

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **New Initiative to Showcase Partnerships**

With financial support through a Green Shield Canada Foundation sponsorship, Community Living Essex County will launch a new initiative “Together, One Dream” which will showcase through educational presentations, the successful partnerships between Community Living Essex County, Ensemble (family leadership consultants) and New Day, Leaders of Today (leadership self advocate group) a partnership that began over thirteen years ago. The partnership model, its information and its benefits will be packaged in an interactive training module to be shared in order to establish similar partnerships throughout communities locally, throughout the region and across the province. All members of the partnership will be active sharing the practical, how to benefits to create, Together, One Dream in their community.

The goal of Community Living Essex County is to share this model with the Developmental Services Sector in Ontario. “Over the years, this model has made a tremendous impact and positive changes in the lives of people who have an intellectual disability and their families in Essex County”, states Nancy Wallace-Gero, Executive Director of Community Living Essex County. The model increases collaboration between stakeholders, service providers, families and self-advocates creating opportunities to connect to families, resulting in flexibility in service delivery. “The initiative is unique with more than a decade of positive outcomes in our experience” adds Wallace-Gero.

The initiative recognizes respects and honors the value of “lived experiences” of people with developmental disabilities and their families. It promotes shared values and a recognition that supports and services need to be tailored to each person.

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