

October
2026

VIEWS



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& the Dhinjal family
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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.

Learn more about eligibility requirements and the application process on our website at aspirerichmond.com.

Did you
know Aspire
is on social
media?

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more
updates!



@aspirerichmond.com

Children Services Holiday Party



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www.aspirerichmond.com

Pancakes with Santa

Saturday
Nov 28, 2026

8:30am - 1:30pm

Seedlings Early Childhood Development Hub
6380 No. 3 Rd Richmond, BC

Register for
your 45minute
timeslot
by Nov 20
2026



Accepting donations of food and toys for the
Aspire Richmond Kindness Committee Holiday Hampers

Thank You, Annette Delaplace

At this year's Annual General Meeting, Aspire Richmond recognized Annette Delaplace as she completed six years of dedicated service on the Board of Directors and concluded her third term. During her time on the Board, Annette provided strong leadership as Board President, helping to guide Aspire through a period of growth, innovation, and continued commitment to quality services.

Annette's contributions extended well beyond the board table. She played an active role in numerous committees and initiatives, championing inclusive education, strengthening governance practices, supporting strategic planning, and fostering meaningful connections between Aspire and the community. Her thoughtful leadership, collaborative approach, and unwavering belief in inclusion have had a lasting impact on our organization.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and the individuals and families we support, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Annette for her commitment, generosity, and service. We are grateful for the difference she has made and wish her all the best in the years ahead.

Shannon Crofton, CEO



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

September 30th marked National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada. Outreach's Patricia Sill from the Ulkatcho First Nation brought a group of friends along to attend a day of remembering and ceremony at Queens Park, hosted by the QayQayt First Nation.

Everyone was able to learn from guest speakers, and experience Buffalo Thunder group drumming and dancing during the well-attended event. We encourage you to attend next year for Truth and Reconciliation Day!

Matthew Taylor, Outreach Specialist

Aspire's Signature Fundraising Event

We are currently preparing for our 18th Annual Benefit of Possibilities Gala that will take place on November 19th, 2026. The Gala is an important fundraiser that enables us to continue providing critical resources and services to the individuals and families we support.

Part of the preparation for this event is the solicitation of sponsorship and silent auction items. Items include: gift baskets, gift cards, merchandise, event tickets, financial contributions or other items suitable for fundraising initiatives.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in sponsorship opportunities or have items to donate to the silent auction, please contact us at:

☎ 604-279-7040 ✉ nmurker@aspirerichmond.com.

Your generosity helps us continue providing valuable programs and services to those who rely on our organization. Every contribution, regardless of size, makes a meaningful difference.

Sponsors and donors are recognized at the event and acknowledged in our event materials wherever possible.

Other ways you can support this event is by purchasing a ticket to attend. Tickets are available now!

We look forward to seeing you at this event!

Nic Murker, Manager of Fund Development and Community Awareness



**OCTOBER IS
National Disability
Employment
Awareness Month**

Recognizing talent.
Building Inclusive workplaces.

INCLUSIVE WORKPLACES Stronger Communities

People supported at Aspire bring valuable skills, perspectives and talent to our workforce.

When everyone has the opportunity to work, we all thrive.



PEOPLE
Valued for their abilities



OPPORTUNITIES
For meaningful work



INCLUSION
Stronger workplaces



BRIGHTER TOMORROWS
A more inclusive community

thriving. connected. happy lives.

For more information about Aspire Richmond's Employment Services

☎ 604-278-5380 🌐 aspirerichmond.com ✉ amelyn@aspirerichmond.com

Scan/Click
for more
resources!



Inclusive Education



From Illusion to Inclusion: Ministry of Education and Child Care Principles of Student Support

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! We hope that this year has started well for you and your family!

This article focuses on the fundamentals of student support in schools, per Ministry guidelines. These key provincial guidelines inform the ways in which schools provide support and programming for all students, including for those with disabilities or diverse abilities.

Specifically, the Ministry of Education policy language emphasizes that:

- Above all, behaviour (and other) interventions for students must promote the rights of all students to be treated with dignity.
- Behaviour (and other) interventions for all students emphasize prevention and positive behaviour supports, and every effort is made to employ preventative actions that preclude the need for the use of isolation/seclusion.
- Positive educational/behaviour interventions and mental health supports are provided routinely for all students who need them, and they are provided in a safe and least-restrictive environment, such as the regular classroom setting.
- Behaviour interventions must address the underlying cause or purpose of behaviour.
- Neither seclusion nor the use of dedicated learning spaces are to be used as a punishment, discipline, or to force compliance in an educational/learning setting.
- It is expected that parents and, where appropriate, students, are offered opportunities to be consulted in the development of positive behaviour supports and interventions, behaviour plans, and safety plans.
- Recurring practice of seclusion or isolation may not be common practice in any student's educational program

Take a moment to review the above and ask questions when engaging in collaborative planning conversations with schools. We hope that you find these guidelines helpful and informative.

Thank you for reading!

Liz Hayes-Brown (she/her/hers)

Director of Instruction, Richmond School District No. 38

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 cmcellan@aspirerichmond.com.



Summer Fun!

Life is not just about having fun — although we're pretty good at that too! It's about friendship: growing, laughing, and making a salad together for friends.

It's about learning to be brave and strong, sometimes literally, while rock climbing!

It's about discovering the beauty of our community and learning that it becomes even more meaningful when we share it with others.

And then there are the things that don't need a lesson plan: the hugs, the laughter, the little victories, and those warm moments that somehow stay with us long after summer is gone.

Summer may be over, but the memories, friendships and lessons we created together are coming with us.

Wioletta Okwieka-Reduch,
Manager of Quantum LIFE Services



October is Community Inclusion Month

Inspired Connections on Display at City Hall

This fall, Aspire Richmond is proud to partner with Richmond Art Gallery for Inspired Connections, an exhibition featuring artwork created by participants in the Avenues Day Program.

The exhibit showcases a vibrant collection of mixed-media pieces inspired by personal experiences, memories, culture, and the connections that shape our lives. Through their artwork, participants share unique perspectives and stories while celebrating creativity, inclusion, and self-expression.

We invite everyone to visit the exhibition and experience the talent and creativity of Aspire Richmond's talented artists firsthand.

Exhibition Details:

Inspired Connections September 8 to November 12, 2026

City Hall Galleria, Richmond City Hall, 6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond

Hours: Monday to Friday 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Closed on public holidays)



International Day of Sign Language

September 23, 2026 marked the International Day of Sign Languages. For people who are deaf or deafblind, sign languages and other communication methods help create opportunities for connection, self-expression, and full participation in community life.

Heather demonstrates the sign for 'fruit' in American Sign Language.



Rain or shine, Aspire's annual summer picnic is always a good time!

Thank you to all who helped with the event and to those that braved the rain and joined us!



Synergy LIFE program celebrated Mexican Day of Independence in September with themed decor, chips, guac and salsa!

Meet the Artists Bringing Their Stories to Vancouver's INCLUSION Art Show

For J.A. Tan, painting is a way to explore emotion, memory and human connection. For Jasmine, art became a way to reconnect with her daughter during a difficult period of motherhood and recovery. And for photographer Dana, even a city bus can be something beautiful worth capturing.

Their stories represent some of the many different perspectives visitors will discover at the 22nd annual INCLUSION Art Show & Sale, returning to Vancouver's Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre Oct 27–28.

Hosted annually by posAbilities Association of British Columbia during Community Inclusion Month in BC, INCLUSION brings together more than 200 artists from across Metro Vancouver, including independent artists and artists connected with Community Living organizations and studios. The exhibition provides artists with diverse abilities a professional platform to showcase and sell their work, while inviting the public to discover the people and stories behind the art.

J.A. Tan is a visual artist and Emily Carr University of Art + Design graduate whose expressive, colour-rich paintings have been exhibited in Vancouver, New York, London, Manila and Beijing. In 2012, his painting *Victory* was featured on a United Nations postage stamp for Autism Awareness. *"Art is a journey of connection — a way to retrace steps through memories and places that have shaped me,"* Tan shares. *"Each image speaks of a moment, a place, or a feeling that resonates deeply within me."*

For Jasmine, creativity became an important part of her life when she was a new mother. She would take her daughter to the park, photograph the things they noticed together and then paint those images onto her daughter's clothing. After experiencing postpartum mental health challenges, Jasmine says painting became a way to connect emotionally with her daughter and an important part of her recovery. Jasmine shares: *"Now she joins me in the studio, creating her own projects. It's come full circle."*



Photographer Dana finds inspiration in an unexpected place: public transit. She loves photographing buses and finding beauty in something most people might simply look at without noticing. *"Most people will look at a bus and think, 'it's just a regular bus.' But I see beauty and look at it from a different perspective."*

The exhibition features a wide range of original artwork, including painting, collage, illustration, photography, pottery, art cards, jewelry, glassware and more. Artists keep 100% of their sales, providing income that can support their creative practices and studios.

Adam Warren, Manager of Avenues LIFE Services

Event Details

Date: October 27–28, 2026

Time: Tuesday (10:30am-7:30pm) and
Wednesday (10:30am-6:30pm)

Location: Roundhouse Arts & Recreation
Centre, 181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver

Admission: Free (donations at the door are
appreciated and help support the show)

The exhibition is designed to be welcoming and
accessible, with ASL interpretation, sensory kits
and additional accommodations available upon
request.



Matthew's Pirate Run

On a sunny September Saturday morning at the port of Garry Point, Matthew Lai from Outreach joined fellow pirates on land for the 2026 Big Pirate Run. Matthew changed his boots to running shoes and ran a 5km race at a furious pace. Congrats to Matthew and all the Pirates!

Help us plan for the Future at Aspire!

Aspire Richmond is in the process of developing our next Strategic Plan, and we would like to hear from you. Your experiences, insights, and ideas are invaluable as we plan for the future and work to ensure our services continue to meet the needs of the individuals and families we support.

We invite you to complete a short survey to share your thoughts on Aspire's priorities, services, and future direction. Your feedback will help guide our planning and decision-making over the coming years.

Thank you for taking the time to
participate and for being an important
part of the Aspire community.

Scan/Click here to
complete the survey.
Open until Nov 1, 2026.



Small Moments, Stronger Families

F-Words- My LiFe Words



thriving. connected. happy.



Our focus on the “F words- My LiFe Words this month is **family**. In thinking about Family, it encourages us to learn more about each family's dynamics, interests, culture, and ways of connecting.

FAMILY

Family: My family knows me best and I trust them. Listen to them. Talk to them. Respect them.

Recently, Treehouse hosted a parent night where families could meet other families attending Treehouse, spend time together, and learn more about how we care for their children. It was also an opportunity to share with families that we are here to support them, so they have what they need to help their children thrive. The evening helped teachers build stronger relationships with families while giving families a chance to connect with one another and strengthen their community.

Strong families grow from simple moments, a friendly conversation, a shared activity, or a helping hand. By taking time to connect, we built a deeper sense of belonging and create a more welcoming environment for everyone.

Why is Children's Services using F-words?

F-words is a way to bring together traditional information with a strength-based, holistic understanding of children and families. For more information, click here [F-words Videos - CanChild](#)

Angela Yodogawa, Manager of Treehouse early Learning Centre



Fresh Beginnings at Treehouse

Treehouse has been busy and joyful as we welcome several new children. Each brings a unique personality, ideas, and interests. We are enjoying getting to know them, helping them feel comfortable, and seeing new connections grow as they explore, join activities, and find their place in the group.

As educators, we notice what sparks each child's curiosity, from imaginative play and building to books, sensory experiences, music, movement, and outdoor exploration. Their interests guide meaningful, engaging experiences that support confidence, relationships, and development.

Treehouse is also enjoying a fresh start with new paint, improved lighting, and artwork that adds warmth and personality. The refreshed space feels bright and welcoming, inspiring our team to create an environment where children and families feel comfortable, included, and at home. We will continue adding thoughtful touches that reflect the children.

We continue to use F-Words-My Life Words to understand what matters most to each child and family, including their strengths, preferences, routines, relationships, and hopes. We are also creating a booklet for every child. The F-Words framework: Functioning, Family, Fitness, Fun, Friends, and Future, offers a positive, strengths-based view of the whole child.

Creating the booklet together will help us understand each child and family, celebrate what matters to them, and identify meaningful goals. It will provide families and educators with a shared resource for conversation, planning, and reflection while keeping each child's voice, interests, and abilities at the centre.

As we settle into our refreshed space and strengthen relationships, we look forward to the months ahead. Cooler weather, colourful leaves, and pumpkins will inspire outdoor exploration, creative projects, stories, and seasonal learning. We are excited to share these experiences and follow the children's ideas.

Angela Yodogawa, Manager of Treehouse early Learning Centre

COFFEE WITH THE CEO

OCTOBER 22ND,
2:00 - 4:00

170 - 7000
MINORU BLVD

Aspire
RICHMOND

RSVP if you can
to 604-279-7040
or just drop in!



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with

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member driven organization.
We operate in part, by contributions
of your membership fees.



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your membership
online today!

Membership fees:

Single Membership:

\$10/year

\$100/lifetime

Family Membership (2 votes):

\$15/year

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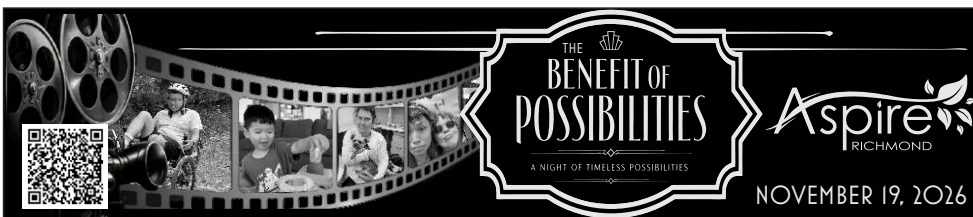
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