
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Advocating for a voice at the table

Winnipeg, MB, October 16, 2020 – Three weeks ago, the government of Manitoba announced a new task force and a special advisor. The purpose of the task force is to provide direction on services for Manitobans with intellectual disabilities.

In a letter to the Minister of Families, People First of Canada (PFC) questioned why there was not a person with an intellectual disability formally appointed to the task force.

“We received Minister Stefanson’s reply this week,” said Shelley Fletcher, Executive Director of People First of Canada. “We are happy to announce that Kevin Johnson, President of People First of Manitoba, has been appointed as a formal member of this task force,” said Fletcher. “And we thank the Minister for making sure that people with intellectual disabilities are not left behind again.”

Among other duties, the Task Force will develop an action plan to encourage supported decision-making and reduce the use of substitute decision makers.

“This is what inclusion looks like,” said Kory Earle, President of PFC. “This feels more like we are being represented. It made sense to have a special advisor with an intellectual disability for this task force. But it was also critical that a person with an intellectual disability has a full and equal seat at the table,” said Earle. “In fact, this is one of the main reasons that PFC exists – to make sure that people with intellectual disabilities have a voice at the table where decisions about their lives are being made.”

-30-

People First of Canada is the national voice of people who have been labelled with an intellectual disability. The vision of People First is to see all citizens living equally in the community. For further information contact Shelley Fletcher, Executive Director for People First of Canada Phone: 204-784-7362 or by Email: sfletcher@peoplefirstofcanada.ca
Find out more at www.peoplefirstofcanada.ca