



April 2, 2024

Introducing the Lanark Community Alliance – Where Everyone Belongs

In 2022, Carebridge Community Support (CCS) and Community Living Association Lanark County (CLA) announced a new collaboration to create a stronger voice for the people we serve. Together, the two organizations employ over 300 people, welcome hundreds of volunteers and serve countless individuals and families.

In less than two years, a shared Board has led a series of initiatives including a new strategic plan, integrated leadership roles for greater synergy and the creation of an Advisory Council of lived experience members to ensure the community's voice is heard.


"We needed a better name to reflect the great work being done by our teams and are pleased to announce the **Lanark Community Alliance**," explains Board Chair Jean Knowles. "As an Alliance, CCS and CLA work with other service providers and community partners to provide services that wrap around the people we serve, thereby helping them to truly belong and pursue their goals in life. We're excited about what lies ahead!"

Lanark Community Alliance is an alliance of independent, like-minded, non-profit agencies coming together for a common cause – well-being, quality of life and meeting the increasingly complex needs of people for people with varying developmental abilities, older adults and those needing affordable housing.

"We are united in our vision of creating communities where everyone belongs, feels valued and respected and has choices and opportunities to live with dignity and reach their full potential," adds CEO Rob Eves. "As Alliance members, we are collaborating to support front-line staff, enhance programs and services, leverage resources and address shared challenges. All these goals have people at the centre: the people we serve, those who work here, volunteers and our partners."

The Lanark Community Alliance continues to look for new members with diverse backgrounds from across Lanark County to join the Board of Directors or the Advisory Council.

The Alliance Board provides governance oversight and is responsible for key areas such as strategic planning, quality, CEO oversight and financial stewardship. It fosters diversity and broad community representation, including lived and living experience. Board volunteer members bring a variety of skills to the table. More importantly, they bring a passion for improving care in our region.



The Advisory Council welcomes applications from people with lived experience related to Alliance programs and services including Developmental Services, Senior Services and Affordable Housing. The Advisory Council helps shape the effectiveness of the Alliance's work.

For more information about these opportunities or to apply, please email Kristine at kramsey@carebridge.ca.

“By working together, the Lanark Community Alliance is improving services and enhancing each person's overall experience,” sums up Jean Knowles.



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.


Together, our organizations employ over 300 people, welcome hundreds of volunteers and serve countless individuals and families.

CONTACT

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MEET OUR ADVISORY COUNCIL

Susan Edwards — Co-Chair




Susan brings a wealth of experience and a heart full of passion to her role as Co-chair of LCA's Advisory Council. With a successful career spanning over 30 years in education, Susan has served as a Teacher, Principal, and Superintendent of Schools Equity and Special Education. Her dedication to fostering inclusive, accessible, and diverse communities is evident in her tireless advocacy work and her leadership as a Board Member for six years, including President of Community Living Association Lanark County (CLA). When she's not working, Susan enjoys an active lifestyle that includes canoeing, stand-up paddleboarding, cycling, skiing, hiking, and games. Susan is grateful for her amazing husband, loving family, and 7 wonderful grandchildren who fill her with love and joy every single day.

Maggie Foot — Co-Chair



Maggie was born and raised in Ottawa. She has lived in Yellowknife, NWT, Northern BC, and currently resides in Perth. Her life is characterized by advocacy, creativity, and community service. Maggie has a professional background in management and a passion for interior design. One of her most notable achievements is co-founding the High Road Services Society in Smithers, BC— an organization dedicated to supporting individuals with developmental disabilities. It was born out of a need for more comprehensive community services and stands as a testament to Maggie's commitment to creating inclusive environments. Beyond her professional and advocacy work, Maggie is deeply devoted to her son, Corey, who is on the Autism Spectrum, dedicating most of her time to his development and independence. Together, they are navigating the exciting journey towards the Special Olympics Provincial games. In her free time, Maggie enjoys bowling, golfing, quilting, reading, travelling, and walking.

Jacquelyn Hoult — Member



Jacquelyn is a semi-retired freelance communications consultant and long-time Carleton Place resident. She spent over 20 years working in a variety of senior marketing communications and event planning roles in government agencies and associations in Ottawa, including Canada Post, the Canadian Red Cross, and the Canadian Medical Association. As the parent of a young adult on the autism spectrum who is striving to lead an independent life in Carleton Place, Jacquelyn was inspired to join the Advisory Council to help people with intellectual disabilities to find opportunities and overcome challenges so they can have the chance to live, learn, work, and play in their local communities. In her free time, Jacquelyn enjoys getting involved in activities like Tai Chi and a local French language group, as well as traveling with her husband.



Jean Knowles — Board Chair

Jean has dedicated her life to education and community service. She was raised on a dairy farm near Winchester, Ontario, and later attended Queen's University in Kingston. She has lived in Lanark County for the last 40 years and spent 35 years working as a Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Jean's passion for serving the community led her to join the Lanark Community Living Association's Board of Directors in 2016, where she served as Board Chair for two years. Since 2022, she has held the position of Board Chair of the Lanark Community Alliance. Jean's son has been supported by CLA for a number of years, and she is grateful for all the staff who have so professionally and warmly worked with him. Drawing from her professional and personal experience, Jean provides valuable insights and guidance to the LCA Advisory Council. When she isn't volunteering, Jean enjoys cycling, skiing, reading (she loves her book club!), painting and international travel.



Linda McGreevy — Member

Linda has been a resident of Carleton Place for more than 25 years and has dedicated her life to championing quality healthcare and the importance of community hospitals. With a 30-year career as a fundraising specialist, she has contributed significantly to community hospitals like the Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre Foundation and the Sudbury Memorial Hospital Foundation. Linda has sat on the board of directors for over ten organizations, primarily in health care, and is in her third term as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Carleton Place and District Memorial Hospital Foundation. She was recently honoured with the 2023 Award of Excellence in Volunteerism by Lanark County. Linda is passionate about senior care and spent eight years on the board of directors of Carebridge, so it seemed like a natural transformation to accept a position on LCA's Advisory Council. In her personal life, Linda enjoys outdoor activities, travel, and treating her friends and family to traditional Lebanese dishes, topped off by one of her famous pies, a skill she learned from her Irish Mom!



Darlene Poirier — Member

Darlene brings a wealth of lived experience and insight to the LCA Advisory Council. With over nine years as a Community Living Association Lanark County (CLA) Board Member and invaluable experience as an administrative assistant to Member of Parliament Scott Reid, she offers vital insight into CLA's programs and their impacts. Darlene acts as an essential conduit between the council and the community, ensuring a flow of meaningful communication and understanding. Currently, she lends her talents as a volunteer at Foundry Books, further demonstrating her commitment to community service. Outside of her professional endeavors, Darlene is a loving mother of three, who enjoys crafts, fitness, and draws strength from her deep personal faith.