

DF website launches in September

You've been hearing about it for a while now but the Direct Funding website, www.dfontario.ca, will go live in September.

The website will have useful information for applicants to the DF program but equally (or perhaps more) important is the Self-Managers section. This section is for Self-Managers only, who will receive a confidential name and password when they register.

This section of the website will have useful information on things such as how and where to advertise, sample ads, interview questions, tips on how to dismiss an employee and links to the most commonly used documents such as the TDI, the Record of Employment and the Self-Manager's Report. In addition, you'll be able to add your own job postings for potential attendants and submit an online request that your name be added to the Self-Manager's Network.

You are our target audience so we're eager to hear your feedback about what works and/or what else you would like to see on the site as we move forward.

 www.dfontario.ca

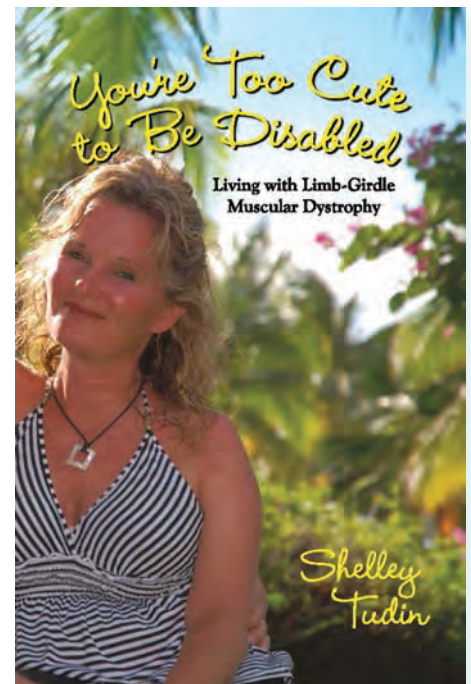
Self-Manager takes on stereotypes

"You're too cute to be disabled!" Shelley Tudin has heard that observation several times over the years; the peculiar description stuck with her, so she adopted it as the title of her recent book. Shelley wrote the book when she was going through many challenges in her life. She found that people would often remark on her positive attitude despite all she was going through, and thought sharing her story might be helpful to others facing similar challenges. If people knew there was someone else out there with a physical disability facing the same things, she hoped they might be encouraged by the book.

It took Shelley almost three years to write *You're Too Cute to be Disabled*. A first-time author, she learned a lot along the way. She shares stories about her life, from the challenges she faced in finding employment, to her honeymoon in St. Lucia. Her feisty personality shines on through the pages.

She likes challenging assumptions and stereotypes about disabilities, including the notion that people who use wheelchairs don't take care of themselves. She finds that people focus too much on the physical appearance of people with disabilities, and not enough on their skills and abilities.

Since starting on Direct Funding in 2010, Shelley has found more time



for the things that matter to her. She regularly visits her cottage and she is a motivational speaker and an accomplished artist; she sells her work at art shows, and she recently had an open house for her own work. Her favourite subjects are people and scenery, but she also does other paid work on request.

"When I was in the regular home care system it just wasn't geared to my time," says Shelley. "I think (Direct Funding) has given me more freedom to just to manage my own time."



Keep in touch

CILT Direct Funding staff can be reached by telephone at: 416-599-2458/1-800-354-9950, fax at 416-599-3555 or by e-mail.

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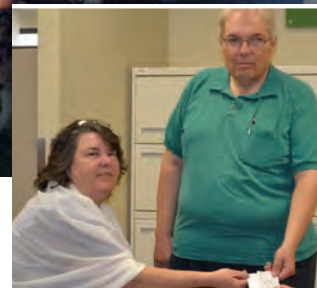
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People in Motion

For the first time in several years, Direct Funding staff from CILT, including Leanne Larmondin (left, in main photo) and Melissa Graham, staffed their own booth at the popular People in Motion trade show for people with disabilities. The two-day event, www.people-in-motion.com, was held at Exhibition Place in Toronto. We caught

up with a few Self-Managers and met many interested new applicants. Direct Funding also had a draw for a gift certificate at the Hot House Café, a local restaurant. The lucky winner was James Pye (shown centre in inset photo), the husband of Toronto Self-Manager Marina Pye (left). ■



Did you know?



You can contribute to the Direct Funding Program by volunteering to be a panelist on interviews of program applicants. Your local knowledge and program experience is an invaluable resource in the interview process. If you're interested in participating in interviews, please contact your local Independent Living Resource Centre (please see www.dfontario.ca for contact information). ■

Vacationing Tips from Direct Funding



Planning on taking a vacation this year? As a Self-Manager you can use Direct Funding outside Ontario for up to 21 days per year (remember to advise the program any time you plan to leave the province). Also, you don't have to go it alone; you can consider taking an attendant with you if your budget will allow. (You may request the return of surplus funds, if available, if you require some extra hours while you're away from home or supplement with your personal funds.) Remember, you are responsible for any costs for your attendant that aren't related to your personal care (including transportation and meals).

Here is some other information that might be useful for your summer plans:

- Attendants travel for free on VIA Rail with a doctor's note.
- Most major airlines will allow an attendant to fly free within Canada (but always check with the airline first).
- For short trips, consider sharing the cost of an accessible taxi with a

group of people.

- The Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy provides funding to its consumers for community activities. The fund may also cover transportation costs while travelling, accommodation costs, and equipment rental costs. For more information, please see the OFCP website: www.ofcp.ca.
- The Access 2 Entertainment card allows people with disabilities to receive either free admission or a significant discount for their support person at member movie theatres and attractions across Canada. Download an application at www.access2card.ca.
- MatchingHouses.com is a holiday house exchange website helping people with disabilities swap houses with other people who have the same accessibility needs.

If you're interested in doing some fishing this summer, you may be happy to know that Ontarians with disabilities do not need a fishing licence. ■

A reminder about Public Holiday Pay



As you know, there are nine public holidays in Ontario. Employees receive a premium rate for hours worked on a public holiday, which is one-and-a-half times the regular wage rate. Public Holiday Pay is paid in addition to the premium rate, and if your employees do not work on the holiday they are still entitled to Public Holiday Pay. Paying Public Holiday Pay to your employees is a requirement under the Employment Standards Act.

Here's a refresher on how to calculate the amount of Public Holiday Pay your employees are entitled to:

- a) Add all of the regular wages the employee earned, and all of the vacation pay that was payable or paid to the employee, in the four work weeks prior to the week with the public holiday.
- b) Divide this sum by 20.

Regular wages do not include any overtime, Public Holiday Pay or premium pay. Public Holiday Pay is **based on earnings**, not hours. **No hours** are entered on the Self-Manager's Report for the amounts paid. Normal payroll deductions are applicable and the 4% vacation pay is due.

Just a reminder that the Civic Holiday on Aug. 5 is not a public holiday, so your employees are not entitled to premium pay or Public Holiday Pay for working that day. ■



Did you know?

The Direct Funding waitlist (the length of time from submitting an application to being invited for an interview) has shortened to three years. If you know anyone who would like to apply, please encourage them to contact us or to submit an application. ■

Would you like to receive this newsletter online?

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email only, please contact Melissa at dfresource@cilt.ca or (416) 599-2458, ext. 241



Self-Managers' network

If you are not a member of the Ontario-Wide Self-Managers' Network, but would like to connect with other Self-Managers from across the province, then the network might be for you. Through the Self-Managers' Network you can share tips and ideas, learn about

If attendants seeking employment, ask questions of experienced Self-Managers in your area, and much more. ■

For more information please contact Melissa at dfresource@cilt.ca or (416) 599-2458, ext. 241



What has DF helped you do?

All of the pictures you see in this newsletter are of Self-Managers! Send us your photos so we can include you too. ■ Contact Melissa at dfresource@cilt.ca or (416) 599-2458, ext. 241

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