

Summer Newsletter
President's Report

Inclusive Housing Solutions Lab (IHSL) Project Name: **At Home in a Neighbourhood Where I Belong**

Beginning in January 2021 a group of interested stakeholders embarked on an 18-month Solutions Lab sponsored by the Canadian Mortgage Housing Corporation and lead by L'Arche Canada held in New Brunswick. Solution Labs recognize that many issues in society are complex because there are many reasons why the problems are arising. This also means that no one person, company, organization or government can fix the problems on their own. Solutions Labs bring all groups together to address the problem.

Traditional housing models and supports for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities are not working. Collaborative models and approaches are needed to promote individualized and community-based supportive housing solutions. More research is needed, and the barriers that exist between regions and organizations must be addressed. Persons with intellectual disabilities and their families had a central role as co-learners and co-leaders.

A series of Lab workshops occurred in Fredericton and Saint John. These workshops were complimented by a National Community of Practice that shared the learnings between the local New Brunswick Lab and national partners. The Lab followed five phases: the Definition Phase, the Discovery Phase, the Development Phase, the Prototype and Delivery Phase and the Road map Phase. The fourth phase concluded on June 30, 2022.

The Roadmap Phase is the place we are in now, developing a guidebook to share the outcomes of our research, insights and lessons learned with others. Our next step is to invite a group of organizations who are committed to working together to advance one or more inclusive housing initiatives from the roadmap. A Housing Forum is being planned this month for September 14, 2022 from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm We look forward to a productive and well attended forum.

Mary Mersereau
Member IHSL Fredericton