



Media Release

For Immediate Release

February 27, 2006

Teenagers Speak Out On Inclusion in New Video

MYTH: Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities should be educated separately from other students as they negatively affect the learning of other students.

FACT: Better socialization has a positive effect, not a negative effect on an individual's learning.

The Saskatchewan Association for Community Living (SACL) invites you to the premiere of their new video, "Inclusion is More Than 9 to 3" at Holy Cross High School, Thursday, March 2, 1:30-2:30.

Aimed at teenagers, the video stresses the importance of including people with intellectual disabilities during school and after school activities. Developed with the support of the University of Saskatchewan Media and Technology Department, this insightful video examines the true meaning of inclusion in our schools, work and play.

Originally conceived by SAAG (Self Advocacy Action Group), a group of adults with intellectual disabilities and filmed in Saskatoon, the video stars members of the SACL youth group Fusion Inclusion as they deal with various myths that exclude people with disabilities from everyday life.

"People with disabilities have fought hard to have their rights recognized in society, but they still experience social exclusion in many aspects of life," says Judy McLaughlin, President of SACL. "This video is looking beyond stereotypes and myths and hearing students with and without disabilities talk about what inclusion means to them."

Fusion Inclusion member Ashley Haftner, a high school student involved in making "Inclusion is More than 9 to 3" says the video's title is fitting. "(The title works) because a lot of kids will be civil to a person while a teacher's around, but as soon as school gets out, they're back to the bullying and the singling out and the teasing. They just don't understand that they have to treat people decently all the time. It's not just 9 to 3," she says.

Video participant Jill Sibbald explains why inclusion makes sense, "how are you supposed to appreciate abilities when they're being 'dis'ed from the get-go. People who lack an ability to do something—everybody has that, but to focus on the ability a person does have is difficult to do when you're focusing on the *disability*-the ability they don't have. Labels don't work. They just don't."

MLA Judy Junor will attend the launch and bring greetings from the Premier.

Refreshments to follow the launch.

**For more information contact:
Faith Bodnar, Executive Director of SACL at (306) 955-3344**

Saskatchewan Association for Community Living: Mission Statement

Through advocacy, education and community-building, we work to create a world where all people with intellectual disabilities are full citizens.

Helping communities to welcome people with intellectual disabilities