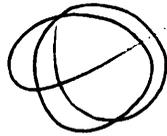


Subj: For John: For Discussion re McConnell  
Date: Friday, April 21, 2000 8:39:41 PM  
From: judiths@ica.net  
To: MBB1217@aol.com



*Handwritten signature: Judith*  
*Handwritten note: 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 for discussion re McConnell  
Date: Friday, April 27, 2000 8:29:41 PM  
From: judith@ic.net  
To: jrb8151@ic.com

John you are all having a beautiful Easter!

John, we can discuss what you might like to McConnell after you read this. I am sure we can find a way to work with you on this. I am sure we can find a way to work with you on this.

The Veterans Affairs and The Balanced Off Budget Camp

The April 2000 meeting of the Ontario Building Communities Network Committee was a moment of transformation for us. We looked deeply at the challenges and issues 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 Veterans Affairs".

There have been many challenges over 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 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 Budget Camp. The name reflects that we believe "if it is broke, don't fix it" by responding to dignity 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.

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We will start by:  
- Peter Christianson exploring names, stories, starting or using an existing organization/center  
- Judith and others exploring ideas at a retreat facility circa August or September

Judith A. Snow, M.A.



100 William St  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
M5H 1W8  
Phone: 416-238-8344  
Fax: 416-218-1091

<E-mail>  
<URL for Join for Discussion to the Council>  
<URL>

hope you are all having a beautiful, peaceful Easter!

John, we can discuss what you might like to McConnell, start you read  
these notes.

Love, John

THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN "WORLDWIDE" SUBJECT  
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To mark this new beginning, we took the name "Building Communities Regional  
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- work and recreational opportunities with an inclusive focus
- rest, reflection and retreat for a variety of individuals, families and groups







# **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.

The first step in the scientific process is to identify a problem or question that you want to investigate. This is often done by observing the world around you and asking questions about it. For example, you might notice that people who exercise regularly seem to live longer and healthier lives. This could lead you to ask the question, "Does regular exercise lead to a longer and healthier life?"

Once you have identified a problem, the next step is to formulate a hypothesis. A hypothesis is a statement that predicts the outcome of your investigation. In the example above, a hypothesis might be, "People who exercise regularly will live longer and healthier lives than people who do not exercise."

The third step is to design an experiment to test your hypothesis. This involves deciding what variables you will measure and how you will control for other factors that might affect the results. In the example above, you might decide to measure the number of years people live and their health status. You would then need to control for factors like age, diet, and genetics.

The fourth step is to collect data. This is done by observing and recording the results of your experiment. In the example above, you might collect data on the number of years people live and their health status over a period of several years.

The fifth and final step is to analyze the data and draw conclusions. This involves using statistical methods to determine whether the results of your experiment support your hypothesis. In the example above, you might use statistical methods to determine whether the number of years people live is significantly higher for those who exercise regularly than for those who do not.

The scientific process is a systematic way of investigating the world around us. It allows us to test our ideas and hypotheses and to draw conclusions based on evidence. This process is essential for advancing our understanding of the world and for developing new technologies and treatments.

One of the key features of the scientific process is that it is self-correcting. If a hypothesis is found to be incorrect, it can be revised or rejected. This ensures that only the most accurate and reliable information is accepted as scientific knowledge.

The scientific process is also a collaborative effort. Scientists often work together to share their ideas and findings, and to critique each other's work. This helps to ensure that the scientific process is as rigorous and reliable as possible.

Finally, the scientific process is a way of thinking that can be applied to many different areas of life. Whether you are a scientist, a student, or a professional, you can use the scientific process to solve problems and to make decisions based on evidence.

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**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
<b>Request for Support for Three Years</b>	<b>\$237,000</b>