



THE BONAVENTURE BUZZ

Empowering Potential, together!

Welcome to the October 2025 issue of the Bonaventure Buzz, our monthly newsletter that will highlight all the happenings within and around Bonaventure Support Services. This edition features many upcoming events including The Great Shake Out, a few updates from our programs, some exciting drop-in events being hosted by the Self-Advocacy team and Southside, and reminders of important dates coming up along with the Recreation Schedule plus loads of other tidbits of information!

As always, we welcome your input on future editions of the Buzz including articles you've enjoyed, favorite recipes, personal milestones, and anything else you'd like to celebrate!

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Land Acknowledgement: "Bonaventure honors the rich heritage and traditions of the Coast Salish people, on whose lands we work, live, and play. We are committed to respecting and learning from the cultures that shape this land, as we strive to cultivate a community rooted in understanding and inclusivity."

From The Helm – Executive Director Christy Sudyko

Ahoy, Bonaventure crew! As we set sail into another month, our ship is brimming with exciting updates, fresh starts, and inspiring teamwork. From new beginnings in Parksville to agency-wide earthquake drills, and meaningful moments of reflection, there's something for everyone in this edition of the Buzz. So grab your coffee, settle in, and let's navigate the latest news together—full speed ahead!

CARF Accreditation Survey – November 3–5, 2025

A team from CARF International will visit us November 3–5, 2025, to evaluate our programs and services. CARF is an independent accreditor that sets high standards for quality in health and human services. Their visit helps us identify strengths and areas for improvement, and supports our commitment to excellence.

During the survey, CARF will interview people who receive services, families, staff, and others about our environment, respect, service planning, and communication. A detailed schedule will be shared soon.

If you'd like to speak with a surveyor or learn more about CARF, please contact your program manager or visit <https://www.carf.org/contact-us>.

SHSS Service Model Transition – Update

We've been preparing for the exciting new MCFD Specialized Homes and Support Services (SHSS) model, which aims to enhance care for children and youth, introduce a Program Quality Lead role, and strengthen our services. While we were ready to launch this fall, the province has put the transition on hold as they review the new model and contracts.

For now, all transition activities are paused, and we'll continue with our current operations. We'll keep everyone updated as soon as we hear more. Thank you for your flexibility and commitment to quality care!

Frontline Heroes

As we look ahead to Bonaventure's Annual Holiday Party (Dec 4th), we're excited to share this year's theme: *Honoring Our Frontline Heroes*.

These everyday heroes are the backbone of our work—ordinary individuals who show extraordinary courage, kindness, and integrity in their daily lives. Whether through small acts of compassion or quiet moments of resolve, they make a lasting impact on our programs and communities. Link available on SV.



Reflecting on Truth and Reconciliation Week

Thank you to everyone who participated in Truth and Reconciliation Week. Through daily activities on ShareVision—including recipes, quizzes, and opportunities for reflection—we came together to learn, share, and honor the importance of reconciliation.

These initiatives remind us why this work matters: Truth and Reconciliation is about acknowledging the past, supporting healing, and building a more inclusive future for all. Your engagement—whether trying a new recipe, joining the quiz, or taking a moment to reflect—helps create a culture of respect and understanding in our workplace.

We appreciate everyone's participation and commitment to learning together. Let's continue to reflect, connect, and take meaningful steps forward—every week of the year.

From the Lens of Lived Experience: Rights, Laughter, and Learning Moments

Have you ever watched those funny videos or heard stories where someone with diverse-abilities jokes about “helpful” staff who decide bedtime for them, or say, “That activity isn’t safe for you,” without asking what they actually want? We laugh because it’s familiar—and, if we’re honest, most of us have been “that person” at least once!

Here’s the heart of it: Rights for persons with diverse-abilities aren’t just about physical access (like ramps)—they’re about dignity, choice, and being seen as capable. Sometimes, with the best intentions, we accidentally step on those rights. For example:

- Deciding someone’s bedtime for them, instead of letting them choose when they want to go to bed.
- Saying “that activity isn’t safe” and not giving someone the chance to try, or to decide for themselves.
- Speaking for someone in a meeting or conversation, instead of letting them share their own thoughts.

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These moments are usually well-meaning, but they remind us to pause, ask, and listen. The best way to support someone is to respect their autonomy—and maybe share a laugh about our learning moments along the way.

So next time you hear a story from someone with lived experience, remember: it's not just comedy—it's a gentle nudge to check our assumptions, celebrate everyone's abilities, and make sure we're not unintentionally "that person."

Thanks for being part of a team that learns, laughs, and grows together!

Exciting News: Parksville Community Inclusion Program Is Moving!

We're thrilled to announce that the Parksville Community Inclusion program is moving to a fantastic new, centrally located space at 114 Middleton Avenue, Parksville! While we were sad to learn that our old Craig Street location was no longer available, this change has opened the door to a fresh start in a great spot for everyone.

To get everything ready, the program will be temporarily closed from October 14th to 17th, 2025. All services will resume at our new location on October 20th, 2025.

Thank you for your patience and positivity during this transition. We can't wait to welcome you to our new service location!

Riddle of the Month

I have cities, but no houses.

I have mountains, but no trees.

I have water, but no fish.

What am I?

Answer at the end of The Buzz!

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Recreation Program

Check out what your Recreation Program has planned for you this month!

Any questions, please contact Becca via email

recreation@bonaventuresupport.com

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SUN	MONDAY	TUES	WEDNESDAY	THURS	FRIDAY	SAT
			Batting Cages 1-2 	1 Oliver woods 2 1:15-2:45	Fitness Friday 1-3 	
5	Monday Mixer Butterfly world 1-4 	6	7 Bus to NAC 12-2 	8	9 Oliver woods 1:15-2:45	10
12		13	14 Music and Movie trivia 12-2 	15	16 Oliver woods 1:15-2:45	17
	Closed				18 Silver medows Pumpkin patch 	
19	Monday Mixer 1-4 Pumpkin Carving 	20	21 Self Advocacy 1-2 Cyber Safety 	22	23 Oliver woods 1:15-2:45	24
					25 Halloween surprise 2:30-6 	
26	Monday Mixer 1-4 Silver Meadows Farm 	27	28 Decorate for Halloween party 12-2 	29	30 Oliver woods 1:15-2:45	31
					31 Halloween Party 11-2 	

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Get Ready for Shake Out BC!

We're excited to announce that Bonaventure will once again be participating in the Great BC ShakeOut—Canada's largest earthquake drill! This annual event is a fantastic opportunity for us to practice our emergency response, review our preparedness plans, and build confidence in our ability to respond to an earthquake.

Agency-Wide Response & Key Roles This year, ShakeOut BC will be an agency-wide drill, with key staff leading the way in each program and office. Managers and designated team leads will coordinate the drill, ensuring everyone knows what to do: Drop, Cover, and Hold On! After the drill, teams will review what went well and identify ways to improve our response.

Updates from the EDRP The Emergency Disaster Response Plan (EDRP) has been updated to reflect best practices from ShakeOut BC. All programs are encouraged to use the latest resources and guides available at shakeoutbc.ca, including the [2025 Drill & Participant Guide](#).

Let's Make It Fun! Some teams are adding a little friendly competition—like sharing photos of the best “Drop, Cover, Hold On” moments or creative drill scenarios. Watch for more details from your manager and get ready to participate!

Shake Out.
Don't Freak Out.

October 16, 2025

www.shakeoutbc.ca

The Great
British Columbia
**Shake
Out**™

October 16th at 10:16am

Important Dates to Remember

CARF Accreditation Survey

November 3rd – 5th



Five Day Celebrations of Diwali in 2025

Day 1 – Dhanteras 18th October 2025

Day 2 - Choti Diwali 19th October 2025

Day 3: Diwali 20th October 2025

Day 4: Govardhan Puja 22nd October 2025

Day 5: Bhai Dooj 23rd October 2025

STAT HOLIDAYS

Monday October 13th – Thanksgiving Day

Tuesday November 11th – Remembrance Day

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OLIVER WOODS



OPEN GYM
1:15-2:45
THURSDAYS



MEET US THERE!

THE 40 STOPS ON UPLANDS

**"UPLANDS- PRIMROSE"
OR**

"UPLANDS-EDGEWATER LANE"



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YOU'RE INVITED TO A

HALLOWEEN

★ PARTY ★

OCT 31ST 11:00-2:00

SOUTHSIDE CI

HEALTHY SNACKS
AND DRINKS PROVIDED



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The Summer at QWP!



👉🌟 From fall outings to new adventures, our programs have been full of joy, courage, and community spirit!

🎃 Pumpkins were picked, snacks enjoyed, and Halloween costumes tried on (with plenty of laughter).

🚲 One individual rode a bike for the very first time—smashing a personal goal!

🎨 Nerves were conquered at the art program, turning into a new favorite activity.

🐾 A trip to the animal shelter brought smiles, cuddles, and hopes for a return visit.

❤️ We also honored Truth and Reconciliation Day together at QWP.

🛶 And let's not forget our summer team build—paddle boarding and beach time at Westwood!

Here's to celebrating every milestone, big and small, and the amazing people who make it all possible. ❤️



Accreditation Matters

Achieving accreditation shows the public and funders/regulators your commitment to continuously improve services, manage risk, and distinguish your service delivery.

These valuable benefits and unique advantages are the greatest return on your accreditation investment:

Assurance to persons seeking services and funding sources, referral agencies, and the community that a provider has demonstrated conformance to internationally accepted standards.

Person-focused standards that emphasize an integrated and individualized approach to services and outcomes.

Improved communication with persons served.

Evidence to federal, state, provincial, and local governments of commitment to quality of programs and services that receive government funding.

Management techniques that are efficient, cost-effective, and based on outcomes and consumer satisfaction.

Guidance for responsible management and professional growth of personnel.

Support from us through consultation, publications, training opportunities, and newsletters.

The value of accreditation goes beyond conformance.

Accreditation positively impacts your business and services in many ways. These benefits, combined with the strength of our internationally accepted standards and consultative peer-review model, are distinguishing factors that make CARF the accreditor of choice for health and human service providers.

Business improvement * Risk management * Funding/contract access * Positive visibility

Peer networking * Accountability * Insurance premium savings * eLearning support

Riddle of the Month Answer: A Map!