





**NATIONAL TRAINING  
RESOURCE CENTRE**  
*"Serving the field of intellectual disability"*

# WEAVING INCLUSION AROUND THE WORLD

*"Life is either a daring adventure or nothing."*  
Helen Keller

We just got off the plane from a two week working journey in Scotland and England (June 1994). Although tired from jet lag, we are energized by the international network that is expanding and now includes people from North America, Britain and the Pacific- with friends in Australia and New Zealand. We are building a small and powerful global network of people committed and dedicated to building a better world! The common thread that we weave is inclusion - learning to live with one another as citizens with rights and duties.

- Our two fundamental presuppositions are:
- **ALL** human beings have in violable rights by dint of being human.
  - Society has an obligation towards **ALL** of its members.

For us **ALL MEANS ALL!** This simple but profound concept is what we will be working to implement for the next decades of our lives.

This year, 1994, history has declared apartheid dead in South Africa. The brave and heroic people of that country have given the blood of their children to bury segregation. However, now the hard work will begin - to build a new society - a society based on diversity and democracy.

Our task together must be to declare any form of segregation and apartheid dead. No

## Marsha Forest &

more segregating children into special schools. No more segregating adults in special workplaces. No more segregating the old, the infirm. No more segregation based on race, or colour or creed. Starting immediately, any and every country can do one thing to end segregation. We can refuse to allow any newborn child to be segregated or isolated in any way. Think of the impact. In only 20 years, a whole new generation will have arisen. Having lived inclusion, they will not only find segregation hard to understand, but offensive. They will abolish it. This is an act that can be undertaken NOW. It is possible



Marsha Forest is the Director of Education at the Centre for Integrated Education and Community in Ontario, Canada.

## Jack Pearpoint

and positive - now!  
Inclusive Community starts with all of us and it starts now. This small but powerful *Network Magazine* is a piece of a remarkable tapestry of hope and commitment to the dream of a better tomorrow. We, the team at *Inclusion Press*, stand proudly with *Network Magazine* and our many friends and colleagues in New Zealand, in building this new society. We are joining hands and hearts from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean for we believe that *Together We Are Better and Together We Are Stronger*.



Jack Pearpoint is the Executive Director of the Centre for Integrated Education and Community in Ontario, Canada.

*Network Magazine* is unique, readable, personal and a high quality contribution to this inclusion tapestry. It is humble and speaks clearly and surely to its growing readership. It is a magazine that is a learner as well as a teacher. It encourages an active exchange of ideas from its readers.

Along with Dorothy Kerzner Lipsky and Alan Gartner we will be guest editing a special edition of *Network Magazine on Inclusive Education*. This will be a joint USA/Canadian/New Zealand adventure.

This is an era when unbridled competition has gone too far and indeed harms all of us. Collaboration and cooperation are not just words to us. They are a lifestyle - a choice of how to work and live in the challenging world of 1994.

The world is in turmoil. There are indeed two roads facing all of us. One road is cynicism, despair and hopelessness. The other is to create something new - something that has never been seen before. It demands creativity, dreaming, daring, risk and hard work. We are a small part of the road to building something new. *Network Magazine* in affiliation with our small *Inclusion Press* is one step in the direction of making that better world. We are very proud and humble to have been asked by *Network Magazine* to be one of their partners on the journey. We look forward to a productive affiliation and friendship that leads to a better tomorrow for us all. ☐