

June 2025

Durham Family Resources

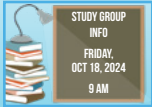
FAMILY focus



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SO THAT ALL PEOPLE ENJOY A FULL AND MEANINGFUL LIFE
WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

DFR's Annual General Meeting is at Full Capacity! Voting Members Can Still Register to Vote (Details Below)

The air is abuzz around our AGM this year, with increased membership and a sold out night! We are thrilled to know that so many of you believe in our work and the significance of our partnerships with families.

Are you a confirmed voting member of DFR, but missed your chance to register to attend our upcoming AGM?

As a confirmed voting member, you still have an opportunity to be added to the “standby queue” to attend in person.

Simply click the registration link to add your name to the standby queue. We'll notify you when spots open up to attend in person.

Annual General Meeting

Thursday June 19, 2025 - 6-8:30pm

Jubilee Pavilion Banquet &
Conference Centre - 55 Lakeview Park
Ave, Oshawa

**REGISTER FOR STANDBY
QUEUE HERE!**

DFR Featured in New P4P Webcast Called Real Voice? Real Choice

At 7pm on June 16, Partners for Planning will be airing a new webcast called [Whose Voice? Real Choice](#). It will be featuring Tracy McGillivray, a family long connected to DFR, along with Selena Blake and Laura Powell.

Whose Voice? Real Choice June 16, 2025 at 7pm EST

We all benefit from the support of trusted relationships when making decisions. However, too often people with developmental disabilities are underestimated and not given the opportunity to make choices for themselves. Join us to learn how we can shift our mindset and actions to support opportunity for people with disabilities to take the lead in their own lives!



This webcast will:

- Help families rethink how they support their family member to communicate and make their own decisions
- Show ways to support the decision-making journey starting with small choices
- Help families understand the impact of assuming capacity and providing clear information to people with intellectual disabilities
- Support your ability to honour diverse communication methods beyond words.
- Provide real stories from families who changed the way they think about communication and how that opened them up to new possibilities

We have been invited to share some thoughts and reflections on how more people's capacity can be understood and recognized. See below for information from P4P and the link to register.

DFR's Work in SRV Implementation Shared at International SRV Conference

We were eleven-strong at this year's 8th Annual ISRVA Conference in Halifax this May, with three imminently practical DFR sessions. It was a unique combination of "SRV on the Ground" with families in co-presenting and partnership roles, and strong SRV theory told in ordinary language, further augmented by engaging presentations and attractive, useful hand-afters.

Throughout the three full and intensive days, we had the opportunity to be among and learn from practitioners and teachers from around the world who stretched and challenged us to imagine better and, in some cases, validate some of our own thinking, which was incredibly worthwhile. We heard stories and examples of the practical ways that others are applying the thinking and ideas of SRV, in ordinary everyday ways in real communities. This was further couched and followed by thoughtful and reflective conversations.

We couldn't help but feel pride as we watched others attend our presentations and be thoroughly engaged and most impressed by the grounded family presence and their authentic contributions. For us this highlighted our continuing commitment to assist families (and others) to bring about ideas from a theoretical framework in such real and doable ways – helping to underpin the value of ensuring pathways for principled (ordinary) approaches abound well into the future.



A highlight of the conference was the tribute to [Dr. Michael Kendrick](#) and his incredible intellect, body of work and warm regard in sharing his ideas around the world.

Dr. Kendrick is an internationally respected speaker, author, educator and consultant in the areas of values-based leadership, service design and reflective practice. His contributions span more than 30 years.

Most of his work is situated within CRU in Brisbane, Australia, to be safeguarded and shared by a team of five international colleagues.

DFR is uniquely connected to this body of work and its future.

And finally, we spent a full day with Nova Scotia families connected with Inclusion Nova Scotia (40 in the room and 16 on-line) exploring Building a Context for Relationship strategies while demonstrating possibility, with real stories told by families in person. It was impossible to miss the shifts in thinking around the room throughout the day!

The whole day was abuzz with new ways of thinking, new imagination and new starts. People left with renewed and new found energy!



A Look Ahead at Home & Housing Conversations This Summer!

Imagining Home will meet back up on June 11th - we'll check in with each other and check up on what's happening in and around housing in our Region. Then we'll take a break in July but reconvene in August for an encore (live) presentation of *How Home Happens: It's Not Innovative to Want Ordinary*, from the recent International SRV conference in Halifax.

Come join the conversation. Long time and new families alike, everyone has something to gain and something to offer. Each month at Imagining Home, we engage with anything "housing, home and community" and enjoy critical discussion, sharing stories, and learning among respectful and supportive people. Families bring a wealth of experience and knowledge and are ready to share and support others along their journey. All are welcome to attend and participate in Imagining Home when we meet on the second Wednesday of each month.

If you are new to the group and would like to attend Imagining Home for the first time or after some time away, we'd ask that you first contact Erin at ereilly@dafrs.com to arrange an introductory call.

IMAGINING HOME MEETING • WEDNESDAY JUNE 11, 2025

• 6:30PM • IN PERSON

CONTACT ERIN FOR DETAILS [EREILLY@DAFRS.COM](mailto:ereilly@dafrs.com)



ONLINE VIA ZOOM

Next Generation Meetup

A casual get together of those who identify as the "next generation" in the support of a loved one with a developmental disability. Coming together to connect, share, and learn from one another.

Contact Rosanne for details!
rpurnwasie@dafrs.com
(905) 436-2500 ext. 2289

www.dafrs.com

Thursday July 3rd @ 7-8pm
Email Rosanne at: rpurnwasie@dafrs.com

Sharing Evolving Personal Practices and Actions at This Month's BioMedical Study Group

This month at Biomedical Approaches Study Group, we'll gather for a debrief from our day with Peter Marks back in April.

Bring along one thing that has changed your practice or guided a recent action as a result of the ideas shared on that day. A book or podcast to share and discuss is always also welcome!

The Biomedical Approaches Study Group meets monthly and is open and welcoming to new and past participants! We usually meet on the second Friday of each month at 10 am for about an hour to an hour and a half.

RSVP to Sue at smclellan@dafers.com if you'd like to attend!

**BIOMEDICAL
STUDY GROUP**

**FRIDAY,
JUNE 13, 2025**

10 AM - 11:30 AM



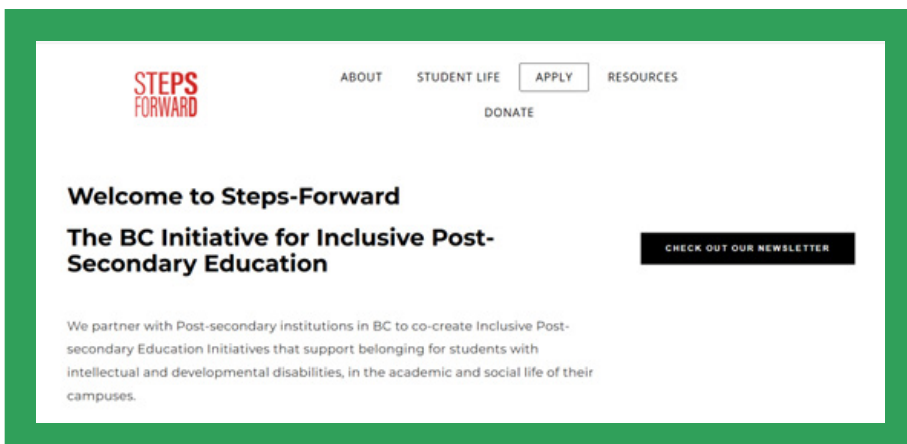
A BC Initiative Helps Form a Canada-Wide Community of Practice to Advance Inclusive Post-Secondary Education

STEPS FORWARD, the [BC Initiative for Inclusive Post-Secondary Education](#) recently hosted its 8th Annual Symposium on Inclusive Post-Secondary Education. This year's event brought together a vibrant community, including representatives from Simon Fraser University, Acadia University and Capilano University, dedicated to advancing inclusion in post-secondary settings. The theme, "Safeguarding Authentic Inclusion," focused on protecting the integrity of the student experience. Sessions explored how programs can uphold inclusive practices that ensure students remain embedded in the full academic and social life of campus, rather than being separated or sidelined.

A key topic of discussion was the role of audit pathways. While these non-credit options have opened doors to meaningful educational experiences, they often face challenges in a system where credit - and particularly credentialed credit, is more highly valued. Cultural expectations around formal qualifications can pressure initiatives to pursue credentials in ways that may compromise the authenticity of the student experience. This tension between recognition and real inclusion was a central theme of the symposium. Participants emphasized the importance of valuing the full range of student experiences—not just those that lead to a credential.

Building campus-wide understanding and support for inclusive education remains a top priority. Faculty

and staff across several Canadian post-secondary institutions are coming together to form a community of practice—sharing strategies, deepening their knowledge, and strengthening their commitment to inclusive education. There is growing momentum. The promising work underway at multiple campuses is setting a strong example, and we're optimistic that more colleges and universities across Canada will follow their lead.



Making the Most Study Group to Meet Back up in August

The Making the Most Study Group is a fantastic opportunity for those who have completed the series to continue their learning and take some next steps in developing valued roles and relationships with a loved one.

Each month graduates of past Making the Most learning series are invited to come together and think more deeply about crafting and sharing a vision, designing and planning days full of contributions and possibilities, focusing on roles rather than activities, seeking and developing good support, making positive introductions, and finding strength, comfort, and energy through building personal networks, and connecting with other families.

The meeting is open to anyone who has attended the 6-part Making the Most learning series or an MTM Weekend Retreat and wishes to join the conversation.

There is no meeting in June as we want to encourage everyone to attend our AGM on June 19. We will also take a break for July, but look forward to seeing people on August 25 for an in person gathering - more details to come!



**MAKING THE MOST
STUDY GROUP**

For more info contact Laura at
lpowell@dafrs.com

For more information, please visit our website,
www.dafrs.com, and see the “Upcoming Events” tab.

Important Dates At-A-Glance!

Bio Medical Approaches
June 13 @ 10am

Imagining Home
June 11 @ 6:30pm

Annual General Meeting
June 19th @ 6pm

Next Gen Meetup
July 3 @ 7pm

**Making The Most Study
Group**
August 25 @ 6:30pm

For more information,
please visit our website at
www.dafrs.com

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