

# The Self-Manager

CILT • Centre for Independent Living in Toronto • A publication for Direct Funding Program participants

Summer 2019

## Direct Funding Celebrates



LEISA DeBONO, DIRECT FUNDING PROGRAM MANAGER

In September 1994 I was hired as only the second employee of a new program called the Self-Managed Attendant Services; Direct Funding Program. When I walked through the door of the Centre for Independent Living in Toronto (CILT), I had a good attitude, some decent financial skills, and little else. I learned everything from my mentor, Ian Parker, the original manager of the program (please see his story on page 3). He taught me the proper language to use (always attendant services, never attendant care since he, and every other Self-Manager knew how to “care” for themselves) and he educated me with stories about his personal experience with delivered services — most of those stories I remember to this day. Since Ian espoused independent living, this was a concept I understood right away.

Independent living meant doing what you want: also, when, where and how you want them done. Also, doing things “your” way often means taking risks. There were a lot of people who wanted to do things *their* way and all of them wrote letters of intent which were, essentially, promises to accept this new way of living. Instead of being recipients of delivered attendant services, they assumed the risks associated with finding and employing their own attendants. This could be a daunting prospect if you don’t have others who have already paved the way for you, so I applaud all the brave individuals who proved this program could not only work but would be the best way to get what you want, when you want it and where you want it.



Antony Garipey, a Self-Manager in Barrie, Ont., says gliding is just one example of doing something he loves, thanks in part to the support he receives from the Direct Funding program. See more about Antony on page 4.

I have loved what I have done in Direct Funding for the past 25 years and I feel privileged and honoured to be a part of this ground breaking but totally common-sense program.



**Sandra Carpenter, Toronto**

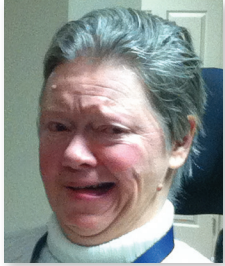
I can’t remember when the idea for Direct Funding first came to my mind, but in 1973 or so an Ontario government program called Vocational Rehabilitation gave participants who needed it, a flat rate allowance so they could

pay for an attendant. The idea was great, but you could only get the allowance while you were in school. The accountability was simple: you submitted receipts and they sent you more money.

Please see **25 YEARS**, p. 2

## 25 years

Continued from p. 1



Because I knew this would end when school ended, I began to seek alternative options. Luckily for me those alternatives were emerging. I never stopped dreaming about the Vocational Rehabilitation days and the simple flat rate allowance. In my mind it should be as simple as the grants that artists get to support their work, even if that meant

travel or the purchase of a property.

However, it was only around 1981 when I landed employment with the Centre for Independent Living in Toronto (CILT) that I formed partnerships with other like-minded community groups, most notably Persons United for Self-Help Ontario. We began the serious work of hammering out models for what we were then calling Individualized Funding.

This was a heyday for disability run groups! Government funding for us, although modest, was relatively easy to acquire. Since 1981-'91 was the Decade of Disabled Persons, we were the "flavour of the month". (By 1992 this funding was drying up, but I digress.)

On the federal level funding for the Independent Living

Centre movement was strong and still exists to this day. I began to realize though, that unless we had some serious internal policy champions, the dream of what we now call Direct Funding didn't have 'a snowball's chance in hell' of getting implemented. Somehow, I got a job in disability policy and this was one of my files.

Personally, I worked on this issue from many different angles and provincial governments; while I was working for the province I was not a DF program participant but now I'm just shy of being a 20-year veteran!

I really can't imagine living my life without DF. I have enough hours to be well supported with dignity in my community of choice. My attendants are responsible for actually extending my life. They work with me to work with the limitations of aging. I recently retired at age 65 and so am enjoying each day as it comes. So, for me it is not just the 25th anniversary of DF that I am celebrating, but the 46th anniversary of a dream!

So, for me it is not just the 25th anniversary of DF that I am celebrating, but the 46th Anniversary of a 'dream'.

*Sandra Carpenter recently retired as the Executive Director of CILT.*

## Keep in touch



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This photo is the culmination of the dreams of every person involved in the Direct Funding program: when the pilot project achieved full program status in 1998 and was made an ongoing permanent program funded by the province. Ian Parker is pictured 2nd from the left, front row; Leisa DeBono is far left, back row.

#### **Ian Parker, Toronto**

I will never forget it! It was a beautiful sunny day in spring of 1994 and the lilacs were in bloom. We had gathered at a wheelchair-accessible camp in the country outside London. This was the second provincial consumer-conference on attendant services that we had organized.

Suddenly during the proceedings, an enormous cheer erupted in the room as the Minister of Health, Ruth Grier, announced to the crowd that we would have a Direct Funding pilot program. Everyone was ecstatic! Something that we had devoted so much hope, time and energy to was finally coming true. We were elated! This moment had been many years in the making by consumers and able-bodied persons working together, both inside and outside government, to move this project all the way from dream to fulfillment.

We felt sure this would mean we consumers could gain true independence in one of the most essential parts of our lives – our personal “care” services. Many of us had experience with less-than-ideal services. In fact, some felt like attendant service survivors. That had been the fire driving us to invest so much effort into improving our relationship with these services and to try something quite radically different. Now, we would be

able to control hiring, scheduling, managing and paying the workers who provide vital support to us daily. Such a revolutionary shift in the dynamics between consumer and attendant, not to mention removing the service provider agency from this equation, would mean a whole new liberating start in our lives.

Which brings us to today, 25 years later, and to see our dreams borne out many times over in the lives of hundreds of Self-Managers who have been enterprising and adopted this still radical approach to services in their lives. We see Direct Funding transforming people’s lives from consumers enjoying improved health because their attendants are more dependable when answering to the consumer; individuals being able to live where they choose because they are no longer restricted to services only within a certain building or area, couples being able to raise children because they can get sufficient personal assistance, and the list goes on in many new and exciting ways.

Congratulations to everyone involved in Direct Funding!

*Ian Parker retired in 2018 as Senior Advisor of the Direct Funding program.*



**Chris Portelli, Mississauga, Ont.**

I have been on Direct Funding since its inception 25 years ago. Direct Funding has been a godsend. It has allowed me to lead a full life by not only taking control of who I hire but also how my care is administered.

With the help of Direct Funding I have been on holidays as well as many boards to fight for the rights of people with disabilities, including the Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

My father took me to the initial interview for Direct Funding and it was this program that allowed me to spend many hours with him in hospital during his final days.

I can honestly say Direct Funding is to my life what my heart and mind are to my body!

Thank you for an amazing program and here's looking forward to another 25 years!

**Gerard O'Malley, Barry's Bay, Ont.**

Where has 25 years gone? I was one of the lucky individuals to be selected for the pilot program. As a C-5, C-6 quad it has brought great flexibility for my home life and has allowed me to work full-time in the grocery business. I have been blessed with many wonderful attendants. I currently have five attendants on my roster; three of whom have been with me a long time (from left to right), Eid Mookprom, 13 years; Brenda Voldock, 8 years; and, Bernadette Bradley, 23 years. I can't imagine how my life would have been without this program and all the wonderful attendants who have been part of it. Thanks.



**Antony Garipey, Barrie, ON**

Here's a couple of the things I love doing thanks in part to the support I receive from the Direct Funding program. I've been on the program since its inception, beginning when it was a pilot project. These are three of my four grandchildren. Macey is 11, Hudson is 5 and Luke is 3. They're shown getting a free ride from me, their Papa, after picking them up at the bus stop near their home.

Also, I have been doing gliding or soaring the last three summers with [freedomswings.ca](http://freedomswings.ca) at [yorksoaring.com](http://yorksoaring.com). It's a wonderful opportunity to learn about gliding and to break free of the confines that wheelchair users feel from time to time, providing an exhilarating experience and an expanded sense of freedom.



**Audrey King, Toronto**

As one of the original “pilot programmers” it’s hard to believe we’re a quarter century old!! Direct Funding is a phenomenal program that has made so many transitional stages in my life possible. Because of attendants who respected ME and listened, over the years I’ve been able to live an active, fulfilling life. My first memorable experience was Christmas, being able to shop, wrap and exchange gifts. Then, in retirement, being able to keep my 100-year-old mother with dementia living with me, being supported and advocated for during several episodes of illness in the intensive care unit. None of this would have been possible without the DF program and my attendants.



DIRECT FUNDING LAUNCH JUNE 1994

**Deb Willows, Huntsville, Ont.**

Paralympic swimming and boccia were two of my great passions in the 1980s and '90s. Direct Funding was another. Both passions were about seeing people with disabilities live full lives. After setting world records in swimming and refereeing boccia around the world, I was asked to be part of a group to help plan a pilot project for DF. After many meetings, two consumer conferences at Wooded Camp, and much work with the Ontario government, the pilot project was announced, and I applied.

On April 19, 1995, I received the long-awaited letter. I had been accepted to the pilot project. I remember that day well.

I started training my first DF staff on the May long weekend and said goodbye to the great staff provided me through the London Cheshire Homes Outreach Program. The program simply could not provide me with the flexibility I needed.

DF has changed my life! I can get up when I choose. (This took time to figure out.) I can get help at different times



as needed. My staff have given me the freedom I never thought I could have. I was born with cerebral palsy and need help with most activities of daily living. Since being on DF, I have been able to move into my own place, vacation in Hawaii for my 50th birthday, travel to Toronto to be with my parents for two major surgeries, do my own grocery shopping, and have my staff help me with hospital stays. Most of my staff has been with me five years or more, and one attendant has been with me 20 years.

I studied accounting in school, but no one would hire me because of my disability. (I type with a mouth stick.) Over the years, I have worked as a bookkeeper for other Self-Managers – this gives me great satisfaction, knowing I can help someone else get the freedom I enjoy.

It’s hard to believe it started 25 years ago. Thank you to all the staff at the DF offices. Thanks to the government for funding a great program. And thanks to all the staff who help me and others live the lives we want to live.



**Ing Wong-Ward, Toronto  
(pictured with Mel Costa-Haigler)**

Hiring and keeping attendants is one of the biggest concerns new Self-Managers face. As someone who has been on the program since the beginning, I've been fortunate to have one person get me out of bed for more than a decade.

I first met Mel Costa-Haigler 12 years ago, when I was struggling to fill my morning shift. Back then, I was a busy journalist at the CBC and needed someone who could keep up with me as I got ready for work, which included listening to a live radio show, reading two newspapers and eating breakfast.

Mel's resume showed no experience as an attendant, but she had groomed dogs. Despite her lack of experience, I decided to send her a lengthy job description, assuming her interest would wane.

Not only did she respond, she showed up early for her interview – always a good sign. I offered her the job the next day ... and then, she got cold feet! I would've cut my



losses, but something told me to convince her to give the job a shot.

After some persuasion, she did. Not only did she like the job, she was a natural. Then, after just three months, she told me she had to return home to the United States. We both cried. I told her to let me know if she came

back to Toronto.

Luckily for me, Mel did come back, retuning just as my morning shift was reopening. I also had a new baby and needed extra help. Mel leapt back in, helping my husband and me raise our daughter.

Over the years, we've travelled Canada together. My daughter was a flower girl at her wedding. Mel has been by my side as I now face terminal cancer.

Mel is a trusted friend and confidante. Without Direct Funding, I wouldn't have this treasured relationship.

**Tammie Ricci-Moretton, Nepean, Ont.**

I am writing to express how Direct Funding has changed my life and how it has enabled me to flourish in my roles as a wife, an entrepreneur, and a mother. I started on Direct Funding when it began as a pilot project in 1994. Back then, I was completing my PhD in clinical psychology and living in Toronto.

I have Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis and have used a motorized scooter for many decades. I was nervous and a little wary when I first started in the DF program. I didn't realize how much independence and freedom the program would provide me.

Because of Direct Funding, my husband, who also has a disability, and I are able to work, live in our own home, and raise our children. We have attendants help us with day-to-day activities. The flexibility that Direct Funding provides is incredible. Our attendants have traveled on cruises with us, they assist us with grocery shopping, and have accompanied us to our children's activities (when nurturing assistance was needed). Despite our disabilities, my husband and I lead 'normal' and productive lives. We work full time, travel, parent, and visit family and friends out

of town. We go on picnics, to the movies, concerts, and NHL hockey games.

I never realized how independent and productive I could be before I had the opportunity of being involved in the Direct Funding Program. I own and operate a successful psychology practice, I am married, and I am a mother. I enjoy life with few limitations. I recognize that without Direct Funding my life would be much more restricted and much less productive and enjoyable.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to live life with flexibility, independence, and few limitations. Being on Direct Funding makes it easy to forget my disabilities and allows me to focus on my abilities.





**Scott McArthur (shown left), Toronto**

I started on the Direct Funding program 25 years ago. I was born with a disability and grew up in an institution and in my adult life I received services from many programs. I really appreciate the freedom DF offers me, as the services aren't connected to one location.

Having attendants who can accompany me to medical appointments is extremely helpful because many of my procedures involve sedation/general anesthesia and I often require extra help coming home. I am able to travel with my attendants and I have twice spent time in Oakville training service dogs and was able to do so because my attendants rotated their shifts with me out of town. This enabled me to have two special skills dogs, which greatly enhanced my quality of life; all of this would not have been possible without DF.

Another aspect I appreciate is my ability to attend events, do my own grocery shopping and have a busy social life because I have attendants who are flexible and can travel with me to meet my needs where I am. My greatest fear was that my attendants would call in sick or not show up for work; in my experience this rarely happens because of my attendants' commitment to me.

Lastly, I identify as a gay man. The personal connection I have with my attendants is important to me; I can hire people who are accepting of who I am and my lifestyle, and in my experience that never happened when I was using attendants provided through agencies.

DF has changed my life and I am deeply grateful for this program.

**Richard Migneault, Sudbury, Ont.**

Time flies! It's hard to believe it has already been 25 years since I was selected to be one of the first five Self-Managers in Sudbury for Direct Funding.

Direct Funding, in my mind, would present some overall challenges and lessons which I personally welcomed. I was convinced and determined to do my part in making the program a resounding success. The success of this essential program was important and vital not only to me, but it would clearly improve the lives and independence of other people with disabilities who require attendant services throughout Ontario.

My involvement as a Self-Manager has granted a plethora of great memories throughout the years. First and foremost, I have been blessed to live a lifestyle of my choosing, which unfortunately is unavailable to many people with disabilities. To have the ability to live independently under your own terms brings a peace of mind while alleviating some of the associated pressures and stresses which are often imposed on family and loved ones providing primary care. Second, the employment and management of personal staff has always been a significant component for me as I have full control to choose who I want to work with. I feel great comfort in knowing I have a complement of great people looking out for my best interests and who understand every aspect of my daily routine. As a result, I have met and worked with some great people with whom I have shared many memorable outings, trips and laughs. To this day many of them are still considered to be great friends.

Direct Funding continues to be exceptionally liberating for me. The past 25 years' journey has certainly afforded me the quality of life and independence I forever treasure and would not have possibly experienced otherwise. Here's to another 25 years! Thanks for the memories!





# Smart Home Technologies

By MELISSA GRAHAM AND ELISABETH HARRISON




*Smart home technologies have long promised convenience, but until recently their expensive price tags and the high degree of technical knowledge required to install and use these products put them out of reach for most consumers. As costs have come down and ease of use has increased, smart products have become a viable option for more consumers. Common smart home devices include speakers, lights, thermostats, security cameras, outlets and locks. These products can improve comfort and safety for everyone, but they may be especially beneficial for people with physical disabilities. In this article, novice smart tech users (and Direct Funding program staff) Melissa Graham and Elisabeth Harrison share their experiences with some of these products.*

After experiencing a fall, Melissa decided to install a smart lock on the front door of her apartment, but as a renter she worried that a smart lock would require a complicated installation that her building management may not

approve. With a little research, she found the August smart lock, an affordable option that would allow her to retain much of the existing lock hardware and use the same keys. Installation was easy, taking about 30 minutes. The lock connects to an app on her phone via Bluetooth and over the Internet, allowing Melissa to lock and unlock her door from anywhere with Internet access. The lock is not only useful for emergencies, it's also helpful when her hands are full, or her keys are out of reach.

Elisabeth recently installed some smart outlets, so she could use her phone to control some of the lamps and fans around her apartment. She chose Wemo mini smart plugs by Belkin because they had good reviews online. That they happened to be on sale didn't hurt. Getting them set up and connected to wi-fi was fast and easy. The outlets came with their own phone app, but Elisabeth controls them from her phone using the Apple Home system that she set up via her AppleTV device.

Based on their experiences, Elisabeth and Melissa have some tips for anyone who might be interested in taking the plunge into the world of smart home technology:

-  Do your research: check out reliable review websites such as [cnet.com](http://cnet.com), [pcmag.com](http://pcmag.com) and [thewirecutter.com](http://thewirecutter.com) for independent information about the products you're considering;
-  Consider compatibility: most smart products have their own apps, but you may wish to use a central control system such as Google Home, Apple Home or Amazon Alexa. Be sure to check if the device you want will be compatible with the system you have;
-  Think security: if you're using wi-fi-connected devices in your home, ensure that you set strong, private passwords on all relevant accounts and apps and remember to set a secure password on your wireless router.



# Testimonials

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**Bushman Dan (Dan Kilburn)**  
Matheson, Ont.

I was born in 1956 with a disease called Spinal Cerebral Degeneration, a brain wasting disease very similar symptomatically to multiple sclerosis. I was always awkward as a child, but in the later years of high school I became extremely clumsy.

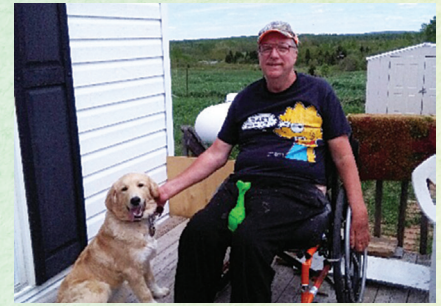
I began my working career as a hired man on a dairy farm, as I have always had a love of animals. They are totally accepting, and I have yet to hear one of them begin a sentence with, “you should”!

I then did the hippie thing for a few years, but eventually found work at Toronto’s Pearson International Airport as a runner. This entailed doing the leg work for an office of 25 plus people. In the first two years, I averaged walking 19 km a day. Now I can barely stand up. My neurologist had been advising me every year to resign and after six years safety was becoming an obvious issue.

Finding myself jobless, it was time to follow my dreams. I had always dreamed

of moving to Northern Ontario and living in the deep bush. Old hippies never die, they just smell like it. I bought myself a small acreage in Wilkie Township, near Matheson. When it came time to build a cabin on the old homestead, many people didn’t think I could do it because of my lack of coordination. My response to them was, “Watch me!” Not being able to use a regular hammer, I bought myself a 5-pound rock hammer. With minimal force in my downward swing, I was usually able to hit the right nail (pun intended).

I later cared for my aged mother, who still lived in my childhood home on the shores of Georgian Bay, after she was diagnosed with terminal cancer. I nursed her 24/7 for five years. The stress of it all was what finally put me in the wheelchair. I also gave up my driver’s license, because I was becoming uncontrollably spastic. I decided to move back to my beloved north country. I bought myself an 80-acre farm on the outskirts of Matheson and put a pre-built modular home on it.



This is where I now reside, with a dog named Wilkie.

**Being disabled does not mean life is over.  
Just remember, never give up!**

I would be remiss not to mention the role the Direct Funding program is playing in my life. I was so close to going into the nursing home that they were even measuring my furniture to see if it would fit in my new room. But when the head nurse saw the help I was getting from DF, she said, “We won’t be seeing you soon.”

Hang in there, folks! Keep fighting the good fight and remember, “never, never, never, give up!” (this latter part is a quotation attributed to Winston Churchill, British Prime Minister during World War II.)

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**Janice Cerra**  
Thunder Bay, Ont.



**I feel so much freer being a Self-Manager.  
I’m no longer chained to my house.**

My second year with Direct Funding is just starting and I couldn’t be more pleased. I waited a long time for this, so I’m very grateful to finally be on board.

In 1987 I had emergency surgery for life threatening symptoms relating to Cauda Equina Syndrome at the L5-S1 level. It left me partially paralyzed among many other things. Eighteen months later, in 1989, my small car was hit from behind by a large truck with a plough on the front. There was more damage to my entire spine from the C3 to the L4-L5. I was a mess, yet fortunate to be alive. All my disabilities are invisible until I use my cane(s) for support and balance.

Being a Self-Manager with DF and the ability to select and hire my own staff has been a great leap from being connected to agencies whereby I never knew who would be coming to assist me or what they were going to be like. I have a reasonably high work ethic and look for the same in my employees.

Due to this assistance, I now have the freedom to be involved in some paid employment, return to Lakehead University after graduating in 2018 for some courses from the social work degree program to aid in my journey toward my dream career. I’m not too old yet! By having someone I like and trust helping me with my grooming and other things, I’m also free to enjoy spending quality time with my dog more. I took steps in November of 2018 to become a dog therapy handler with St. John’s Ambulance. Patch, my four-year-old beagle, and I are ready to begin visiting places very soon. I feel so much freer being a Self-Manager. I’m no longer chained to my house.

# Welcome new staff

## Angela M. Gray

**Direct Funding Co-ordinator**  
**Independent Living Sudbury Manitoulin**



Angela is a registered nurse in the non-practicing class with more than 15 years of health, safety and wellness experience. Before starting with the Direct Funding program, she served as occupational health nurse for several industrial establishments. Angela is an avid volunteer, having served various organizations, including Workplace Safety Prevention Services and Girl Guides of Canada.

As an occupational health nurse, Angela created and presented many workplace health and safety training programs such as Young Worker Awareness and Navigating the Occupational Health and Safety Act. As a registered nurse she worked with patients with acquired brain injuries and in long-term care. Prior to specializing in occupational health, she was care co-ordinator for We Care Home Health Services in Sudbury.

As an educator, Angela has worked with the Rainbow District School Board to help with courses on subjects including pollution reduction and water conservation. She is a seasoned presenter and has a great love for people. Her new position as Direct Funding Co-ordinator will provide her with the opportunity to help people to help themselves. A most rewarding career!

## Elaine Chu

**Bookkeeping Report Reviewer**  
**Centre for Independent Living in Toronto**



I recently joined the Direct Funding Program as a Bookkeeping Report Reviewer. I will be reviewing self-managers' quarterly reports. I am super excited about being part of the DF program since I feel the work I do every day is meaningful and improves people's lives. I am a shy and quiet person, but I like to share experience and knowledge with others and help people in any way I can. In my spare time, I like to read books and practise meditation.

## Aslam Sufi

**Bookkeeping Report Reviewer**  
**Centre for Independent Living in Toronto**



Aslam brings extensive years of experience working with a non-profit long-term care facility. He has an accounting diploma and a payroll certificate. Aslam prefers to travel by local public transit, which allows him to read and study. He enjoys reading books on spirituality, philosophy and comparative religions and over the years, he has read more than 1,500 books ranging from 100 – 1,000 pages long. He is excited to join the CLT

staff and the Direct Funding program as a Bookkeeping Report Reviewer and is looking forward to providing reviews and feedback to Self-Managers on their quarterly report submissions.

## Patrick Tang

**Bookkeeping Report Reviewer**  
**Centre for Independent Living in Toronto**



After graduating from both the advanced diploma in Accounting and Finance program and the International Accounting and Finance degree program from Seneca College, I have been pursuing the Chartered Professional Accountant designation for the past several semesters. I enjoy reading and music; I also have extensive interests in a wide array of subjects other than accounting, taxation and auditing, such as astrophysics,

psychology, philosophy, astronomy, history, geography, interior design, cultures and religions. In my free time, I also volunteer at the temple of three religions (Taoism, Confucianism & Buddhism) and enjoying practising Tai Chi and other different branches of kung fu. I am passionate about the preservation of the natural environment and wildlife, healthy diet and balance between life and work.

# Getting to know the new online reporting system

By ELISABETH HARRISON

Self-Managers are starting to embrace the new online system for reporting their program spending and activity each quarter.

After completing a successful piloting phase, the Direct Funding Program recently launched a new online reporting system for Self-Managers' reports. The new system allows bookkeepers to log in to Direct Funding's secure website to enter report data and upload digital copies of all required supporting documents, including bank statements, Canada Revenue Agency and Workplace Safety and Insurance Board documents, invoices and receipts. When a report is submitted by a bookkeeper, the Self-Manager can log in to the system to verify and approve it electronically.

The new system saves time, effort and expenses by making report submission and verification more efficient. All report data is submitted online and verifying a report takes just a few keystrokes and mouse clicks. Reports verified online are received by Direct Funding at the very moment a Self-Manager clicks the "Approve" button. Self-Managers who choose to verify online will no longer have to make inconvenient trips to the post office and will not have to worry about whether their mailed report will arrive in their reporting office on time.

Bookkeepers, Self-Managers and Direct Funding reporting offices are already realizing the benefits of the online reporting system's built-in reminders, checkpoints and calculation functions. These features are designed to improve the accuracy and consistency of reports by helping catch any potential keying and formatting errors before the report is submitted. Having a standard format also

makes it simpler to verify and review the contents of reports.

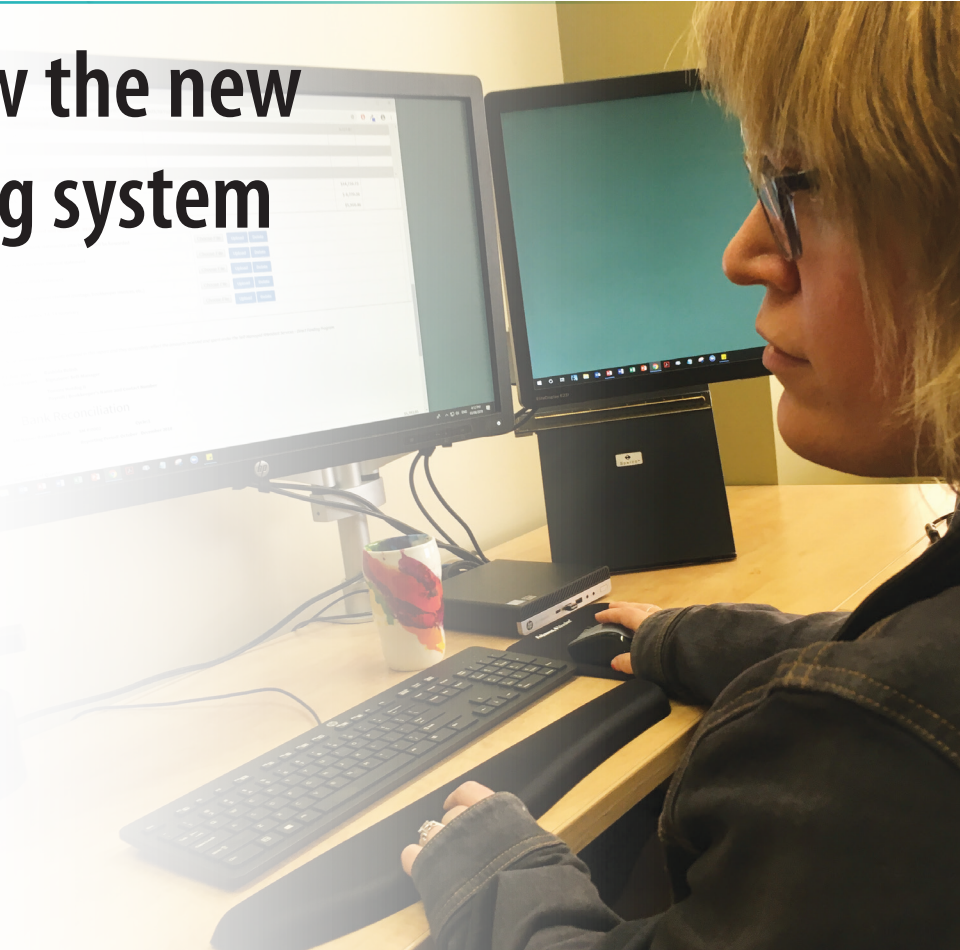
As the launch has unfolded, Self-Managers and bookkeepers have provided helpful feedback and suggestions for future improvements and changes. Many Self-Managers have reported that despite the initial learning curve that comes with using any new system, the online reporting system makes reporting easier and faster than ever before. After verifying her report online for the first time, Self-Manager Evette Tyndale wrote, "OMG! I love this! Words can't express how amazing this is. For somebody who has a disability where I can't use the hand that I would normally

use, this is so helpful. I can do it myself, I don't have to depend on anybody to help me."

Jana Sten, another Self-Manager, explained that she finds the online system "so much easier" to use "because it can handle all the documents." She added, "As a perfectionist who needs copies of everything, I'm buried in papers. This is better!"

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*If you are a Self-Manager who is interested in getting started with the online system, please contact your local reporting centre for information and assistance.*



**"OMG! I love this! ... I can do it myself, I don't have to depend on anybody to help me" – Self-Manager Evette Tyndale.**

# This past year...



Eddy Lefrancois, a Self-Manager who passed away in January, 2019, after living with ALS for more than 26 years, has been credited for his role in encouraging more than 2,000 Canadians to join a letter-writing campaign asking members of Parliament to support ALS research in the next federal budget. The letter-writing campaign was spearheaded by Eddy and Carol Skinner (left), another Self-Manager living with ALS. At its completion, 2,378 letters/emails were sent to MPs because of the campaign.



Julia Munk, a Self-Manager living in Mississauga, Ont., shares this photo of her son, Jacob, who turned 1 year old in February.



Some Self-Managers put their interviewing skills to work at a recent job fair in Ottawa. Hosted by Jobs Canada, the fair was well attended by job seekers and proved to be a successful way to meet potential new hires. Staff at the Ottawa Independent Living Resource Centre reserved a table for area Self-Managers who were looking to hire attendants; they were able to conduct preliminary interviews of dozens of job-seekers on the spot.



Direct Funding staff from Kapuskasing recently visited their counterparts in Sudbury for some training and a Self-Manager open house. Jennifer Marchand (far left) and Tina Cataford (third from left) from Kapuskasing met with Angela Gray and Rob DiMeglio at Independent Living Sudbury Manitoulin.



## Direct Funding Program

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