

August
2026

VIEWS



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& the Dhinjal family
present

Drive for Ability Therapy Fund



Scan/Click to learn more
about eligibility requirements
and to apply

The Drive for Ability Therapy Fund supports individuals with developmental disabilities who are seeking access to therapies and services that enhance their communication, independence, well-being, participation, and quality of life.

The fund is intended to help reduce financial barriers to accessing therapeutic supports, including occupational therapy, speech-language therapy, physiotherapy, counselling, behavioural supports, mental health services, assistive technology assessments, and other therapeutic or skill-development services.

The fund recognizes the importance of individualized supports and the value of lived experience. It aims to empower individuals and families to access services that contribute to personal growth, inclusion, and full participation in community life.

Nic Murker, Manager of Fund Development



Pride Day



Members from across the Aspire Community came together to celebrate love in all forms during our Pride event! We had a live DJ, frozen treats to beat the heat, colourful decorations, and fun stickers to commemorate Pride season.

While a space was created for everyone to have fun, the event was also a message to our community that no matter who or how you love, you deserve to feel connected and happy.

Nic Murker, Manager of Fund Development





Filipino Independence Day

On June 11 three of Aspire's Community Inclusion programs met at King George Park to celebrate Filipino Independence Day. Over 100 people played games, ate delicious Filipino cuisine and heard the history of this important day. There was a dance performance and then singing and dancing. Thank you to Jeopry from Synergy and his fellow committee members for all their hard work to make this such an amazing event !

Lisa Sarai, Manager of Synergy LIFE Day Services

Seedlings Spa Day





Scan/Click
for more
resources!



Inclusive Education

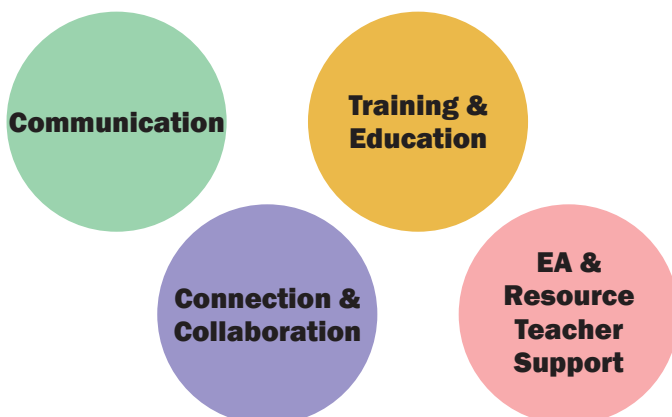
When community voices come together, powerful ideas for inclusive education begin to grow.

On February 13, 2026, 45 educators, administrators, families, students, and community partners gathered at Richmond Secondary School for Possibility Through Partnership: A Think Tank on Inclusive Education. Hosted by Aspire's Inclusive Education Committee, the event invited community voices to explore how Richmond can continue building inclusive school communities where every student feels a strong sense of belonging.

What we heard

Participants described inclusion as a shared responsibility. Families emphasized the importance of being informed, heard, and included as partners. Educators and community partners highlighted collaboration, ongoing learning, and a strong understanding of each student's strengths, needs, and goals. Students reminded us that belonging, acceptance, and meaningful participation are central to inclusive education.

Drawing from nearly 120 ideas shared during the event, Aspire's Inclusive Education Committee identified four priority areas for action over the next three to five years:



What's next

As a next step, the committee will use these priorities to guide an action plan focused on advocacy, planning, and continued community dialogue. Members will work with families, students, educators, and partners to strengthen communication, support inclusive learning, build connections, and recognize the important roles of Educational Assistants and Resource Teachers.

The Think Tank highlighted Richmond's strong network of families, educators, students, and community partners. By continuing to listen, learn, and work together, we can help create school communities where every student feels valued, supported, and included.

To request a copy of the Think Tank Report, please email info@aspirerichmond.com.

The Inclusive Education Committee includes parents, self-advocates, Richmond School District educators, and Aspire staff. The committee promotes inclusive educational practices, supports advocacy related to public education for students with developmental disabilities, and provides recommendations to the Aspire Board. To learn more about becoming a member, please contact Carrie at cmclellan@aspirerichmond.com.

**"No single educator can meet
all students' needs alone."**

Jen Erickson, Department Chair, Educational Assistant Program,
Langara College, Keynote Presentation

**"I must help create classroom environments
where students feel safe and successful."**

Mikayla Smith- Reflection on Belonging for Blossoming



MyLife Words

WHO IS IT FOR?



Every child accessing Aspire services! With the goal of all children services programs embracing the F-Words framework into their planning, programming and practice.

WHAT IS IT?



A strengths based, collaborative framework for supporting children and families based on CanChild F-words for Child Development's 6 F-words - Functioning, Family, Fitness, Fun, Friends and Future

WHERE WILL YOU SEE IT?



In the next few months you will see it woven through Support Guides, Visit Records, Children Profiles and Program Planning.

WHY ARE WE USING IT?



The F-Words Framework offers a holistic, strengths-based lens that keeps children and families at the center. It helps create a common language across services, supporting collaboration, and consistency.

WHEN? NOW!



2024: Grant approved - we're on our way!
2025: Training with CanChild!
2026: Implementation

OUR VISION



We're building the connections that support thriving, connected, and happy lives for every child and family!



For more information about F-words for Child Development:
[Perspectives on Childhood Disability](#)



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HandyCrew
COOPERATIVE

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604-241-4113 | www.handycrew.ca

HandyCrew Spotlights

Jason has been a HandyCrew member since January 15, 2019. Jason has been on both the landscaping and cleaning crews. He's currently cleaning weekly at Container West. He enjoys cleaning but likes to mop the most. Jason likes to save up his money.

Tom has been a member of HandyCrew since May 31, 2022. Tom's favorite thing about HandyCrew is working. He is a part of the cleaning crew working weekly cleaning the Snoezelen at Synergy. Tom enjoys cleaning the ball pit the most. Tom is saving his money for his sisters wedding.

Katherine Ollson, Manager of HandyCrew Cooperative



Jason



Tom



Work Experience Program

Thanks to funding received through the United Way of BC, the governments of Canada and British Columbia, Aspire Employment team was excited to launch our 2026 Work Experience Program (WEP) with 5 participants in our first cohort.

The job market is becoming increasingly competitive. To address this, the WEP program aims to equip our participants with the knowledge, skills, certifications, and paid work experience to market themselves and increase their chances of being successfully hired by employers.

The program kicked off with a week-long training process where individuals learned new skills and gained certifications in First Aid, Customer Service, WHMIS, and Building Respectful Relationships in the Workplace. The workshop sessions covered a broad range of topics including workplace safety, self-advocacy, workplace etiquette, employer/employee expectations, interview skills, etc.

During weeks 2 to 12 of the program, the participants are placed in jobs to gain paid work experience. Each participant's profile was reviewed and considered prior to being recommended to a placement/role:

For his keen interest in vehicles, Alan has been working in a fleet vehicle detailing role where he has been doing a great job detailing Aspire's fleet as well as getting to work with a variety of staff vehicles.

Marni's enthusiasm for working with other people made her the perfect candidate for working in a thrift store where she can interact with customers from the local community.

Because of her exceptional organization and leadership skills, Rahma is also working at the thrift store where she helps organize and prepare products for sale.

Kanta has an eagerness to help others and proudly describes himself as a 'tech guy'. These traits make him a good fit to work at Aspire's Head Office in an office administrative assistant role and back up receptionist.

Faizan's educational background, athletic hobbies/interests, and sociable personality are a perfect match for his role as a recreation assistant, working at our Quantum day program with individuals to experience and enjoy community.

The Work Experience Program will continue until the end of August and will restart with the next cohort in September. The Aspire Employment team is excited to see our participant's growth as they continue to gain confidence, skills, and experience for employment!

Annabel Melnyk, Manager of Employment Services

Summer Fun in Adult Services - Avenues!



Summer Fun in Adult Services - Transitions!

by Nile Pepito, Senior Counsellor at Transitions LIFE Services



Alvin is participating in our summer gardening activities. These photos show him watering the garden and harvesting its first bountiful crop.



Rebecca enjoyed a beautiful sunny day at False Creek with her friends, taking in the scenery and making the most of the warm summer weather.



Osmund went on his first adaptive trail ride with his friends and staff at Pacific Spirit Regional Park. The outing gave him an opportunity to experience the trails in an accessible way while enjoying nature and spending time with his peers.



Kelsey and Lucy participated in a kickboxing class last June, where they enjoyed friendly sparring, staying active, and exercising alongside friends from other programs. The class was a fun opportunity to build confidence, develop new skills, and connect with others.



Best buddies Justin and David enjoyed spending time together by watering the garden and making the most of a beautiful summer day at Terra Nova Rural Park.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday Sept 21, 2026

Invite a friend and join us!

Sandwiches: 6pm Meeting: 7pm
Richmond Caring Place, Room 340
7000 Minoru Blvd, Richmond

thriving. connected. happy.



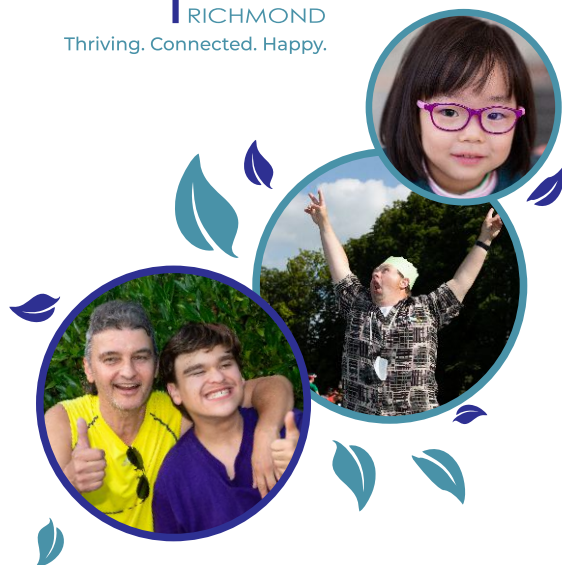
Scan/Click
here to RSVP
by Sept 14, 2026



Artist: Devorine

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with



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member driven organization.
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📍 170 7000 Minoru Blvd

Richmond BC V6Y 3Z5

CRA Reg # 107895591RR0001

From Picnic Blankets to Game Board Battles!
Join us for our annual



**Wednesday
Sept 2, 2026
4pm-7pm**



scan here
to register
before Aug 28

Eat! Play! Laugh! Brighthouse Park
7000 Minoru Blvd
Richmond



www.aspirerichmond.com
604-279-7040

SAVE THE DATE



THE
BENEFIT OF
POSSIBILITIES

A NIGHT OF TIMELESS POSSIBILITIES

Thursday

Nov 19, 2026

6:00pm - 10:00pm

Executive Airport Hotel

Details to come! Visit www.aspirerichmond.com

Aspire Richmond

170 - 7000 Minoru Blvd, Richmond BC V6Y 3Z5

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