



Making an Impact in Canadian Society

I am pleased to welcome you to the first of our 50th Anniversary Impact Bulletins. In 1964, Jean Vanier could not have imagined how L'Arche would unfold around the world. However, Jean quickly recognized the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities and the contributions that they can make to their communities and society. Please join us in our celebrations this year by reading our Impact Bulletins and supporting the work of the Foundation. We could not do this work without you!

- Murray McCarthy, Executive Director
L'Arche Canada Foundation

In Brief...

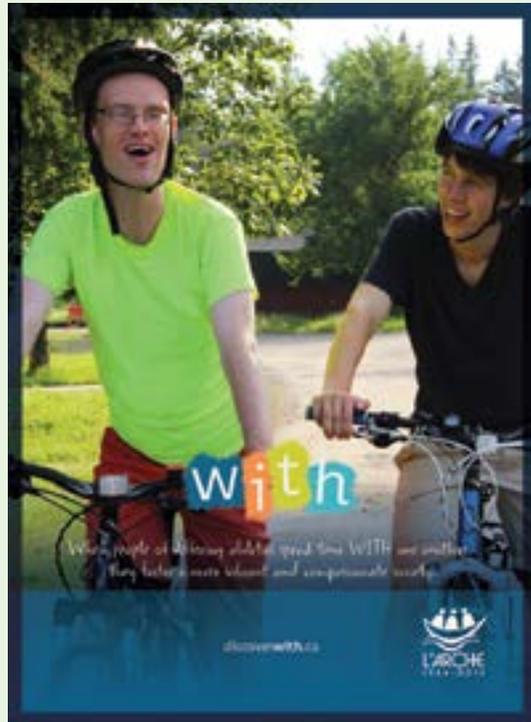
CELEBRATE OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY WITH US!

You can sponsor a WITH ad! Once the ads are prepared they can be placed in rapid transit waiting areas, in buses and subways, in bus shelters, on the back of buses or on billboards in small and large cities across Canada. The ad company, Pattison, will post one ad free for each ad that is paid for. After initial production, the posting of ads is not expensive. For example, in Toronto, posting two horizontal panel ads in buses or subway cars for a month costs about \$50. In other cities rates are lower. Get in touch with us to learn about costs for production of an ad and for posting in your area: communications@larche.ca

FOR SECONDARY TEACHERS Several recent short video clips of Jean Vanier speaking to teachers and young people on themes of bullying, leadership, student leaders of all abilities, and ...Continued

THE MESSAGE OF "WITH"

A L'ARCHE ad campaign to foster a more Welcoming and Compassionate Society



In this anniversary year, L'Arche Canada is working to shift society's perception of people who have an intellectual disability by presenting positive images of friendship. We do this not only because it is good for people who have disabilities but also because it is good for our society. Our aim is to encourage a more welcoming and compassionate society, one where every person can belong and contribute their gifts.

In our last issue of the Impact Bulletin we mentioned the WITH ads that have begun to appear in some Canadian magazines (*Canadian Family, Toronto Life, Ottawa* magazine) thanks to the generous donation of ad space by St. Joseph Communications. Recently, the *Walrus* also gave us ad space. With talented L'Arche photographers, we are developing more ads and are beginning to raise funds to adapt them for transit vehicles and outdoor media in cities across Canada.

Before we settled on the WITH campaign we put a lot of thought into the message we want to pass on to Canadians and we consulted professionals in the field of disability studies and social work as



well as a focus group of people entirely outside our sphere. John O'Donnell, who is responsible for L'Arche Canada's Outreach work, spearheaded this process. The photos are all-important. He explains, "We want each photo to convey the enjoyment that

people with and without intellectual disabilities can experience being together." The short message on the ads conveys the wider effect that such relationships can have: "When people of differing abilities spend time together, they foster a more vibrant and compassionate society," or "...they help create a better world."

In the above photo, the two women, Magda and Maiki are ready to begin an art project in a L'Arche Daybreak recreational program. The enjoyment they each experience in sharing this activity is clear in their smiles. Cyclists, Trevor and

Adrien, were photographed in front of their rural L'Arche Cape Breton home. Their relationship

The photos are all important.

illustrates one aspect of the transformative impact of L'Arche—the impact that L'Arche core members and assistants can have on one another. When Adrien came from Germany, he was just 18. Trevor has influenced many assistants through his affection and his calling them to be involved with him—"Work with me!" "Bike with me!" Indirectly, he is saying, "Don't doubt yourself. You can do this! And what you have to offer me is good and is important to me."

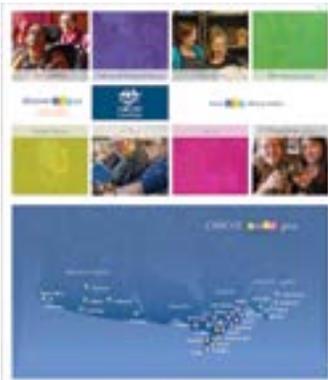
Assistants like Adrien grow quickly in confidence and in their sense of responsibility and purpose, when they spend time with Trevor. They move on in their lives knowing themselves and their gifts better and having a different perspective on people with disabilities and on what is most important in life.

(Thanks to photographers Amil Zavo of Cape Breton and Warren Pot, and to ad designer Bernard Lebleu.)

building a better world have been posted with discussion questions for each video, in the Educational Resources section of our L'Arche Canada website. They are in two groupings, for public schools, and for Catholic and other faith-based schools.

Also we were pleased to learn that the contributions of L'Arche and Jean Vanier are included in various courses of the new Ontario Canadian and World Studies curriculum that will be implemented in September 2014.

A NEW WEB PORTAL As part of our WITH campaign, L'Arche Canada has developed an attractive web portal that will give easy access to information on both the L'Arche Canada and the L'Arche Canada Foundation websites. The url is www.discoverwith.ca. We invite you to explore it.



DEEPENING IN OUR IDENTITY AND MISSION The five L'Arche Communities in Atlantic Canada recently gathered for an all-day "Town Hall" on the theme "What is a Shared Life?" Sharing life together with others of differing abilities is fundamental to L'Arche.

L'Arche Comox Valley offers a welcoming Seniors Circle

Seeing the isolation of local seniors, in 2012 L'Arche Comox Valley applied for and received a *New Horizons for Seniors* grant to start a weekly Seniors Circle. The group has become so popular that not everyone can come every week. Twelve is optimal. L'Arche maintains a rotating list of 30 and is applying for a further grant to start another group. L'Arche arranges transportation and provides the venue, an animator and lunch. People contribute five dollars. Tom Morgan, who has been a member of the group since it began, says, "I act as a helper every month or so. I get an immense amount of fun and satisfaction from my experiences



in the group. I'd give my right leg to ensure its continuation!" He describes the attendees as "a mixed bag. Most members have some limitation--blindness, lack of mobility, loss of memory... There is always someone whom L'Arche supports. Lines are

blurred between oldsters with and without an intellectual disability. Members have varied backgrounds. We chew the fat and may focus on a theme such as our hobbies or past travels. Sometimes we have outings."

Marie-Paule and Jacques – A long and trusting friendship

If you receive the L'Arche e-Connect electronic newsletter, you may have seen the charming video of Marie-Paule Villeneuve taking us on a tour of her neighbourhood. Marie-Paule has been in L'Arche Montreal for 35 years. When Jacques Lang arrived in 1998 he says they clicked right away, and she helped orient him. Friendship and mutual trust began to grow between them. Marie-Paule lived in an apartment for many

years. When she needed to choose someone to check on her, she chose Jacques. As a small example of the trust they share, Jacques describes a recent shopping trip on which he was about to buy a hat. Marie-Paule spoke up: The hat did not suit him! Like many at L'Arche, Marie-Paule and Jacques have an attitude of welcome and acceptance of other people. It is this that allows transformation to occur. They cite honesty as key to



their friendship. They lead busy lives but enjoy an occasional meal out and see each other when Marie-Paule volunteers at the L'Arche Montreal Workshop where Jacques is manager.

Canadian Delegates to the L'Arche 50th International Celebration

For the 50th Anniversary gathering in France, the founding community from each country where L'Arche exists was invited to send two people. In Canada, the invitation thus went to L'Arche Daybreak, founded in 1969. Carl MacMillan, Community Leader, explains, "We were asked to choose community members who would be leaders for the coming generation of L'Arche." The pair would need to travel together, move to different settings,

represent L'Arche communities in Canada in large gatherings, and be able to bring the experience back home. From recommendations by the Community Council, Agnieszka Mlynarczyk and Kim Lageer were selected. Agnieszka is on Daybreak's Leadership Team. Kim, a core member, is an artist who works in the Craft Studio and lives in a L'Arche home. Upcoming Impact Bulletins will follow Kim and Agnieszka this year.



Kim and Agnieszka

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