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For Immediate Release:

**NLACL and McInnes Cooper Announce Partnership
to help Persons with Intellectual Disabilities with Wills & Estate Planning**

The Newfoundland and Labrador Association for Community Living (NLACL) is inviting applications for free legal services related to estate planning for the benefit of persons with intellectual disabilities. This is possible because of a Memorandum of Understanding with the law firm McInnes Cooper through their pro-bono program. This initiative applies to individuals and families who can demonstrate significant financial or social barriers.



The purpose of Estate Planning is to protect the transfer of assets to persons with intellectual disabilities in a way that does not negatively affect eligibility for government income and support services now and in the future.

There are opportunities, supported by both Federal and Provincial Governments, to help individuals with a disability build a solid foundation for the future, which in turn, also provides family and caregivers the assurance of knowing any assets they might transfer will not end up affecting income and disability supports from government.

Key tools in future planning involve Government programs such as the establishment of support trusts, discretionary trusts, and the Registered Disability Savings Program (RDSP).

Dennis Gill, President of NLACL said, "We are grateful to McInnes Cooper for their efforts to ensure that all families have an opportunity to help make provision for a better life for their sons and daughters and are not prevented from doing what they can because they cannot afford the costs".



“NLACL hopes that in time, extended family will start to take play a vital role in the futures of their family members with a disability, and not just Mom and Dad,” Gill says.

“We are delighted to partner with the Newfoundland and Labrador Association for Community Living”, said Beth McGrath, Chair of McInnes Cooper’s Pro Bono Committee. “This partnership will enable us to ensure individuals will intellectual disabilities and their families access the legal advice they need to plan a secure future.”

To find out more about the initiative, or for an application form, please contact the NLACL office at 709-722-0790 or by email at nlacl@nlacl.ca.

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About the Newfoundland and Labrador Association for Community Living

The Newfoundland and Labrador Association for Community Living [NLACL] works with, and on behalf of, individuals with an intellectual disability and their families, advocating for people to live as full participants in their communities. We believe in equality, inclusion and independence, and know that everyone deserves to be respected, and to belong. For the past 60 years we have worked to make things better for the 15,000 people in this province with an intellectual disability, as well as their family, friends, and communities.

NLACL is proud of its rich history and contributions toward shifting the perspective of intellectual disability. We have a vision of a province where every person with an intellectual disability is respected, and has the support they need to be a contributing part of their community.

About McInnes Cooper

McInnes Cooper is among the top business and litigation law firms in Canada, with more than 200 lawyers in seven offices, serving clients across North America and abroad. The firm is a market leader in energy and natural resources, business, litigation, employment, tax, real estate and insurance law. McInnes Cooper is the exclusive member firm in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island for Lex Mundi – the world’s leading network of independent law firms with in-depth experience in 100+ countries worldwide.

Media Contact

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