

June 2021

In partnership with families...

Our ways start with families, their neighbourhoods, and communities.

Together with families, we are all about imagining, discovering, and contributing to local communities, where the gifts and contributions of all its members can be recognized, welcomed, and called forth.

For us, “family” is in the context of one’s chosen family where (our) voices can best be supported and heard.

To guide our work, we focus on:

- Families in the lead
  - Amplifying the voice of the person, being guided by their interests, passions and unique and valued contributions.
  - Recognizing each person’s will, preference and desire to be involved in directions and decisions in their lives.
- One person at a time
- In real community
- Following ordinary life pathways for authentic lives identified by growth, purpose, challenge and achievement– not directed by programs
- Families, who are most resilient and capable when they are not alone, but linked to other families and supported by an organization which is anchored by a set of principles and able to offer commitment, support and resources towards these pathways rather than any other.

Our vision includes everyone. In a Canadian context, it recognizes anti-Black, Indigenous and other forms of systemic racism and many ways of setting others apart, and our approach aims to honour and include all members of our community. This way aims to be steeped in humility: listening to, learning from, and sharing with.

We are committed to this way of thinking and it calls us to ask:

**What is gained when everyone belongs, what is lost when they do not?**