



***Building Success Through Community for People with Intellectual Disabilities in the Ottawa area since 1995***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LiveWorkPlay Celebrates the International Day of Disabled Persons**

OTTAWA – December 3<sup>rd</sup> is the International Day of Disabled Persons, and LiveWorkPlay is pleased to announce its participation in this annual observance, which aims to:

Promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

Increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

This year's theme - Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Action in Development - focuses on the interdependence between human rights, development and disability. It focuses on taking action and the involvement of persons with disabilities in the development process, recognizing that persons with disabilities remain severely marginalized in many ways, including the following:

Disproportionately poor  
Higher rates of mortality

Disproportionately unemployed  
Excluded from civil and political processes

For the last few decades, slow and uneven progress has been made to address these issues within a human rights framework. Continuing action at all levels of society is needed to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy full and equal participation. Some of the issues these efforts need to address are:

environmental and social barriers  
misdirected/non-existent services

policy barriers  
access to employment

legal barriers  
access to education

“Much progress has been made, but even as we celebrate those improvements, this is also a time to reflect on the hard work that lies ahead,” says LiveWorkPlay co-founder and President Julie Kingstone. “From the day we opened our doors in 1995 this organization has always been about supporting people with intellectual disabilities to make their own decisions and follow their own dreams, and in this, our tenth anniversary year, we have re-dedicating ourselves to promoting self-advocacy as our prime directive.”

People with intellectual disabilities involved with LiveWorkPlay are participating in the International Day of Disabled Persons by celebrating self-advocacy. More than 30 people with intellectual disabilities have recorded short video clips with a thought of their own choosing about the importance of self-advocacy in their lives. A selection of the video clips have been made public on the LWP website at <http://liveworkplay.ca/idd>

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