

Enhancing Social Inclusion

The Power of Relationships and Community

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Conference

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Purpose

To explore the meaning of 'social inclusion,' and the values, the intentions, and the facilitation that enable people with disabilities to live everyday lives in relationship in community.



Social Inclusion is a key part of a
New Story that has been emerging
over the last 20 years



Why People Want a *New Story?*

Labelling



Why People Want a *New Story*?

Poverty



Why People Want a New Story?



High underemployment

Why People Want a *New Story*?



Compliance

Why People Want a *New Story*?



Congregation

Why People Want a *New Story*?

*Life in
in services*

A Community Vision

People with Disabilities:
SERVICE VISION



People without Disabilities:
COMMUNITY VISION



Why People Want a *New Story*?

*People are
lonely*





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What is the essence of social inclusion?





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It is about **Belonging**





The Essence of Inclusion

- **Belonging**
 - Feeling included, welcomed
- **Participation**
 - Not just presence
- **Contribution**
 - Having a valued role



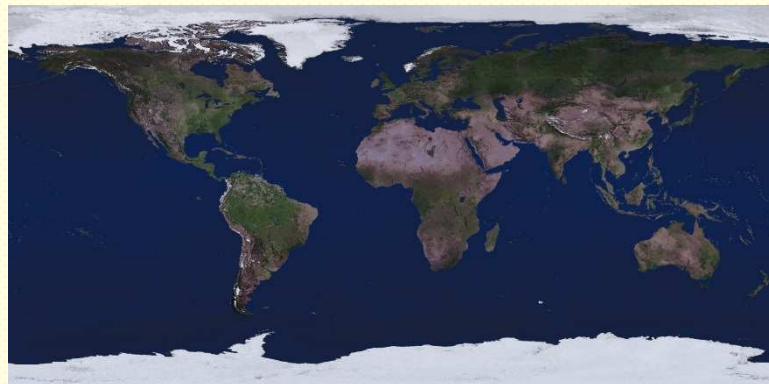


Toward a *New Story*

- Social Inclusion is increasingly possible because a *New Story* is emerging across the country and around the world

Toward a *New Story*

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Person's with Disabilities says that each person with a disability has a 'right' to participate in families and communities



Toward a New Story

New Ontario legislation
(Social Inclusion Act)
says person-directed planning is
key to participation in community

Toward a New Story

The **Recovery Approach** in
community mental health
is based on social inclusion tenants -
choice, relationships, and community

Toward a New Story



Possibilities for poverty reduction have increased with the federal government **RDSP**

Toward a New Story

Research shows that citizens are now much more accepting of diversity and difference than 25 years ago





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Components of the *New Story*

Values and Principles
as the Foundation

Separate and Inter-
dependent Functions

Enabling People to Experience Everyday Life

Person-Centred
Thinking and
Relationships

Welcoming and
Inclusive
Communities



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What Makes Inclusion Possible?

- The Right Values and Principles
- The Right Intentions and Strategies
- The Right Facilitation

Values Guide Inclusion Work

Our Research Across Canada,
34 innovative initiatives
Grounded in Two Key Values

- **Self-Determination** (Personhood)
 - **Community** (Belonging)



Self Determination

All people want to have choice
and control over their lives.
Sometimes we need the help of
others in order to make choices.



One of the key values of the *New Story* is *Self Determination*.

Self-Determination

- I can choose...
- I can determine...
- I can become...
- I can be intentional...
- I can be creative...

Self-determination is more than 'I want'



- *Community* is the place where we experience our self-determination
- *Community* is the place where relationships flourish



“Community. Somewhere, there are people to whom we can speak with passion without having the words catch in our throats. Somewhere a circle of hands will open to receive us, eyes will light up as we enter, voices will celebrate with us whenever we come into our own power. Community means strength that joins our strength to do the work that needs to be done. Arms to hold us when we falter. A circle of healing. A circle of friends. Somewhere where we can be free”.

Starhawk

Self-Determination + Community = **Citizenship**

“Being a citizen is much more than asserting one's rights. It is also about making our contribution, and accepting our responsibilities to the common good. The old definition of 'citizen' encouraged certain passivity. What is required today is a new definition, one that inspires the engagement and diverse contribution of everyone.”

Michael Ignatieff

Right Intentions and Strategies

Three main approaches:

1. Knowing and nurturing people's strengths, gifts, and longings
2. Connecting with people and places that embrace those strengths, gifts, and longings
3. Building relationships with people and places



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A Key Principle of the *New Story*

People's strengths, as well as what they imagine for their future, guide how they build an everyday life



**We nurture intentions
and build on strengths & gifts**



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A Strengths Perspective Means Nurturing...





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Key Principles of the *New Story*

People's strengths, as well as what they imagine for their future, guide how they build an everyday life



**This is a foundational principle for
Facilitating social inclusion**



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Community

Be Intentional about...

Connecting with people and places that would understand and embrace those strengths and longings.





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This means we have to understand Community

Community as...

- Neighbourhood
- Social Networks
- Community associations of common interest
- Third places
- Feelings of connection





Connecting to Community

Connecting is bridge building...

- Asking – ‘who’ question is key
- Looking for hospitality, warm places
- Finding connectors
- Always in relationship – ‘relationship lens’



The Power of Relationships and Networks

- *Social Networks - a key determinant of health*
 - A network's structure shows connections and possibilities
 - Natural networks
 - Purposeful networks

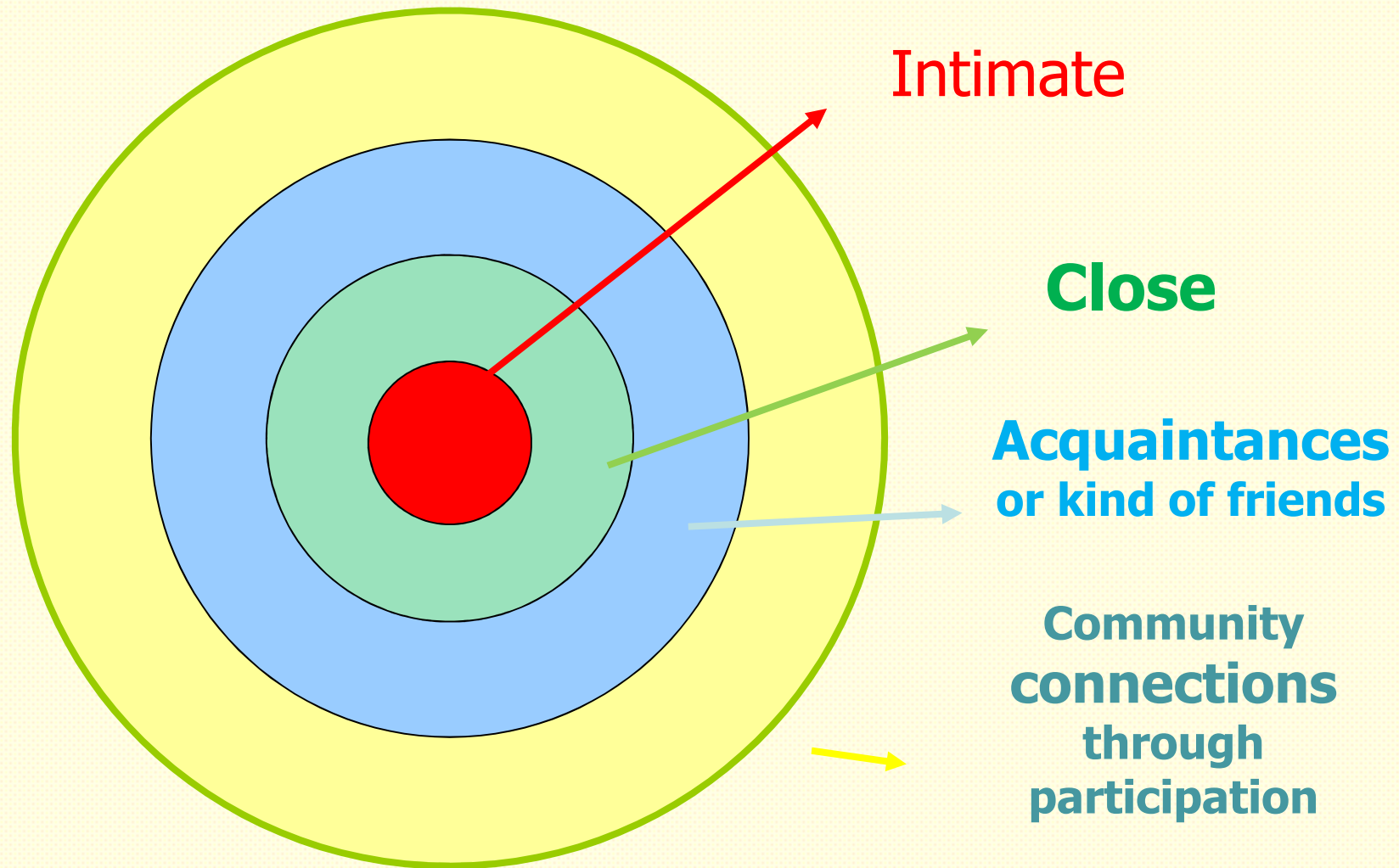


The Power of Relationships and Networks

➤ *There are 'rules' of networks*

- We shape our networks
- Our networks shape us
- We borrow from other people's networks
- Building relationships from networks needs to be intentional
- We have health benefits from a range of relationships

Range of Relationships Enhance Inclusion



The Right Facilitation

- Facilitation means 'to draw out' and 'to make easy'
- Facilitation can be **informal** (we do it all the time) or **formal** (you are paid to facilitate)

The Right Facilitation

The essence of Facilitation...

- Listening and noticing
- Constructing meaningful conversations
- Building and holding good process
- Moving to action
- Documenting process and outcomes

What Are We Learning About Independent Facilitation?

Research points to positive citizenship benefits (especially when people have Independent Facilitation *and* Individualized Funding)

- More awareness of strengths
- Clearer sense of purpose and direction
- Increased participation in community
- Expanded relationships





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In Conclusion

Facilitating Social Inclusion...

*Support dreams
and Strengths*



*Connect with
Welcoming Places
Build Relationships
and Networks*

Builds Capacity

In Conclusion

- Social Inclusion is a journey that requires **collaboration** and an **open-hearted spirit**
- Think about how you want to belong and to be included – **stand still** to notice...how you can contribute to social inclusion...

“There is nothing like an idea whose time has come” Victor Hugo

Further Resources

- John Lord's website
www.johnlord.net
- Facilitation Leadership Group
www.facilitationleadership.com
- Tamarack – Institute for Community Engagement
www.tamarackcommunity.ca