

## **Website on Deinstitutionalization Launched**

### **Declaration for Support for Community Living**

#### **We need you to sign on!**

At this address, <http://www.institutionwatch.ca/>, you will find a Declaration for Support for Community Living. Please add your name to the declaration. Signing your name means that:

We, individually and collectively, commit to working together to assist persons to return to their communities and call on all levels of government in this country to:

- Acknowledge that institutions for persons with intellectual disabilities have no place in today's society;
- Stop financing or otherwise supporting the establishment of new institutions for persons with intellectual disabilities;
- Stop all new admissions to existing institutions;
- Support the right of all people with disabilities to live in the community as equal citizens;
- Commit the necessary resources to support the development of quality, comprehensive community-based alternatives to institutional care;
- Acknowledge the wrongs that have been committed against those individuals who have been held for far too long in institutions across this country.

In Canada today, many thousands of Canadians with intellectual disabilities remain trapped in large segregated institutions - inappropriately and unjustifiably segregated from society. They remain, for the most part, hidden and removed from the mainstream of society despite a collective knowledge, based on research and practice over the past 30 years, that with proper community based supports all persons with intellectual disabilities thrive in the community. They remain in these institutions as a result of inaction by governments and communities.

As of September 14, 2007, 929 people have signed this declaration, 31 of which are from the Northwest Territories. By signing this declaration, we are public ally expressing our belief that Canadians with intellectual disabilities are citizens and as such have equal rights to full inclusion and life in the community; are valued contributing members of our society; and are entitled, regardless of the severity of their disability, to community living.

Please spread this request on to your friends, families and other networks.