



July 27, 2016

Re: Access to Equitable Community Supports in Daily Living

To Whom It May Concern:

The Independent Living Resource Centre (ILRC) is a consumer-controlled organization that promotes and supports citizens with disabilities to make choices and take responsibility for the development and management of personal and community resources. ILRC has been serving the metropolitan area of Winnipeg and the province of Manitoba as the central resource centre for the disability community since 1984.


Through the implementation of over 20 programs, ILRC is aware of the adversity and obstacles present in the community that prevent or hinder people with disabilities' access to community supports and participation. To offset this relative inaccessibility, ILRC has developed its own programs, such as personal attendant care training or consumer management of personal resources, to facilitate greater control for the consumer in their everyday lives.

Daily supports in attendant care are essential to ensuring community participation, access to employment, volunteer and education opportunities and are, in essence, a vital component in recognizing the contributions of citizens with disabilities who require daily supports.

Our experience entails that the arbitrary assigning of 55 hours of care per week is a decision delivered in the interests of administration and bureaucracy, rather than the needs and specific requirements of individuals. We have witnessed the detrimental and collateral effects of such arbitrary assignation in increasing instances of hospitalization and costs to community in general. We recognize also that supporting persons with a disability in their own homes and communities, either through grass-roots service delivery or Home Care, is more efficient and effective than institutionalized and/or medical care.

Insofar as this document is concerned, the ILRC offers its support to any endeavour that seeks to educate public bodies and raise awareness that any decision on the hours of support required for an individual must be delivered based on consumer requirement and circumstance and should not be relegated to an arbitrary numerical cap. This is a very real barrier in the community and contributes to the growing trepidation of persons and seniors with disabilities as they, in spite of wanting to remain in their homes, are often paneled for institutional or Personal Care Home residence, an ideology and practice that is archaic and unhealthy on nearly every holistic level.

Sincerely,


John Young
Executive Director