

You're Never too Young to Plan Ahead!

Whether you are 22 or 82, you want to make your own decisions in life and you want them to be respected. What happens if you are seriously ill or injured and not able to make your own health care decisions or pay your bills? Who will make sure your wishes are honoured?

Getting your affairs in order today will protect your independence and dignity in the future. Everyone has heard about estate planning and making a Will, but there are other essential documents that fall under the heading of personal planning.



ESSENTIAL PERSONAL PLANNING DOCUMENTS

FOR HEALTH & PERSONAL CARE

Representation Agreement Section 9 (RA9)

This legal document allows you to appoint one or more people to assist you or act on your behalf for health and personal care matters. An RA9 gives your representative(s) the legal clout to carry out your wishes for health and personal care, including the final say to refuse life support. It does not cover finances.

FOR LEGAL & FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA)

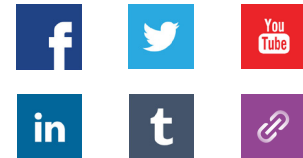
This legal document lets you appoint one or more people to manage your financial and legal affairs if you are physically or mentally incapable. It covers banking, investments, dealing with Canada Revenue, and buying or selling real estate on your behalf. It does not cover health care.

QUESTIONS ABOUT PERSONAL PLANNING?

- *Do I have to make these documents?*
- *I thought a living will covered health care and end-of-life?*
- *What if my spouse, relative or friend is not capable of making an RA9 or EPA?*

Click on the questions above to find the answers on our website.

STAY CONNECTED



EVENTS-AT-A-GLANCE

Nidus offers free presentations both online and in-person. We will discuss Personal Planning, with an emphasis on Representation Agreements. Learn more about capability requirements, useful planning tools and more. There will be Q&A at the end.

ONLINE WEBINARS

Two alternating topics are held each month. Watch individually on your computer or with a group.

WED, SEP 11, 11:30AM-12:30PM

Personal Planning and BC's Legal Tools

WED, SEP 25, 11:30AM-12:30PM

Representation Agreements in More Detail

IN-PERSON PRESENTATIONS

BC's Legal Tools for Personal Planning, featuring Representation Agreements

TUE, OCT 22, 1-2:30PM

Killarney Community Centre – Vancouver, BC

Register online, by phone or in-person.

604.718.8201 | www.vancouver.ca

THU, OCT 24, 1-3PM

Minoru Place Activity Centre –

Richmond, BC

Register online, by phone or in-person.

604.238.8459 | www.richmond.ca/register

Course Code #347208

Thank you to the [United Way of the Lower Mainland](http://www.unitedway.org) for funding these presentations.



Representation Agreements and Inclusion



Nidus presented at the **Inclusion BC Conference** that took place in Vancouver between May 23rd-25th. Our Executive Director, Joanne Taylor, presented alongside 3 guest speakers to a packed and enthusiastic room. Bob Geddes and Dwight Grose shared personal stories of how a Representation Agreement gave them independence and the right to direct their lives the way they choose. Josh Kuntz was unable to attend but sent his representative and mom, Cathy, in his place.

Bob was institutionalized as a teenager because he had cerebral palsy. When the institution closed down, he was moved to an extended care ward at a hospital in the Lower Mainland, with the Public Trustee as Committee (guardian) of his finances. Bob wanted to live in the community and get married. This required re-organization of his financial resources. But no one was listening to Bob.

In 2005, Bob made a Representation Agreement for health and personal care with friends. This gave his friends legal authority to help him advocate for a new living arrangement. They also helped him get money from his funds for his wedding to Annie. Most recently, the Public Trustee agreed to discharge their authority over Bob's financial affairs and he made a new Representation Agreement to cover all life areas. Bob is enjoying the freedom to spend his money on the items and activities that he chooses. And without fees being charged by the Public Trustee – he has more money to spend! To read more about Bob's journey, [click here](#).



Bob Geddes (left) and Dwight Grose, with Arlene Schouten (right), presenting at InclusionBC on May 23, 2013.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Nidus has many services available to help you determine your personal planning pathway and help you with making a Representation Agreement.

INFORMATION



Use the Nidus website to get informed and learn about your options when planning for the future. We have fact sheets, videos, stories and more at www.nidus.ca.

APPOINTMENTS



Need some help getting on the right track? Book a one-to-one in-person or phone appointment and get your questions answered. [Click on BOOK NOW on the right sidebar of our website's home page.](#)

IN-PERSON PRESENTATIONS



Presentations provide an overview on Personal Planning, Representation Agreements, Enduring Power of Attorney and more. Check our website for upcoming dates. [Go to the Self-Help tab > Presentations/Training.](#)

ONLINE PRESENTATIONS/WEBINARS



We offer 2 free online webinars a month. The alternating topics are: *An Introduction to Personal Planning* and *Representation Agreements in More Detail*. View it individually on your own computer or as a group. [Register at Self-Help > Presentations.](#)

RA FORMS



There are two types of Representation Agreements, RA7 and RA9. When you have determined which form is best for you, you can download it from our website. No legal professional is required.

[Representation Agreement Section 7](#)
[Representation Agreement Section 9](#)

REGISTRY



Storing a completed copy of your Representation Agreement and other planning documents in the Nidus Personal Planning Registry™ ensures your wishes are available when needed and facilitates communication in an emergency. [Go to the Registry tab on our website.](#)

Dwight had been dealing with a difficult living arrangement where he had no say over his finances or his day-to-day activities. He knew the situation was wrong, but wasn't able to stand up for his rights on his own. Dwight made a Representation Agreement with family members he trusted, and with their encouragement he started speaking up for himself. He moved out and chose a new living situation. Having control over his funds allowed him to take vacations and visit family. If he needs help, he knows his representative and monitor will back him up, but not take away his rights.

Dwight has been working as an ambassador in his city for 10 years and is an active and valued member of the community. When Dwight was in an accident, and his bike destroyed, the community took notice of his absence. On Dwight's first day back to work, he was asked to attend a special meeting where he was presented with a brand new bike.

[Click here](#) to see the full story.



Cathy Anthony speaking passionately on how a Representation Agreement supports Josh's self-determination.

Josh spent his youth in a loving and supportive family who understood his communication and his likes and dislikes. When Josh became an adult, he made a Representation Agreement to ensure he would have help with exercising his rights and responsibilities from people he trusted and who knew him well. When a longtime friend of Josh's invited him to live with him and his family on Vancouver Island, Josh was eager to go. Cathy, shared how hard this decision was for her and the other representative. She explained how important it is for representatives to really listen to the person and to follow their wishes when it might not be your wish. She told how it proved to be an exciting and proud time for Josh, and for those who helped him live his life the way he wanted. [Click here](#) to view photos Cathy shared with us.

All three stories were inspiring and moving. You could feel the audience's keen interest in learning how Representation Agreements, as a tool for supported decision making, enable self-determination.

At the end, one woman exclaimed "the Representation Agreement is BC's best kept secret!" Joanne acknowledged that unfortunately this is somewhat true, but the Representation Agreement is too powerful a tool to be kept secret. In agreement, the audience members said they would tell their friends and relatives. Representation Agreements are for everyone!

Nidus thanks all of our speakers for sharing their experiences and Arlene Schouten who accompanied Bob and Dwight.

ASK JOANNE!



You have questions? Joanne has answers! Joanne Taylor, Executive Director and Registrar of Nidus, shares her knowledge and expertise and provides commentary

on current trends and issues. In this section, Joanne addresses issues about personal planning and Representation Agreements to health care consent and more. There is also a drop down menu if you wish to read about a specific category. Watch for guest bloggers too! [Go to the sidebar Highlights > Ask Joanne.](#)

Recent posts include:

- [Do I have the right to refuse health care and can someone refuse on my behalf if I am not capable?](#)
- [Can I access medical records with a Representation Agreement?](#)

WHICH DOCUMENT DO I MAKE?

Do you need help determining which personal planning documents fit your situation? Check out our examples.

JOHN AND MARY:

- [Planning for health and personal care](#)
- [Planning for legal and financial affairs](#)

NEW FACT SHEET

[Resigning as an attorney or alternate attorney appointed in an Enduring Power of Attorney](#)

Sometimes an attorney or alternate attorney finds that they are not able to act or continue to act in that role. The Power of Attorney Act sets out rules for how they may resign. The Nidus fact sheet explains the procedures and provides a form that an attorney or alternate may use to resign. Click the link above for the form or go to [Information > Enduring Power of Attorney > Resources](#) on our website.

See other related fact sheets:

- [Revoking an Enduring Power of Attorney](#)
- [Resigning as a representative or alternate named in a Representation Agreement](#)
- [Revoking a Representation Agreement](#)

Czech Visitors

As part of The Models of Support for Persons with Mental Disabilities Project, seven members of the Czech Republic came to Vancouver to learn about the made-in-BC Representation Agreement. The Czech Republic is in the process of deinstitutionalization and is looking to the Representation Agreement Act as a model to support people with decision making while living in the community.

During their visit they attended the Nidus presentation at the Inclusion BC conference (see previous article). They were deeply moved to see Representation Agreements in action and were inspired to see people with developmental disabilities maintaining their independence, asserting their rights, and being active members in society. [Click here](#) to read the Czech group's reflections and message to British Columbians.



From left: Barbora Rittichova (Lawyer with League of Human Rights), Jaroslava Sykorova (Executive Director Instand), Lenka Benesova (Assigns and monitors guardians through the court), Skyland Kobylak (Interpreter), Irena Cerna (Social Worker with the public guardian), Romana Trutnovska (Instand), Vaclav Strunc (Instand Coordinator).



HUMAN RESOURCES AND
EMPLOYMENT OPERATIONAL
PROGRAMME

SUPPORTING
YOUR FUTURE
www.esfcr.cz

The Models of Support for Persons with Mental Disabilities Project is co-funded by the ESF Operational Programme Human Resources and Employment and the state budget of the Czech Republic.

THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT PROJECT FUNDERS

Vancity

**Service
Canada**



United Way
Lower Mainland
Community Partner



Building better communities, one grant at a time.

NEW BOARD MEMBER



Nidus welcomes Ian Buck as a member of the Board of Directors. Ian is a longtime volunteer with Nidus. He is active in the seniors' community and a member of the [Council of Senior Citizens Organizations \(COSCO\)](#). Ian is also a Director of the [Canadian Centre of Disability Studies](#), which promotes equality locally, nationally and internationally.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to [Service Canada](#) for funding through the Canada Summer Jobs program. University of BC Co-op Student, Vivian Luk, has joined the Nidus Team for the summer as the Seniors Project Coordinator.



PERSONAL PLANNING:

The act of making one or more legal documents that authorize your personal supporters to help you manage your affairs or make decisions on your behalf if you need assistance due to illness, injury or disability.

Personal planning is different from estate planning in that personal planning is about making arrangements for while you are alive, whereas estate planning is about making arrangements for after your death.

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