

Nidus Personal Planning Resource Centre and Registry

(Formerly Representation Agreement Resource Centre)

QUICK FACTS

Nidus is a non-profit, charitable organization:

- Incorporated in 1995 by community organizations and citizens involved in adult guardianship law reform.
- Established as a resource for informing and assisting the public with Representation Agreements and other personal planning tools.

What does Nidus do?

Nidus provides:

- public legal education on personal planning tools/related legislation;
- training for volunteers and groups;
- problem-solving and coaching in support of best practices for attorneys, representatives and monitors; and
- policy consultation for third parties.

For over 14 years, Nidus has been the lead advocate for community groups and individuals most affected by adult guardianship legislation. Nidus also operates a centralized Registry for Representation Agreements and Enduring Powers of Attorney in partnership with Juricert Inc. of the Law Society of British Columbia.

At present, Nidus is the only community-based resource in Canada devoted to personal planning. Its existence sets British Columbia apart as a leader in addressing the critical needs of an aging population.

Where does Nidus operate?

Nidus serves the entire province of British Columbia and is located in the 411 Seniors Centre in Vancouver.

How is Nidus funded?

Nidus relies on donations and modest fees for some services. Over the years, Nidus has received funding from a variety of sources for specific projects. See our newsletter for a list of funders and information on current projects. Nidus is currently making efforts to establish core funding to provide security for the Resource Centre's future.

Who is Nidus?

The Nidus Board includes retired professionals, lawyers, and community advocates, many of whom were involved in the law reform of the 1990s. Executive Director Joanne Taylor was volunteer chair of the Representation Agreement Task Group (RATG) from 1993 to 2000. The RATG provided policy and planning advice to government on the *Representation Agreement Act* prior to its proclamation.

Personal Planning in B.C.

Personal planning is about making arrangements in case you need assistance with managing your financial affairs or making health and personal care decisions.

A Will comes into effect only *after* your death, but what about situations where you need help now due to an accident, illness or disability?

In BC, if you are 19 years or older, no one has the automatic right to act on your behalf if you are found incapable. By making a legal plan, YOU choose who speaks for you.

In 2000, BC adopted the *Representation Agreement Act* (RA Act), a new law designed to facilitate personal planning. The RA Act is the result of a grass-roots law reform initiative and offers a safe, flexible, and effective legal planning tool for:

- Adults who need help with decision-making today.
- Adults who want to plan for their future.

The RA Act is the first legally-binding example of a supported decision-making model in the world. It helped inspire Article 12 of the United Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, which champions equal recognition of legal capacity and the right to support with decision-making.

A Representation Agreement, under the RA Act, is the only way in BC to appoint someone to act on your behalf for health and personal care matters. RAs can also cover routine financial and legal matters.

An Enduring Power of Attorney, under the Power of Attorney Act, is the legal planning document to cover financial and legal affairs.

Contact us!

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Nidus is a Latin term for nest: a symbol of safety, support and self-development.