



50 years  
Canadian Association  
for Community Living

Association canadienne pour  
l'intégration communautaire

Diversity includes. On se ressemble.

## **Canadian Association for Community Living Launches *No Excuses* Campaign**

Association aims to encourage inclusion of students with intellectual disabilities in regular education

**Toronto (February 17, 2009)** – Children with intellectual disabilities who participate in regular classrooms are more likely to continue in education, get a job and be valued and included in their communities.

That's the message the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) is sharing with Canadians through a national public awareness campaign called *No Excuses* launching today during Inclusive Education Week.

"All children benefit from inclusive education because it teaches them about valuing all people and respecting diversity," says Bendina Miller, President of CACL and Superintendent of Schools for the Rocky Mountain District in British Columbia.

"In fact, according to our experience students with intellectual disabilities generally add to the positive learning environment of a classroom and enrich the experience all students have in their schools."

According to a national report card issued by CACL, over 70% of parents whose children with intellectual disabilities are in regular classrooms report that their children are doing average or better. Yet only 33% of Canadians are fully supportive of inclusive education of children with intellectual disabilities.

"By launching this campaign we want to change perceptions and demonstrate how inclusive education helps all students grow into productive, caring and respectful members of increasingly diverse communities in Canada," says Dr. Michael Bach, Executive Vice-President of CACL.

Families and students with intellectual disabilities say that access to inclusive education remains a daily challenge. Students with intellectual disabilities are half as likely as students with other disabilities to be included in regular classrooms and four times as likely to be segregated into special classes or schools. The *No Excuses* campaign launching this week is intended to help

overcome these challenges and highlight the importance of creating consistent approaches across regions and school systems.

The *No Excuses* campaign consists of television, print and radio advertisements running throughout the year and a website ([www.no-excuses.ca](http://www.no-excuses.ca)) that offers information about the benefits of inclusive education.

### **About Canadian Association for Community Living**

Founded in 1958, CACL is a national association of over 40,000 members, 400 family-led Associations for Community Living, plus 13 provincial/territorial Associations. The organization is dedicated to advance the full inclusion and human rights of people with intellectual disabilities.

### **For additional information or to arrange interviews:**

Lisa An  
Senior Consultant, Veritas Communications  
416 955 4587  
[an@veritascanada.com](mailto:an@veritascanada.com)