

MEDIA RELEASE

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A New and Stronger Voice in Lanark County

Community Living Association (Lanark County) is a charity supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities to enable and assist them to live a quality life in their community with dignity and respect.

Carebridge Community Support connects and is a catalyst for fostering stronger, caring, person-centred communities across Lanark County by working together to meet the needs of seniors, adults with developmental disabilities and those who need affordable housing.

Today, the Boards of Directors at Community Living Association Lanark County (CLA) and Carebridge Community Support (CCS) are announcing a new Alliance. By working together, CCS and CLA are finding ways to improve services and enhance each person's overall experience. We are creating a new and stronger voice for the people we serve.

"Over the past three years, CCS and CLA have been exploring ways to collaborate and improve and augment services," explains CCS Board Chair Bob McGaraughty. "Much work has been accomplished and we want to thank the CCS and CLA teams for their support and commitment to this process."

"For our day-to-day operations, it will be business as usual," adds CLA Board Chair Susan Edwards. "People who receive services, clients, support persons and families will access services in the same way. At the same time, we will be looking for ways to strengthen services based on best practices while addressing service gaps in our region."

On January 17, 2022, the Board of Directors of CCS and CLA signed a letter of intent to create an Alliance with a shared Board overseeing both organizations, and a combined senior leadership and administrative team. The new Board has now signed an Alliance Agreement and introduced new by-laws for both organizations.

"This is not a merger," notes CEO Rob Eves. "It is a restructuring of the Board and senior leadership across the two organizations to leverage each Agency's strengths. We are drawing upon expertise across both organizations so that we can better support the front-line staff. In turn, the front-line staff can better support the people we are here to serve."

As part of this new Alliance, a new Advisory/Lived Experience Council to the Board of Directors will be created. This group will ensure that the community's voice is heard. Members will include representatives from the people we serve throughout Lanark County.

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