



# PATHWAYS TO INDEPENDENCE

## VIRTUAL PEER GROUP MEETING NOTES

OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2022 1:30PM TO 3:30PM

Pathways to Independence is an online community of British Columbians with disabilities who meet to share information, solutions and receive updates on matters related to independent living.

### Hosted By:

#### **Paul Gauthier**

Executive Director  
Individualized Funding  
Resource Centre Society

#### **Ruth Marzetti**

Executive Director  
Technology for Living

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**Thank you to all who participated in the October 2022 Pathways Meeting;  
there were approximately 64 attendees.**

## technology for living

### *We Talk Tech*

New videos recently published on Technology for Living's YouTube Channel!

**Transportation:** Technology for Living [YouTube Channel Video](#)

**Peers Using Technology:** Technology for Living [YouTube Channel Video](#)

### *Peers on Pages*

[Peers on Pages \(POP\)](#) is an online fully peer, co-facilitated workshop that provides an opportunity to share writing and to receive feedback, writing tips and guidance. The facilitators will encourage, support and assist participants when requested. Limited personal one-on-one feedback outside of workshop sessions at Facilitator's discretion. There will be options for editorial consideration to publish through Technology for Living (TFL) communication resources.

Led by Monica Gartner, author of *Overcoming the Impossible: A Life of Trials and Triumphs*. The group frequently has special guest speakers. She invites some well-known artists and some less well-known, as well as people in the industry to come to the sessions to give talks on writing related topics.

If you like writing long, short stories or scripts – or you want to learn more, please join. POP is on Zoom every fourth Thursday of the month (except Xmas which is the fifth Thursday), and is an early evening event.

If you are interested, please contact Monica Gartner at [mgartner@technologyforliving.org](mailto:mgartner@technologyforliving.org)

You can also register or contact with questions by visiting the [Technology for Living Peers on Pages](#)

### **Accessible Nature Wellbeing Program**

Karen Van Biesen provided an update on the Accessible Nature Wellbeing Program event for Sunday November 13th between 1:00pm and 3:00pm with Forest Bathing updates and more. The program is led by peers who are EcoWisdom certified nature and forest therapy guides.

For future dates, information and to register for upcoming sessions send an email to [anwp@ecowisdom.ca](mailto:anwp@ecowisdom.ca)





The Right Fit Program is a free service, matching wheelchair users with housing providers with accessible units.

This presentation was to update you with the progress of the organization, the successes and the plans for the future. For some of you who are relatively new to Pathways, you may not know about the program so this is a chance to learn about the Right Fit, because you or someone you know may benefit.

[Right Fit Website](#)

If you, or anyone you know, is in need of affordable, accessible housing, please contact Dalton Finlay at [rightfit@ifrcsociety.org](mailto:rightfit@ifrcsociety.org) to find out if there is an accessible, affordable unit currently available to fit your needs!

To view the Right Fit Presentation from the IFRC website [Click Here!](#)

## Community Updates and Open Discussion

### Community Updates & Open Discussion

*International Students to Help Address Canada's Labour Shortage*

[Government of Canada Web Page News Release](#)

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced the temporary lifting of the 20-hour-per-week cap on the number of hours that eligible post-secondary international students are allowed to work off-campus while class is in session.

From November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, international students who are in Canada and who have off-campus work authorization on their study permit will not be restricted by the 20-hour-per-week rule. Foreign nationals who have already submitted a study permit application, as of today, will also be able to benefit from this temporary change, provided their application is approved.

Employers who employ international students as Personal Support Workers, will be able to extend their hours. The only restriction on the students is that they be able to maintain their school attendance and studies.

*Holiday Plans. What's going on at your place?*

Hilary created a document with Community Events, Holiday Entertainment, Winter Sports and Meal Delivery options for communities throughout BC. Thank you to those who contributed their community information.

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The document was emailed separately to Pathways Peers. To view and download the document from the IFRC website [Click Here!](#)

## Upcoming Pathways Meeting & Agenda

### *Date & Time*

Wednesday November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 1:30pm until 3:30pm

### *Agenda*

1. **Technology for Living**
  - a. Cambie Gardens Update
  - b. Peers on Pages
  - c. Apple Accessibility
2. **Neil Squire Society**
  - a. Makers Making Change: Connecting Makers to people with disabilities who need assistive technologies with Justin Pezzin, Program Manager
  - b. WorkBC Assistive Technology Services, with Katrina Tilley, Occupational Therapist
3. **Alliance Mobility Solutions**, with Craig Tschritter, owner and operator
  - a. Mobility Equipment Supplier for Vehicle Conversions
  - b. Van conversation options: Ramps for side entry, rear entry options
  - c. Hand Controls, Lifts, Seating Options, Smart Driving, Accessories
4. **Ministry of Health Updates**
5. **Community Updates**
  - a. Connecting Caregivers of Individuals with Neuromuscular Diseases using breathing equipment
    - i. 12 Week Online Peer Support Program for Family and Employed Caregivers

To Register, send an email to [pathways@ifrcsociety.org](mailto:pathways@ifrcsociety.org)

**Pathways To Independence Peer Group Meeting Notes and pertinent documents are uploaded to <https://www.ifrcsociety.org/pathways>**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE AND CONTINUED CONTRIBUTION TO THE MEETING!**