

Principles from *How Can We Help*

(*How Can We Help*, published in 1992, was a joint community/government report that became the basis for the Adult Guardianship legislation)

- Principle 1** All adults have the right to autonomy and self-determination, and the right to enjoy the fundamental rights and freedoms prescribed in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.
- Principle 2** All adults are entitled to receive the most effective but the least restrictive, least intrusive, and least stigmatizing form of assistance, support or protection when they are unable to act independently, inter-dependently care for themselves or for their property and financial affairs, particularly where there is a risk that the adult will be subjected to abuse or neglect.
- Principle 3** All adults are entitled to the legal presumption that they are capable of making decisions and, where necessary, to support and assistance in order to understand and make informed decisions on their behalf.
- Principle 4** The use of court procedures and court orders appointing decision-makers or Guardians for adults should occur only as an absolute last resort and only after alternatives such as the provision of supports and assistance have been either attempted or carefully considered.
- Principle 5** All procedures, protocols and other processes associated with the provision of support, assistance or protection shall be intellectually, psychologically, physically, culturally, and financially accessible to adults.