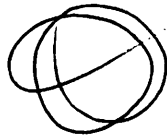


Subj: For John: For Discussion re McConnell
Date: Friday, April 21, 2000 8:39:41 PM
From: judiths@ica.net
To: MBB1217@aol.com



*Pass! Jonathan
re fishy*

Hope you are all having a peaceful, feastful Easter!

John, we can discuss what you might take to McConnell, after you read these notes.
Love; Judith

Subject: The Vulnerable Mosaic and The Balanced Off Centre Camp

The April 2000 meeting of the Ontario Enabling Communities Regional Committee was a moment of transformation for us. We looked deeply at the thoughts, feelings and images of who we have been and who we intend to become. We found a renewed identity for ourselves, and with it a new direction and new actions to take.

To mark this new beginning, we took the name: "The Vulnerable Mosaic". This name reflects our Canadian roots, our commitment to build a more hospitable society from the basis of celebrating the gifts of diversity, and our heartfelt understanding that vulnerability and fragility are essential aspects of strong human community.

We decided that we can and must work toward having a place of welcoming, learning, teaching, sharing our understanding. This place would be like a camp and like a retreat. Judith would be central to the activity and arrangements, with support. It would be called Balanced Off Centre Camp. This name reflects that we believe: "If it IS broke, don't fix it!" By responding to fragility and vulnerability with appreciation for diversity,

Subject: For John: Discussion re McConnell
 From: jmh@hawaii.net
 To: jmh@hawaii.net
 Date: Friday, April 27, 2000 8:23:41 PM

John, you are all having a beautiful Easter!

John, we can discuss what you might like to McConnell after you read this. I will be in Hawaii on the 28th and 29th.

Subject: The Vulnerable Islands and The Balanced Off Centre Group

The April 2000 meeting of the Ontario Building Communities Response Committee was a moment of transformation for us. We looked deeply at the challenges, feelings and images of who we have been and who we intend to become. We found a renewed identity for ourselves, and with it a new direction and new actions to take.

To mark this new beginning, we took the name "The Vulnerable Islands".

The name reflects our Canadian roots, our commitment to build a more hospitable society from the basis of celebrating the gifts of diversity, and our belief in understanding that vulnerability and dignity are essential aspects of strong human community.

We decided that we can and must work toward having a place of belonging. Learning, teaching, sharing our understanding. This place would be like a camp and like a retreat. It would be central to the activity and emergency with support. It would be called Balanced Off Centre Group. The name reflects that we believe "it is better, don't fix it," by responding to fragility and vulnerability with appreciation for diversity.

seeking for giftedness, building relationship, and creatively providing support, dynamic stability can be created out of situations of struggle and suffering.

Potential activities at Balanced Off Centre include:

- training in inclusion, giftedness and relationship
- workshops hosted a wide variety of invited presenters
- intensive family support
- storytelling with an intention to provide healing and/or teaching and modeling
- opportunities to use video making and other resources to create resources, enhance communication and more
- teacher inservicing for inclusive education
- credit giving high school and college level training for supporters of various disciplines
- work and recreational opportunities with an inclusive focus
- rest, reflection and retreat for a variety of individuals, families and groups

The above list is not exclusive. In addition, Judith would herself be able to build in retreat times for the deepening of her thought and writing.

From the base of Balanced Off Centre, tours for training and for storytelling could be mounted.

The dynamism of this place and these activities has the potential to create a new future for welcoming and diversity in Canada and throughout the world.

We will start by:

- Peter Christianson exploring names, charter, starting or using an existing organization/charter
- Judith, and others, exploring 3test driving2 the ideas at a rented facility circa August or September

Judith A. Snow, M.A.

seeing for difference, building relationship, and creatively providing support, dynamic stability can be created out of situations of struggle and suffering.

Potential activities at Balanced Off Centre include:

- training in inclusion, difference and relationship
- workshops hosted a wide variety of invited presenters

- intensive family support
- storytelling with an intention to provide healing and/or teaching and modeling
- opportunities to use video making and other resources to create resources.

- enhance communication and more
- teacher involvement for inclusive education
- credit giving high school and college level training for supporters of various disciplines
- work and recreational opportunities with an inclusive focus
- test, reflection and review for a variety of individuals, families and groups

The above list is not exclusive. In addition, Judith would herself be able to build in recent times for the deepening of her thought and writing.

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We will start by:

- Peter Christenson exploring names, chosen, starting or using an existing organization/center
- Judith and others exploring first diving the ideas at a rented facility circa August or September

Judith A. Snow, M.A.

Phone: 416-538-9344 Fax: 416-516-1691

Fax: 416-516-1691

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<HEAD>
<TITLE>For John: For Discussion re McConnell</TITLE>
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John, we can discuss what you might take to McConnell, after you read these notes.

**<HR ALIGN=Center SIZE="3" WIDTH="95%">Subject:
The Vulnerable Mosaic and
The Balanced Off Centre Camp**

To mark this new beginning, we took the name: "The Vulnerable Mosaic". This name reflects our Canadian roots, our commitment to build a more hospitable society from the basis of celebrating the gifts of diversity, and our heartfelt understanding that vulnerability and fragility are essential aspects of strong human community.

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Hope you are all having a wonderful festival season!

4/20/1950

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To mark this new beginning, we took the name "Society for the Vulnerable."
Rebranding. This name reflects our Canadian roots, our commitment to
build a more hospitable society from the basis of celebrating the gifts of
diversity, and our heartfelt understanding that vulnerability and fragility
are essential aspects of being human community.

We decided that we can and must work toward having a place of welcoming, learning, teaching, sharing our understanding. This place would be like a camp and like a retreat. Judith would be central to the activity and arrangements, with support. It would be called Balanced Off

Centre Camp. This name reflects that we believe: "If it IS broke, don't fix it!" By responding to fragility and vulnerability with appreciation for diversity, seeking for giftedness, building relationship, and creatively providing support, dynamic stability can be created out of situations of struggle and suffering.

Potential activities at Balanced Off Centre include:

- training in inclusion, giftedness and relationship
- workshops hosted a wide variety of invited presenters
- intensive family support
- storytelling with an intention to provide healing and/or teaching and modeling
- opportunities to use video making and other resources to create resources, enhance communication and more
- teacher inservicing for inclusive education
- credit giving high school and college level training for supporters of various disciplines
- work and recreational opportunities with an inclusive focus
- rest, reflection and retreat for a variety of individuals, families and groups

We realize that we can and must work toward having a place of well-earned learning, teaching, sharing our understanding. This place would be like a camp and like a retreat. Just as we would be central to the activity and arrangements, with support. It would be called Balanced OF

Course. This name reflects that we believe "it is broken. It is broken by responding to fragility and vulnerability with aggression for diversity, seeking for giftedness, building relationship and creativity; providing support, dynamic stability can be created out of situations of struggle and suffering.

Related activities at Balanced OF course include:

- working in inclusion, giftedness and relationship
- working toward a wide variety of invited presences
- intensive family support
- working with an intention to provide healing and/or teaching and mentoring
- opportunities to use video making and other resources to create resources, enhance communication and more
- teacher training for inclusive education
- creating high school and college level training for supervisors of various disciplines
- work and educational opportunities with an inclusive focus
- teaching and retreat for a variety of individuals, families and groups

The above list is not exclusive. In addition, Judith would herself be able to build in retreat times for the deepening of her thought and writing.

From the base of Balanced Off Centre, tours for training and for storytelling could be mounted.

The dynamism of this place and these activities has the potential to create a new future for welcoming and diversity in Canada and throughout the world.

We will start by:

- Peter Christianson exploring names, charter, starting or using an existing organization/charter
- Judith, and others, exploring 3test driving2 the ideas at a rented facility circa August or September

Judith A. Snow, M.A.

108 Hallam St.

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

M6H 1W8

Phone: 416-538-9344

[illegible]

The above list is not exclusive. In addition, Judith would herself be able to build in retreat times for the deepening of her thoughts and writing.

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The dynamism of this place and these activities has the potential to create a new future for welcoming and diversity in Canada and throughout the world.

We will start by:

- Peter Christenson exploring names, stories, starting in using an existing organization/center

- Judith and others exploring Street Diving, the place at a retreat facility circa August or September

Judith A. Snow, M.A.

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Toronto, Ontario, Canada

416-928-1234

Phone: 416-238-9344

and/or: 416-238-9344; fax: 416-218-1021

Proposal to Strengthen Family Networks in Ontario and Take New Steps toward Individualized Funding of Personal Supports

submitted to:
The JW McConnell Family Foundation
by:
the Ontario Enabling Communities Committee
July 2000

Context: Over more than two decades people with disabilities in Ontario, along with their families and friends, have worked energetically to alter their cultural and political environment. These undertakings are intended to increase the community presence and participation of individuals who are stereotyped, unsupported and kept apart by society. Often these families and supportive groups have acted unaware of each others' existence, disconnected from the learnings and achievements of the other.

Gradually isolation is being broken down and people are combining their understanding and exertion. With greater relationship and organization people are better sustained and more effective.

The cumulative effect of these efforts gives us greater understanding of the characteristics of support that increase participation and security. We are more aware of what is required to succeed in altering our political and systemic realities so that good personal support can be established and sustained.

Examples of the essential learnings that have been acquired are documented in ***Community Engagement: A Necessary Condition for Self-Determination and Individual Funding***, a report written by John O'Brien for the Ajax and District Association for Community Living in 1999, and ***Linking Individualized Supports and Direct Funding: Making Money Work for People*** which is the report of the Ontario Round Table on Individualized Funding, submitted in May 2000 to the Individualized Funding Coalition of Ontario.

Purpose: It is time to take a new step in bringing vulnerable people together in Ontario. It is a powerful moment to increase our collective understanding and accomplishment. We want to learn how to bring all the necessary elements of individualized support together in a workable arrangement that makes citizen participation achievable for individuals with disabilities.

Our intention is to use an action learning approach to:

- bring isolated families together so that their stories can animate each other and enhance each others' capacity;
- build on the family and support networks that have already come into existence so that more effective relationship development and story telling can occur in larger areas of the province;
- discover how to protect the fragile gains that have been made in relationships, participation and community in the past twenty-five years;
- continue the discovery of the nature of effective resource creation and provision of support to people with disabilities; and,
- influence and learn how to create a province-wide infrastructure that will make citizen participation for people with disabilities a more established reality.

Anticipated Outcomes: We expect to support families to imagine and build an infrastructure for themselves that will:

- help families sustain and enhance a wide range of supportive relationships in their own communities. These relationships, besides providing ordinary human benefits, will buffer vulnerable families from the harmful effects typically experienced vis a vis the human service system;
- sustain pathways that permit families and individuals with support needs to find information and continuously plan and create; and,
- keep the mechanisms of individualized support, such as recruiting and paying staff, acquiring specialized equipment and learning, etc., in working condition to sustain those needing support.

Method: We will work with families, mainly in the context of story-telling gatherings. We will support people to learn from their own and each others' experiences. As higher levels of organization occur among families, we will participate in the emerging dialogues and other efforts to build a new support infrastructure.

Our Request: We are seeking a three year grant to assist in mounting and fulfilling this three year action research project.

We will need to retain a skilled action researcher who has experience in working with families that include individuals with disabilities. We will also require the skills of an organizer who is able to stimulate story-telling and relationship development among people who are marginalized from not having access to their communities. These resource people must have the capacity to be present to families with enough continuity for facilitating learning and action.

In addition we are seeking financial support for the provision of workshops and other gatherings, for evaluation and communication.

Our intention is to use an action learning approach for
- using isolated research together as first hand sources and primary basis
- other and enhance their capacity
- basis on the family and support network that have already come into
- existence as their own effective relationship development and error
- telling can occur in larger areas of the process
- as cover how to prevent the family from that have been made in
- relationship development and community in the past twenty-five
- years
- continue the necessity of the necessity of effective research and
- pattern of support to people with disabilities and
- and learn how to create a program with individuals that
- will make other participation for people with disabilities a more
- established reality

Developmental Research: We expect to support families to develop and
- find an alternative for themselves that will
- help families sustain and enhance a wide range of support
- relationships in their own communities. These relationships
- besides providing ongoing support to families with children with
- families from the family effects typically experienced as a result of
- human service system
- - maintain families that provide families and individuals with support
- needs to find information and continuous plan and create and
- - keep the resources of individual support such as technology and
- paying staff, acquiring specialized equipment and learning etc.
- in working coalition to sustain these learning support

Research: We will work with families mainly in the context of every
- learning situation. We will support people to learn from their own and
- and other experiences. As higher levels of organization occur among
- families, we will participate in the emerging discipline and other efforts
- to build a new support infrastructure

Our Research: We are seeking a three year grant to assist in building
- and building the three year action research project

We will need to retain a small number of researchers who has experience in
- working with families that involve individuals with disabilities. We will
- also require the skills of an organizer who is able to organize work
- helping and relationship development among people who are not organized
- from not having access to their communities. These research people must
- have the capacity to be present to families with enough continuity to
- the learning learning and action

In addition we are seeking financial support for the provision of
- we leaders and other gatherings for evaluation and demonstration

Yearly Budget:

1) Stipend for Action Researcher - part-time	\$15,000
2) Stipend for Organizer - full-time	45,000
3) Resources for Workshops and Gatherings	18,000
4) Communication	2,000
5) Writing of Interim Evaluation Report	<u>2,000</u>
Subtotal	\$82,000
Less contribution from community-based organizations	<u>3,000</u>
Total	\$79,000
Request for Support for Three Years	\$237,000