

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 14, 2010 – LONDON**

## **Mayor Accepts 'Do the Right Thing' Challenge**

London Mayor Anne Marie DeCicco-Best has accepted Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley's challenge to hire people who have a disability.

Recently, Bradley challenged all mayors in Ontario "to do the right thing and take up the challenge of hiring persons who have a disability". Hearing Bradley's challenge, Community Living London's (CLL) Job Developer Marlene Simpson, accompanied by Joe Hoffer, met with Mayor DeCicco-Best and Chief Human Resources Officer, Veronica McAlea-Major to discuss the importance of this challenge. Hoffer, whose law firm, Cohen Highley LLP, is a strong supporter and advocate of this initiative says, "For the past 15 years we have employed Kelly, who has a disability and is supported by Community Living London. She is a valued employee of the firm."

Community Living London, Mayor DeCicco-Best and the Corporation of the City of London are pleased to announce that Vicki Cronmiller will begin employment on June 14. She will begin working in Human Resources and then serve as a Municipal Elections Clerk. Cronmiller sought assistance from CLL Employment Services to reach her employment goals. Hoffer says, "The hiring of Cronmiller confirms that the Mayor and City Administration "readily acknowledge there are tremendous benefits in hiring a person with a disability in the municipal workplace."

Michelle Palmer, Executive Director of Community Living London is elated hearing the news and says, "The Mayor's public commitment to hiring people with disabilities at the City of London is a huge step forward for people with disabilities."

In demonstrating her support for the City's Workplace Diversity Statement and Plan, Mayor DeCicco-Best says she's delighted Vicki will be joining the City of London team, "We recognize that each employee brings his or her own unique capabilities, experiences and characteristics to their work, and by enhancing diversity at all levels and in all services, we will indeed enrich our organization and our workplace."

Community Living London was established in 1952 by a small group of parents, and interested individuals who were concerned about the lack of services in our community for people diagnosed with intellectual disabilities. The organization has grown from this handful of founding members into one of Canada's largest associations serving people with intellectual disabilities.

### **About Community Living London - [www.cll.on.ca](http://www.cll.on.ca)**

Community Living London is a not-for-profit Association dedicated to supporting people with intellectual disabilities and their families to realize their dreams.

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