using sidewalks instead of main roads. Additionally, the group is actively identifying essential tools for self-advocates in their daily lives, such as utilizing personal devices (cell phones, emails, etc.) to foster independence.



## TOWN OF CALEDON INCLUSIVE RECREATION SERVICES

Participants have the options of integrated and adapted program opportunities.

### INTEGRATED OPPORTUNITIES:

The integrated program option is designed for individuals who require some additional assistance to participate in a recreational program such as: skating and swimming lessons, camps, fitness programs and general interest programs.



### ADAPTED OPPORTUNITIES:

The adapted program opportunity is designed for individuals who have a special needs/disability and want to participate in a recreation program with others who have similar interests and abilities.

For more information, go to the website:

<https://bit.ly/CaledonInclusiveRecreation>

### INCLUSIVE SERVICES – CAMP SUPPORT OPTIONS

Check website for programs and information about Inclusive Services – Camp Support Options

<https://bit.ly/CaledonCamps>



### SNOEZELN ROOM

The Snoezelen Room is a multi-sensory space where participants can guide their own experience in an environment designed with special sounds, visual effects, tactile, vibrations, and music options. Through this self-guided experience participants can gain a sense of control that offers opportunities for learning, stimulation, relaxation, communication, and fun.

The Snoezelen Room is located at Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness at 14111 Regional Road 50, Bolton

Summer Hours (July and August) :

Monday to Friday: 9:00am to 10:00am and 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Weekends: 8:00am - 4:00pm

To find out more information about the Snoezelen Room or to make reservations please contact Customer Service at (905)584-2272 Ext. 7322



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## BCCL CELEBRATES COMMUNITY LIVING MONTH 2024


BCCL celebrated a successful Community Living Month in May. The theme this #CLM2024 was #AuthenticInclusion which can mean many different things to different people. BCCL reached out to staff and people supported to ask what #AuthenticInclusion means to them

“ When a piece of Domino falls on the floor while the person supported play at a local library, someone picks it up for him and appreciates him playing. I call that an Authentic Inclusion. When a person supported walk on the track at a local community centre and her walking may often get off the designated line, the co-walkers assure her not to worry. Rather they appreciate her walking. I call that an Authentic Inclusion. When I support a person at a coffee shop in his neighbourhood, the ladies at the counter prepare his usual favourite style of coffee and snack even before asking. They greet him happily. I call that an Authentic Inclusion.

My role in this natural phenomenon of interaction is like catalytic agent. I only maintain simple and respectful way of talking with the person I support. This helps as a modeling for the people in the community to approach and communicate.

My next step as a connector is to ask if the person who picked the piece would like to play dominoes with him; if the co-walkers would like to be walking-buddies

-Salma Hossain



“ I foster Authentic Inclusion by making sure everyone I work with is given as many opportunities as they need in order to be a part of their community and has a chance to find their own unique way of expressing themselves within it

-David Marcinek.

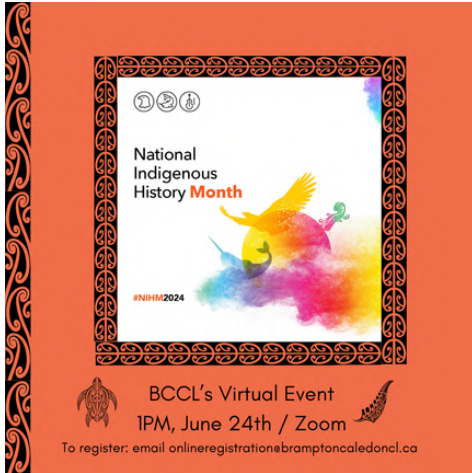


In May BCCL joined in the social media campaigns #ShineALight, #ITookABreak and #CookiesNCommunity in celebration and awareness. BCCL posters were posted all throughout Brampton recreation centers and Brampton & Caledon libraries. The jumbotron in Rose Garden SQ had a video that highlighted BCCL running all month long. Caledon City Hall had a proclamation and flag raising and Mayor Patrick Brown in Brampton City Hall also proclaimed May as Community Living Month.



## NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH

June is National Indigenous History Month in Canada, an opportunity to learn about the unique cultures, experiences and traditions of First Nations, Inuit and Metis. BCCL's Virtual programs hosted events to honour the achievements and resilience of Indigenous Peoples.



## YOUR DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

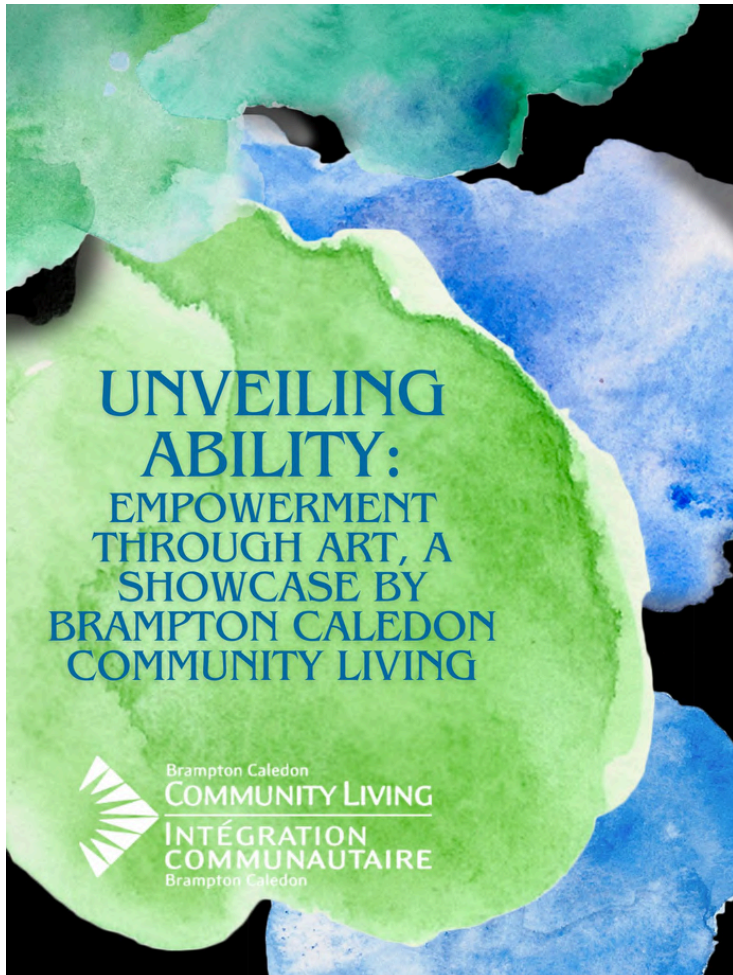


At BCCL, we believe in the power of inclusion. Donors like you, regardless of the size of their contribution, play an important role in making our community a more inclusive place for individuals with disabilities to live, work, and play.

Your generosity helps us support and empower people with intellectual disabilities, enabling them to lead enriched and meaningful lives. No donation is too small; every contribution contributes to building a more inclusive and supportive environment.

To be a part of this positive change, please consider making a donation today. Visit our website to contribute and make a lasting impact.

## ART EXHIBIT FEATURING BCCL ARTISTS



BCCL is thrilled to announce a partnership with the Regional Municipality of Peel, operating as Peel Art Gallery, Museum, and Archives (PAMA), to present an extraordinary showcase of creative endeavors by the individuals we support.

Titled 'Unveiling Ability: Empowerment Through Art, A Showcase By Brampton Caledon Community Living', this exhibition will feature a captivating array of quilts, wall-hangings, sculptures, photography, and paintings crafted by BCCL artists.

Scheduled to run from September 21st, 2024, to March 16th, 2025, the exhibition aims to forge meaningful community partnerships, offer an enriching experience for visitors, and foster awareness and inclusion of the remarkable talents of individuals with intellectual disabilities, supported by Brampton Caledon Community Living.







## PARKS AND RECREATION INCLUSION PROGRAMS

These affordable, city-run programs offer an opportunity for participants to engage with peers, learn new skills and enjoy a variety of fun games and activities.

For any questions regarding programs or additional support, please email the department at; [inclusionprograms@brampton.ca](mailto:inclusionprograms@brampton.ca) or check out their website at,

<https://www.brampton.ca/EN/residents/Recreation/Programs-Activities/Pages/Inclusion-Integration.aspx>



## SUMMER FUN IN BRAMPTON

Explore, play and splash! Enjoy outdoor tennis and pickleball courts, splash pads, recreational trails, and a variety of outdoor events and activities in Brampton.

<https://www.brampton.ca/EN/residents/Recreation/Programs-Activities/Pages/Summer-Fun.aspx>



## ACTIVE ASSIST PROGRAM

ActiveAssist is a fee subsidy program offered by the City of Brampton, designed to help low-income families and individuals in Brampton participate in Recreation programs. Confidentiality is always maintained. This assistance is given in the form of a credit to your account.

All you need to apply for this subsidy is proof of residency (ex. driver's license, utility bill or lease agreement), proof of total family net income and proof of legal responsibility for all dependents listed on the application. Once the application is completed & accepted a credit of \$275 per eligible family member will be applied to your account.

<https://www.brampton.ca/EN/residents/Recreation/Active-Assist>



### Recreation Fee Assistance Program

Receive a **\$275 credit** per family member towards recreation programs and services.

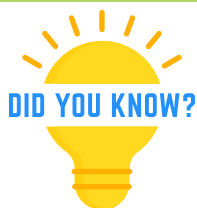


Generously Supported by **407 ETR** Express Toll Route **Capital Power**

For more information, visit [brampton.ca/activeassist](https://www.brampton.ca/activeassist)







## ACCESS 2 CARD PROGRAM



Easter Seals Canada's award-winning Access 2 Card program was launched in 2004 with support from Cineplex Entertainment and a group of national disability organizations. The Access 2 Card program helps to ensure that entertainment, cultural and recreational opportunities are more available and accessible to all.

Managed and administered by Easter Seals Canada (located in Toronto), the Access 2 Card program has grown to reach over 100,000 Canadians who are living with disabilities and includes over 500 participating partner venues across the country.

<https://access2card.ca/>

## ONTARIO ELECTRICITY SUPPORT PROGRAM (OESP)



If you are a customer of an electricity utility and in a lower-income home, you may qualify for a reduction on your electricity bill.

The OESP will reduce the cost of your household electricity by applying a monthly credit directly to your bill. The credit amount will depend on how many people live in your home and your combined household income.

<https://ontarioelectricitysupport.ca/?lang=en>

## PASSPORT PROGRAM FOR ADULTS WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

Apply for funding to pay for services for adults with a developmental disability.

You can use your funding to pay for support so you can participate fully in your community.

[www.passportfunding.ca](http://www.passportfunding.ca)



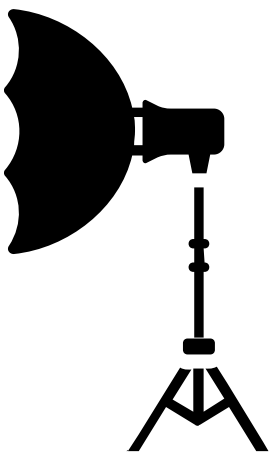
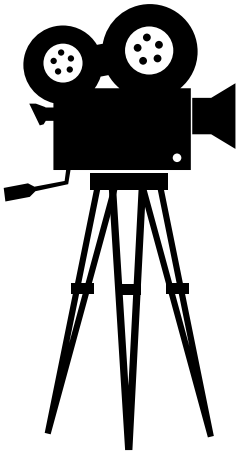
# CITY OF BRAMPTON PARKS & RECREATION INCLUSION PROGRAMS

Recently, Khaleel Benoit had an opportunity to appear on television and narrate his journey from growing up in foster care, to his 15 years of mentoring youths in crisis situations like his own, and advocating for the current needs of such individuals.

Khaleel showcased admirable work, and we are all proud of him. Well done, Khaleel, and a big thank you to CHCH for providing a platform for voices like his to be heard.



Lights  
CAMERA  
ACTION!



NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS	
Sheri Thiffault	Chris Fryer
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