# **Nidus** Personal Planning Resource Centre and Registry

#### Volume 23 | November 2013

## Making Connections - Near & Far

Nidus is making connections with a variety of organizations and different sectors—in our neighbourhood, throughout the province, across Canada and in other countries. Are you connected?

## LEGAL

Working with Klein Lyons law firm to help clients make Representation Agreements to assist with the management of their Woodlands settlement funds.



Scotlabank a Trust

# FINANCIAL

Presentation for Scotiabank at Granville & 12th about Nidus services and resources.

## SENIORS CROSS CULTURAL

Presentations to South Vancouver Neighbourhood House Chinese Seniors Group, MOSAIC (interpretation in 5 languages), and South Asian Seniors in Richmond.



**SURREY COME SHARE** Training with volunteers of the Seniors Connectors Program.

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#### DAWSON CREEK

Online presentation sponsored by South Peace Seniors, Access Seniors Helping Seniors, at Northern Lights College.



#### **STAY CONNECTED**



### **EVENTS-AT-A-GLANCE**

Nidus offers free presentations both online and in-person. Learn about Representation Agreements, Enduring Powers of Attorney and how your voice will be heard and your affairs protected if you need help due to illness, injury or disability. There will be Q&A at the end. Go to Self-Help > Presentations & Training to see our listings.

#### **ONLINE WEBINARS**

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

Wed, Jan 8, 11:30am-12:30pm Personal Planning and BC's Legal Tools

Wed, Jan 22, 11:30am-12:30pm Representation Agreements in More Detail

Repeats Feb 12 & 26, Mar 12 & 26

#### **IN-PERSON PRESENTATIONS**

These presentations discuss *BC's Legal Tools for Personal Planning*, featuring Representation Agreements.

Tue, Jan 28, 1-2:30pm Gordon Neighbourhood House – Vancouver Please contact for registration details. 604.683.2554 | www.gordonhouse.org

Thu, Jan 30, 6:30-8pm VPL Kensington Branch – Vancouver Registration not required. 604.665.3961 | VPL Kensington Branch

Thank you to the United Way of the Lower Mainland for funding Nidus to offer these presentations.



## COMMUNITY LIVING

Customized presentations on Representation Agreements as a tool for *supported-decision making* and to enable *self-determination*.





Hope. Help. Home.

Coordinates workshop for providers

## NATIONAL

#### LAW COMMISSION OF ONTARIO

Providing input for the RDSP research project.

### PEI CITIZEN ADVOCACY

Sharing ideas with PEI's community-based efforts to establish supported decision making legislation, including a pilot of a Supported Decision Making Agreement.



# **PHOTO:** Jeremy MacDonald and his agreement with his mom, Terri MacDonald (right) and Melissa Good (left). Terri and Melissa are both supporters in the agreement.

## INTERNATIONAL

Since the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2008), Nidus has received many inquiries about how Article 12 of the UN CRPD is based on the Representation Agreement Act of BC. Some of the countries and groups we've heard from this year are:

**USA:** American Civil Liberties Union, Harvard School of Human Rights **CZECH REPUBLIC**: Instand

GERMANY: Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

**IRELAND:** Promoting Active Lifelong Supports (P.A.L.S), St John of God Kildare Services Cellbridge

## New Resources: Nidus Fact Sheets

#### ACCESS TO INFORMATION

"Sorry, we can't share information about your spouse/parent/son/friend with you due to privacy legislation."

Having access to information is important for those who are acting as a representative appointed in a Representation Agreement and for an attorney appointed in an Enduring Power of Attorney.

Nidus has developed fact sheets discussing rights and duties for accessing health care information and/or financial and tax records. Go to our website > Information tab > click on the relevant topic > select Resources or click the links below.

Access to Information and Representation Agreements Access to Information and Enduring Powers of Attorney

#### Other New Resources:

個人計劃和代表協議書 (Representation Agreements and Personal Planning) Notice for Major Health Care: When a TSDM is Selected to Consent on the Adult's Behalf

#### PRIVACY EXPERT OFFERS HELP TO NIDUS



Nidus is very excited to welcome the advice and guidance of David Flaherty on the privacy and security aspects of our services. Mr. Flaherty has offered his expertise pro bono

to Nidus and we are extremely grateful. This is especially helpful to us as we are finalizing our policies and procedures for the online Personal Planning Registry (below).

David Flaherty is a specialist in the management of privacy and information policy issues. He was the first Information and Privacy Commissioner for the Province of British Columbia (1993 to 1999). As a consultant, Mr. Flaherty provides a variety of services including managing privacy issues, assessing privacy compliance, helping with responses to privacy breaches and developing privacy risk management tools.

#### PERSONAL PLANNING REGISTRY

The Personal Planning Registry<sup>™</sup> is a service that lets you keep track of your personal planning information and store a copy of your documents.

The Personal Planning Registry™ is currently operating offline but will be going online soon. The online registry will make it easy



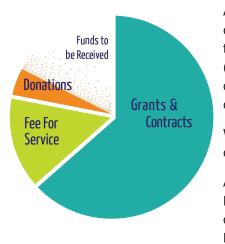
for you and those you authorize such as hospitals or financial institutions to access your information when needed. The Registry is set to go online in early 2014. Stay tuned for details!

The types of documents you can register include a Representation Agreement, Enduring Power of Attorney, Notice of Revocation, Living Will/Advance Care Plan and more.

For details - www.nidus.ca/registry

## Nidus Needs your Financial Support

As a non-profit charitable organization, Nidus needs your donations to help maintain our services.



As you can see from the following chart, grants and contracts make up the majority of our yearly revenue (April to March), but we also rely on donations and fees-for-services to cover expenses.

We need your help to meet our current budget and for the future.

Are you able to make a donation to Nidus? You can mail a cheque or do it online through Canada Helps. Please find the details below and thank you for your support.

#### Who does Nidus serve?

Nidus serves the province of British Columbia and is a resource to the public and to professionals on personal planning. Personal planning is for all adults in BC—approximately 3.7 million people.

Many of you have first-hand experience with Nidus services:

- Fact sheets and videos
- Personalized answers to your questions
- Presentations, webinars and workshops
- One-to-one assistance and consultation
- Representation Agreement forms basic and customized
- Training
- Registry

We know that you appreciate Nidus' knowledge and experience. We are asking for your help with a contribution so we can continue to provide our services today and in the future.

#### How to Donate:

**BY CHEQUE:** Make personal cheques payable to Nidus at 1440 W.12th Ave, Vancouver, BC V6H 1M8

**CREDIT CARD:** Online at Canada Helps www.canadahelps.org

Nidus is a registered Canadian charity BN 889408332RR0001

## **#GI≫ING**TUESDAY<sup>™</sup>



#### **MAKING REFERRALS TO NIDUS**

Are you a community organization, government agency or professional who works with people with disabilities and/or seniors? Do you know about Nidus resources to help your clients plan for their futures? Do you know that Nidus can help people make a Representation Agreement Section 7, which is a legal alternative to adult guardianship (Committeeship)?



Sign up for a free webinar to learn how to make an effective referral to Nidus and what services we provide.

Making Effective Referrals to Nidus Thu, Dec 5, 9:30–10am Tue, Dec 10, 1:30–2pm Open to everyone!

### LANGARA COURSE ON PERSONAL PLANNING

Joanne Taylor, Executive Director of Nidus, is teaching a course on Personal Planning at Langara College in February 2014 as part of a series on aging.

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#### Personal Planning as we Age (50479)

If you become incapable, who has permission to pay your bills, give or refuse consent for medical treatment, or make living arrangements for you? Learn about the planning tools available in BC, determine which apply to your situation and how to obtain the legal forms. Get tips and resources for discussing your wishes with those who need to know.

3 evenings: 6:30pm-8:00pm Feb 12, 17, & 19 (W/M/W) Fee: \$129.00 Register through Continuing Studies 604.323.5322 or online www.langara.bc.ca

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

A Representation Agreement is the only legal document in BC that lets you appoint someone to act on your behalf for health and personal care matters if you are incapable?

You do not need a legal professional to make a Representation Agreement?

## **Training for Seniors Volunteers**

Representation Agreements were developed through a community-government partnership to meet the needs of an aging population. Yet many people are either unaware of their existence or not sure how they work. This is mainly due to a lack of education or misinformation.



Thanks to funding from the United Way of the Lower Mainland, Nidus is developing a training program for seniors peer counsellors, and seniors information and referral volunteers.

#### The training program will equip trainees with knowledge about:

- BC's legal documents for personal planning Representation Agreements, Enduring Powers of Attorney, and Advance Directives.
- The role of the living will, the advance care plan, and other tools for discussing wishes and values.
- Details about capability requirements for different documents, the roles of those appointed, and when a legal professional is required.
- How to use the Personal Planning Registry.

#### The training takes into account different learning styles and consists of:

- Presentation/lecture.
- Hands-on scenarios, role play, and discussions.
- Demonstrations of our online resources.
- Filling out a sample Representation Agreement form to learn about signing and witnessing requirements.
- 2 sessions totalling 10 hours.

With our current grant, training is available for seniors groups in select areas of the Lower Mainland. If your group has any volunteers interested in learning how to assist seniors with Representation Agreements and planning for the future, please contact us at info@nidus.ca.

#### THANK YOU TO OUR PROJECT FUNDERS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR



Service Canada



**United Way** Lower Mainland Community Partner



#### **ASK JOANNE!**



As people are living longer, Representation Agreements are becoming more important as a tool to support older adults to maintain their qualityof-life as independently

as possible. They are also critical for carrying out end-of-life wishes. Unfortunately many people are still unaware of this legal document and may be relying on wishes alone. We answer questions and follow important current events to help people learn what they can do to plan for their future.

#### Recent posts include:

- Following the Margot Bentley Court Case
- Consent Series: What is informed consent for health care?

To read our weekly postings: Go to the sidebar Highlights > Ask Joanne.

#### **BECOME A MEMBER OF NIDUS**

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If you are interested in being more involved with Nidus, why not become a member? Annual membership is \$10.

#### Benefits of being a Nidus Member:

- Subscription to our online newsletter.
- News and updates about Representation Agreements and developing resources.
- Invitations to Nidus events and our Annual General Meeting with voting privileges.
- Announcements about our major activities in the community.

Best of all, becoming a member lets you support the only community-based organization in Canada devoted to personal planning and alternatives to adult guardianship.

Join now and get connected!

#### **PERSONAL PLANNING:**

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.

Nidus Personal Planning Resource Centre and Registry voicemail 604.408.7414 | t.free 1.877.267.5552 | fax 604.801.5506 | info@nidus.ca | www.nidus.ca Nidus is a non-profit, charitable organization offering expertise on Representation Agreements. ©2013 Nidus Personal Planning Resource Centre. All rights reserved.