

Cybersecurity Accessibility Project

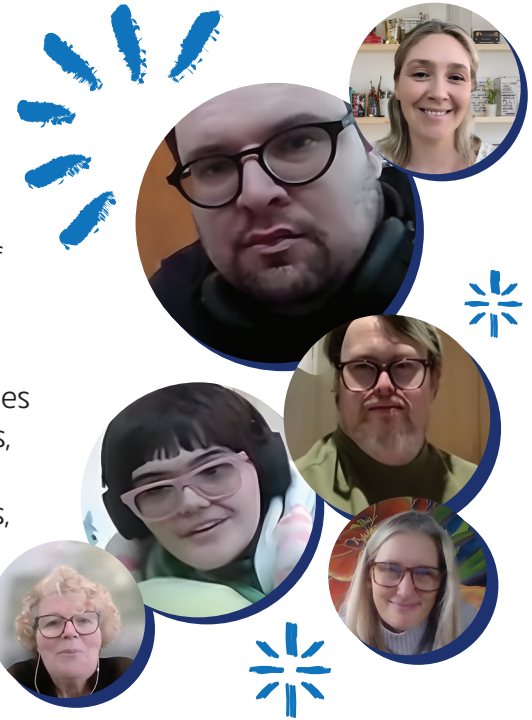
Many cybersecurity tools, such as password systems, security warnings, and fraud protection measures, are not designed with accessibility in mind. As a result, some people face additional barriers when trying to stay safe online. This project is working to change that by listening directly to the lived experiences of people with disabilities and using those insights to shape better design.

L'Arche is proud to participate in The Cybersecurity Accessibility Project, led by the Inclusive Design Research Centre at OCAD University in Toronto. Running from April 28, 2025 to March 31,

2028, the project focuses on making digital spaces safer and more inclusive, especially for people with disabilities and deaf communities.

L'Arche Canada will support people with intellectual disabilities to join discussions or workshops, answer surveys or interview questions, review draft materials, and provide feedback on tools and guidelines.

The goal is simple but powerful: to make digital spaces safer and easier to use for everyone.



Megan Maginley and Anthony Burns from L'Arche Antigonish, along with Nick Herd from L'Arche Canada, are wrapping up their contributions to the first phase of the Cybersecurity Accessibility project.



Last November, Ternopil was shaken by one of the most devastating strikes since the war began. Civilians were killed. Homes, schools, and churches were damaged. More than 1,000 windows were shattered across the city – including in the apartment of a member of L'Arche Ternopil. What had once felt like a comparatively safer location was no longer unscathed.

Four years into war, L'Arche Ukraine has learned to live with uncertainty

As winter settled in, the impact of repeated attacks on Ukraine's energy grid became part of daily life. Electricity and heat were cut for long periods. In the coldest months, community members gathered in one room, layered in coats and scarves indoors, conserving warmth together. When power returned – sometimes only briefly – the house moved with purpose. Water was boiled. Simple meals were prepared. Devices were charged. The space was warmed before the next outage arrived.

Despite limited funding and growing strain, the communities carried on. They made trench candles for the front lines. They prepared hot tea for soldiers and emergency workers. They held prayer, creativity, and shared meals as anchors of normalcy.

As the community in Lviv shared:

"We thank all who support us, remember us in prayer, and join us in hope for peace in Ukraine."

Creating Homes and A Growing Community: The Anchorage Project

Across Canada, affordable housing isn't just a buzzword – it's a pressing reality that disproportionately affects adults with intellectual disabilities who dream of independent,



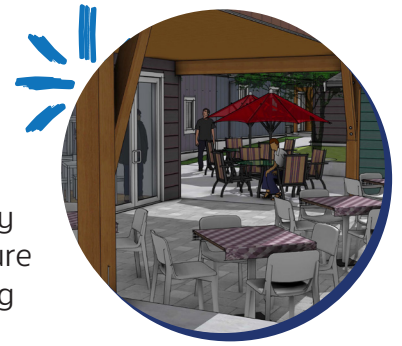
connected lives. That's why L'Arche Comox Valley launched The Anchorage project, an ambitious initiative to make that dream tangible.

The Anchorage will be a purpose-built, community-oriented housing development that includes 16 independent residences designed for adults with developmental disabilities, surrounded by shared space that fosters relationships and belonging.

Last fall, the community came together at a campaign kickoff event to begin raising \$5 million needed to bring the vision to life. Local leaders talked about how

scarcity of secure housing affects people with diverse abilities – and how this project will give them a place that feels safe, welcoming, and truly like home.

For L'Arche, Anchorage is more than buildings – it's about expanding a model of belonging where independence and community go hand in hand. With design plans submitted and early support building, the hope is to break ground and see the first residents move in within the next couple of years.



L'Arche Outaouais' New Wellness Support Program for Caregivers

Taking care of others starts with taking care of yourself. But that's easier said than done. Sometimes, all it takes is a bit of support to help us pause, breathe, and begin again.

That's exactly what L'Arche Outaouais' new wellness support program, *Soutien bien-être*, aims to do. Designed for caregivers of people with intellectual disabilities or autism spectrum disorder, the program creates a welcoming space where they can find support and practical tools.

The program offers a variety of

services – such as individual or group support, coffee meetups, and workshops focused on self-care – for parents, family members, siblings, friends, and L'Arche assistants. These opportunities help participants manage stress and deepen their understanding of life alongside someone with an intellectual disability.

Today, the program supports 40 caregivers, and all residents of the Outaouais region who care for or accompany a person with an intellectual disability or autism spectrum disorder are welcome to join, free of charge.

"Whether a neighbour, a friend, a parent, or a sibling, our doors are open."

– Andréanne Legault, co-creator of the wellness support program



Cooking Up Confidence - L'Arche London's DISH Program



Last year, L'Arche London launched a new culinary program that is quickly becoming a favourite in the community. DISH (Developing Independent Skills in Hospitality) trains people with intellectual disabilities in practical kitchen and hospitality skills.

Participants attend the program two days a week for eight weeks. On Wednesdays, they learn the essentials—from kitchen safety to menu planning—before spending the afternoon cooking together. On Thursdays, they bring those

skills to life at the Bonjour Café in L'Arche London's Gathering Place, greeting customers, taking orders, serving meals, and helping clean up after the rush.

Twenty-one people took part in the program last year, and many loved it so much they asked to keep going. In response, L'Arche London created the DISH Masterclass, an advanced program where graduates continue learning by planning and hosting large community dinners.

Last fall, the Masterclass hosted a harvest dinner for 60 guests. The Great Hall was

elegantly decorated, table were carefully set, and a three-course meal was served. From choosing the menu to cooking and serving each plate, participants led every step of the evening with pride and professionalism.

In February, the group welcomed 65 guests for another dinner featuring homemade savoury pies—cheese, steak, and chicken—showcasing their growing confidence and creativity.

With the guidance of Chef Ben Buck, participants are building confidence, skills, and pride, one dish at a time.



A Summer of Friendship in L'Arche Antigonish's Summer Camp

At L'Arche Antigonish Summer Camp, campers aged 7 to 20 spend their days building relationships, exploring their community, and discovering new joys. From trips to local beaches and shopping outings to baking, crafts, games, and picnics, each day is filled with laughter, learning, and connection. The season concludes with a community BBQ, where friends and families gather to celebrate the summer together.

It's not just the campers who

benefit—the camp counsellors share in the joy, too. Together, people with and without intellectual disabilities form a vibrant circle of friendship that brings energy and life to the entire Antigonish community. These connections are visible throughout town, showing everyone the gifts and contributions of people with intellectual disabilities.

...Continued on back





At L'Arche Antigonish Summer Camp, campers aged 7 to 20 spend their days building relationships, exploring their community, and discovering new joys. From trips to local beaches and shopping outings to baking, crafts, games, and picnics, each day is filled with

laughter, learning, and connection. The season concludes with a community BBQ, where friends and families gather to celebrate the summer together.

It's not just the campers who benefit—the camp counsellors share in the joy, too. Together,

One of the Most Important People in My Life: My Brother Greg

My brother, Greg, who had Down syndrome, was one of the most important people in my life. Growing up, and sharing my life, with Greg allowed me to appreciate the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities and the immense impact they can have on the lives of the people around them.

This appreciation made it an easy choice for me to join the Board of L'Arche Canada, an organization that values the lives of persons with intellectual disabilities and works to foster relationships



among people with and without disabilities, while shining a spotlight on the many gifts we all have to offer.

As a board member, I have also come to appreciate how much L'Arche relies on a regular, predictable and dependable source of donations to support its work. While government funding is an important source of direct support for persons with disabilities, **charitable donations provide the funding for much of the core work that L'Arche Canada does to build**

communities that support and celebrate our members and to advocate for their well-being and their success.

Donating to L'Arche Canada on a monthly basis ensures that I am part of building a sustainable foundation for the crucial work that L'Arche does every day in communities around Canada. I view both my monthly donations and my monthly board meetings as equally important, tangible testaments of my support of the mission of L'Arche in Canada.

- Vincent Kazmierski
L'Arche Canada Foundation Board Chair

Plant a seed that grows all year long

Would you consider joining Vincent this spring as a monthly donor? It's truly the simplest way to make a lasting impact. A monthly gift provides stable, dependable funding that L'Arche can count on – helping ensure that people with intellectual disabilities experience belonging every single day of the year.



The Impact Bulletin is published by the
L'Arche Canada Foundation, 300-10271 Yonge St, Richmond Hill, ON L4C 3B5, Canada

1-800-571-0212 or 905-770-7696 | www.larche.ca
Our charitable registration number is 88990 9719 RR0001