



March 2024

Windsor-Essex Family Network

Newsletter

www.windsor-essexfam.ca



A Message from the Board President

Dear Members of the Windsor Essex Family Network Families and Friends:

We hope this letter finds you well. It is with mixed emotions that we share the news of Michelle Friesen's retirement from the role of Executive Director of the Windsor-Essex Family Network after an exemplary period of 20 years serving in this capacity.

Michelle has been the driving force behind our organization's success. She has played a pivotal role in ensuring that the Windsor Essex Family Network remains a beacon of support for the families in our community. Over the years, Michelle has been a dedicated advocate, a source of inspiration, and a leader who has left an indelible mark on our organization.

The Windsor-Essex Family Network stands as one of the few networks continuing to operate for families, thanks in no small part to Michelle's unwavering commitment. Under her guidance, our network has consistently kept families informed about crucial updates from provincial and federal government legislation. Michelle's leadership has been instrumental in organizing educational workshops, providing updated information on system changes, and fostering partnerships with other community groups.

Michelle's passion for the well-being of families and individuals has been evident in her tireless efforts. She has been a powerful advocate, ensuring that the voices of those we serve are heard. Michelle has not only demonstrated strong leadership but has also shown compassion in her interactions with professional partners, family participants and volunteers alike.

One of Michelle's remarkable qualities has been her ability to effectively manage our organization's budget, and navigate through financial challenges while ensuring that our mission is not compromised. Her adeptness at juggling a tight budget yearly has allowed us to continue providing essential services to our community.

Moreover, Michelle has consistently kept the Board of Directors well-informed, fostering a culture of transparency and collaboration. Her communication skills and strategic vision have been invaluable assets to our organization.

As we bid farewell to Michelle, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for her two decades of dedicated service. She leaves behind a legacy of positive impact. We are confident that the seeds she has planted will continue to flourish under the guidance of her successor.

Please join us in expressing our deepest appreciation to Michelle for her outstanding contributions to the Windsor-Essex Family Network. We look forward to your continued support as we navigate this transition and build upon the strong foundation that Michelle has laid for Windsor-Essex Family Network.

Sincerely,
Catherine and Fellow Board Members

Greetings From the New Executive Director



Hello, I am so pleased and honoured to be the new Executive Director at Windsor-Essex Family Network. My involvement with Family Network has spanned more than 20 years - from signing up to be on the mailing list when I was an in-home worker for families back in 1996, to attending events as a Resource Consultant at Children First and then as a new parent whose child had complex needs and I was overwhelmed by the school system. My family will be forever grateful for the support and resources that WEFN has provided for our family all these years.

I am the mom of two adult sons, Corbin and Jeremy, and I have been married to my husband Adam for almost 30 years. We moved to Windsor in 1994, for 18 months, for my husband to attend graduate school at the University of Windsor. As you can see, we never left, and we are very proud to call Windsor-Essex our home. In my off time, I am a writer, with works published in Chicken Soup for the Soul books as well as featured on sites such as Her View From Home, the Mighty, Your Teen and BLOOM (Holland-Bloorview).

I return to 'Family Network' with a very strong sense of social justice and inclusion - a deep belief that EVERYONE belongs in our community. I am committed to continuing the important and effective work that has been done by all the family leaders at WEFN before me and I am eager to hear from all of you about how WEFN can continue to be helpful to your family and our community. I am beyond excited to continue our work to build an inclusive community and to support families through every stage of life of their family member with a disability.

"Inclusion creates a relationship and cultural context where peace can flourish."
- Judith Snow

PARENTS!

Recruiting parents and guardians of children with disabilities in Ontario, Canada to participate in a 1-hour audio-recorded interview via Zoom.

We are calling for parents and guardians who wish to share their experiences navigating inclusivity and supports for their child within the education system.

Participants will be compensated for their time.



Western  Canadian Research Centre on Inclusive Education



INCLUSION
ACTION
IN
ONTARIO

Contact Us



Jacqui Specht, Principal Investigator



jspecht@uwo.ca

ALL ABOUT OUR FAMILY NETWORK OFFICE TEAM

Karen joined the Windsor-Essex Family Network team as an Independent Contractor in 2017, taking the role of a passionate Family Leader and Mentor. She is also a licensed teacher and works with post-secondary students with disabilities. She is the mother of 2 adult children, one of whom has a developmental disability and other challenges; and one with Autism. She is also a foster parent for teenage boys. Karen provides consultation services and brings the family voice to local and provincial committees.



Jessica (pictured left with Jennifer) is the mom of two boys, ages 19 and 6. She worked as a PSW for many years until her youngest needed extra help at home. Going on the ASD journey with Greyson has taught her many things but most importantly it showed her the extent of her drive and determination to advocate for her son and others like him. Being able to share her experiences and being a listening ear to parents is something she is very excited to begin at Windsor-Essex Family Network as a parent leader - it will often be her cheerful voice on the phone when you call.



Jennifer (pictured left sitting in front of Jessica) was born and raised in Essex County. She has two children, 18-year-old Grace and 16-year-old Zachary. In 2008 Grace was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Jennifer, from the first moment, became Grace's biggest advocate. She navigated all the resources available to Grace and learned how to work with these supports to Grace's best benefit. Zachary also required some support as a young child with some sensory issues. Jennifer is a Parent Leader and Volunteer Coordinator at Family Network. She finds it extremely rewarding and is looking forward to working with families that require support and access to resources. She is an avid reader and a serious Swiftie (if you know you know).

Adrienne is a high school student who is a good listener, nice person and likes to hang with friends. She is a volunteer for Your TV and plans to attend St. Clair College in the Journalism program in September 2024. Her favourite colour is orange (and the fruit isn't bad either) and she loves her two dogs Ellie and Mollie. She is in the office a few hours a week providing Administrative Support.



Jennifer M - is a full-time student at the University of Windsor completing her Honours Psychology degree with a minor in Sociology. She has 3 adult children living independently, 2 of which have learning disabilities and a 12-year-old still at home. Being neurodivergent herself, Jennifer has a diverse employment background ranging from working with Community Living, to long-term care, to landscaping and ice cream sales. She loves to do a variety of crafts, read, and spend copious amounts of time at the beach observing people and their behaviour. Jennifer loves to lend a helping hand whenever possible and does this through several volunteer positions at the University, in the community, and is excited to volunteer as the Fund Development Assistant with Windsor-Essex Family Network.



Evan's Story

Evan, supported by his family and Brokerage Facilitator Jessica, joined Windsor-Essex Family Network at A Night of Inspiration: High School & Beyond in November of 2023. He presented about his experiences in the Community Integration through Cooperative Education (CICE) program at St. Clair College. Following the event, he agreed to sit down with us for an interview to be included in the student & family stories book that will be updated in 2024.



When Evan began Grade 7 he did so at a new school, Holy Cross, in hope that his learning would be better supported. Evan speaks positively about this change, as does his mother, and he pointed out that when he made the transition to high school he knew and felt comfortable with a few classmates from Grade 8.

During Grade 8, Evan and his family made sure to take him to Grade 8 night and to sign him up for any extra activities or visits to Villanova that were put on for students. Evan went on a tour of the school with his grade 8 classmates and was paired up with an older Villanova student, Kyle.

For Evan, the best things about high school were:

- Ms. Ducharme teaching Evan how to advocate for himself
- Hanging with friends in the cafeteria
- Mr. Paling getting him involved in the greenhouse and building sets for the school plays
- Being in the school bands – jazz

When Evan started school in September, he met up with Kyle at school and it was great already knowing someone. Also, Ms. Ducharme, the Head of Special Education at Villanova, arranged for Evan to do an extra visit to the school and they walked around the halls together, so he could get familiar and comfortable.

When Evan began high school he and his family advocated for him to be “K-coded” in his classes, instead of being placed fully on an Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC) program. The Ontario Ministry of Education website indicates these classes as “consisting of alternative expectations, which do lead to credits”. Evan knew he could earn his diploma (OSSD), he just needed his teachers to believe in him. By using the K-code, Evan was able to try for full-credit courses with accommodations and limited modifications. If at the end of the semester, the teacher felt Evan had demonstrated an ability to pass the course without significant modifications, the teacher would remove the K-code and grant Evan the credit toward an OSSD. By using K-codes, Evan was able to graduate high school with a full OSSD.

According to Evan, the hardest part of high school was that some teachers were not helpful and did not seem to know about his IEP and the accommodations he had a right to. Gr 12 was also very hard because COVID hit and he had to do school online.

The lesson Evan learned from all of that was “it never hurts to ask”. Evan also shared that when he first went to Villanova he was told that he could get extra help and go to Room 211. He kept telling everyone “I don’t need it” and the school would tell his parents “He needs to advocate for himself”. Eventually, he did start going to Room 211 to print his assignments and take his tests. Evan quickly learned that the peace and quiet in that room was good for him and he benefitted from extra time and someone to read the questions to him.

“I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept.”

-Angela Davis

When asked if, as a child, he had dreams of what he would do when he grew up, Evan shared that he did not remember thinking about what he would do, only that he knew he wanted to have a full-time job. In high school, Evan's teacher Mr. Paling had him doing work in the greenhouse at school and that led to him also doing yard work for his Grandmother and parents. Evan realized he enjoyed it and was good at it and began to get excited about one day working in horticulture.

Through his experiences with Mr. Paling and with encouragement from Ms. Ducharme, Evan decided to apply for the CICE program at St. Clair College knowing that he wanted to take the horticulture stream. He put Ms. Ducharme down as a reference. Evan was so successful at college that his teacher recommended him for a paid summer student position for the City of Windsor. Following his experience, the City welcomed him back as the first CICE student to ever be offered a co-op placement with them.

Tips from Evan:

- Get matched with a "buddy" that shows you around the school.
- If you need help, ask for it.
- Visit the High School as many times as you need to in order to feel comfortable.
- Get a lock with only 1 number for your locker.

There were some bumps along the way, despite doing well in his CICE program and graduating in 2023, Evan struggles to find paid full-time employment. He is now a seasonal worker at Pointe West Golf Club and has worked several short term paid and unpaid placements. He and his parents had hoped these placements and volunteer hours, combined with his CICE placements, would lead to a full-time job.

At the time of this interview, Evan was working in a part time paid position at What's Poppin' in a temporary seasonal position.

Evan has a lot of dreams for himself. He wants a full-time job and he is working on his Food Handlers Certificate. He has been taking driving lessons and wants to be able to drive. He enjoys playing video games like NHL, F1, and Lego. He also likes to golf. Evan is an avid fan of the Toronto Maple Leafs. In Grade 12, Evan completed a co-op placement at Erie Wild Life Rescue where he met his girlfriend Zoe.

Parent to Parent Advice from Jacqueline:

Don't waste time having your teen write the literacy test if they struggle with written tests. Ask the school to put them directly into the Literacy class. They can take the literacy class online during the summer and it counts as an English credit.

Evan encourages other young people to believe in themselves and to get involved with activities at school. He takes pride in being able to help out fellow students and co-workers. He proudly stated that when he graduated from CICE "My teacher Marissa cried when I graduated".

The day after we sat down to complete this interview Evan passed his G2 driver's test and was sure to ask us to let you all know!





Disability Tax Credit

CRA has changed the lengthy the Disability Tax Credit application process, it can be done electronically now. Apply through MyAccount, and complete your part of the application and a reference number will be issued to you. Then share that reference number with your medical practitioner who can then complete the remaining parts online.

You can track the application progress on MyAccount

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/segments/tax-credits-deductions-persons-disabilities/disability-tax-credit.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 26 – RDSP BY P4P - JOIN US TO WATCH ONLINE PRESENTATION AT WEFN OFFICE

APRIL 8 – MICHAEL JACQUES, SELF-ADVOCATE & AUTHOR

APRIL 11 – VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE

MAY 13 & 27TH – VOLUNTEER FAMILY TO FAMILY MENTORING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – JUNE 2024 (TBA)

**TO REGISTER PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
[HTTPS://WINDSORSEXFAMNET.CA/](https://windsorsexfamnet.ca/)**

Member Feedback

To our members and past members,

We understand that every family is in a different part of their journey – some are just starting out, some have been walking this path with WEFN for quite some time. No matter where you are – we want to get your feedback and thoughts on Family Network. We have developed a small survey – only 4 questions. We would like to hear from you about the following:

- How long have you been involved with WEFN?
- What have you appreciated about Family Network?
- What is most important to your family and hope will be in place in the future?
- What would you like to see done differently?



Here is a link to complete the survey online:
<https://bit.ly/361rPlp>

If you prefer paper, we've included a hard copy for you to fill out and we have included a stamped envelope for you to return it. If you want to remain anonymous you can mail it using Family Network as both the mailing and return address. Whether a long-standing or new member, we value your input!

“ WEFN is always a great resource and connection for families. The learning events are AMAZING and great info. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO.”

Dental coverage coming for some Canadians

The federal government has a new Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP), which will help some Canadians pay for certain dental costs.

There are rules about who's eligible, what's covered, and when coverage starts.

To qualify for the CDCP, a person must:

- not have other dental insurance, for example, from a pension, group, employer, or personal plan,
- have a family net income of less than \$90,000,
- be a Canadian resident for tax purposes, and
- have filed a tax return in the past year.

If the person who's applying has a spouse or common-law partner, they must also qualify.

If a person has dental coverage through a provincial social program, such as Healthy Smiles Ontario, Ontario Disability Support Program, or the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Plan, they can still qualify. The 2 plans will be coordinated. This means that people are not covered for the same service through both plans. The government will have more details on this by May.

A person must qualify for the CDCP each year. The government will say how a person can apply again later.

When to apply

When a person can start applying for the CDCP is based on their age and whether they have a Disability Tax Credit certificate:

- 87 years or older December 2023
- 77 to 86 years January 2024
- 72 to 76 years February 2024
- 70 to 71 years March 2024
- 65 to 69 years May 2024
- Adults 64 years and younger who also have a valid Disability Tax Credit certificate June 2024
- Children younger than 18 years June 2024
- All other Canadians who qualify 2025

Children 12 and under may be covered under the Canada Dental Benefit until they're eligible for the CDCP in June 2024.



What's covered

The CDCP only covers dental services that are: included in the plan, and provided by dental professionals who are part of the plan.

Dental professionals can be dentists, denturists, dental hygienists, and dental specialists. The government calls these dental professionals "oral health providers". The government has not given a full list of dental services that are covered, but some examples are:

- cleaning, polishing, sealants, and fluoride treatments
- x-rays
- fillings
- root canal treatments
- complete and partial removable dentures
- removing teeth

How to apply

People who are eligible for the CDCP and are 70 years and older will get a letter that tells them how to apply by phone with Service Canada.

People who can apply for the CDCP in May 2024 and after, can apply online. They will not get a letter. The government will share more details on applying online at a later date.

For more information go to <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/dental/dental-care-plan.html>

Person First or Identity First - An Individual Choice

A long time ago when I was a new graduate, I worked as an in-home worker/respite provider for several Windsor-Essex families. I learned so much from those families that opened their homes to me and trusted me with the care of their children. I had no idea that I would continue to put their lessons to use not only in my 30-year career but also in raising my own children. One of the first powerful lessons I learned was about person-first identity from authors and activists like Kathie Snow.

Having grown up in a time where outdated, negative and harmful terminology was still used in everyday conversation around me, it was nice to see that people were beginning to show respect for people with disabilities. Kathie Snow in her article *People First Language* wrote "words are powerful. Old, inaccurate descriptors and the inappropriate use of medical diagnosis perpetuate negative stereotypes and reinforce a significant and incredibly powerful attitudinal barrier. And this invisible, but potent, force - not the diagnosis itself - is the greatest obstacle facing individuals who have conditions we call disabilities."

What you might have noticed lately is an increase in what is referred to as identity first language and for those of us that worked for many years to put the person first, it can be quite jarring. But debates about which language to use can get quite heated so I thought it was important to address it in our newsletter.

There are two schools of thought regarding the most respectful and appropriate way to refer to people with a disability. These ideas, described as person-first and identity-first, both evolved from self-advocacy movements within the disability community.

What Is Person-First Language?

Person-first language is phrasing that puts the person ahead of the disability. Examples would be "Lisa is a student with learning disabilities who enjoys playing hockey. Since the mid-1980s, person-first language has been encouraged in most settings as a "respectful" way to refer to people with disabilities.

Person-first language began to be widely used in Canada in the 1980's and was first developed in Sweden in the 1970s as part of *People First*, a self-advocacy movement for people labelled with an intellectual disability who want to speak for themselves.

The push in North America for person-first language gave people with disabilities spaces where they could speak for themselves, share ideas, and advocate for their rights. experiences.

Identity First, What is it?

The "identity first" movement began more recently with the Deaf community and is now used by many other groups including some autistics. Identity first draws from the idea that a person's disability and/or neurodiversity cannot be separated from the way the person experiences the world around them. Examples of identity first would be "Lisa is a Deaf woman who heads a fortune 500 company" or "my autistic son loves to do gymnastics".

Bela Gaytan, instructional designer and advocate, explains, "For some time, identity-first language was shunned by many in the disability community. Many people felt that it implied that they were their disability before anything else. However, there's been a surge lately in people using identity-first language. It's been reclaimed as a source of pride and power."

Choosing Between Identity-First and Person-First Language

Even though the two ideologies seem to be at odds with each other I choose to see this as an opportunity. An opportunity to continue to challenge the negative stereotypes and preconceived ideas that people hold about disability. An opportunity to have deeper and more meaningful conversations about what disability means to the people who live with it. We won't always get it right and some people will feel very strongly about the topic and want a definitive answer that is just not available. Each person has the right to identify who they are.

What we propose to do at WEFN:

- If we are having a private conversation with you, we will do our best to ask and then follow your preference.
- If we are running a group presentation, we will use a mix of the two to honor each preference. We welcome and encourage you to use whichever language you feel most comfortable with when asking questions, filling out forms etc.
- When we have a guest speaker, we will ask them to identify whether they use person-first or identity-first language. Again, you are welcome to use the one you are most comfortable with when interacting with WEFN.

Changes in the words we use can take time, but words do matter. While we aim to always use words respectfully at Family Network, if you are ever feeling uncomfortable or offended, please let us know (in whichever mode is most comfortable for you - email, call or in-person).

-Tina Szymczak

HERE'S MY BOOK— the journey

WITH MICHAEL JACQUES

At a young age, Michael was diagnosed with autism and an intellectual disability. Never one to shy away from obstacles, he has made his authorial debut, sharing experiences from his life to help audiences understand acceptance and belonging. His story demonstrates the empowerment that comes from being comfortable in your own skin, knowing your strengths, valuing relationships, and giving back to your community.

Michael looks for opportunities to inspire and educate people on diversity and inclusion. What Michael has learned being part of this conversation is that diversity is a reality, we need to embrace and celebrate differences.

On the other hand, inclusion is a choice, we have a responsibility to make sure everyone in our world belongs.

Register by going to the WEFN website
Upcoming Learning Events

<https://windsorsexfamnet.ca>

Limited Seating

Dessert & Coffee/Tea will be served

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Youth & adults with disabilities
and their families, friends,
and supporters.



Windsor-Essex Family Network



A FREE IN-PERSON EVENT

Tuesday April 9, 2024

6:30-8:pm

Ciociaro Club

3745 NORTH TALBOT RD, OLDCASTLE

Made possible by a Family Engagement
Grant from Community Living Ontario

**MICHAEL
JACQUES**



In 2018 Michael wrote and self-published *Can't Read, Can't Write, Here's My Book* using speech-to-text technology. He is the past president of the Community Living Ontario Board of Directors and has been employed by Sobey's for over 13 years.

Become a Member Today

Windsor-Essex Family Network provides support to families faced with the unique circumstances that come with having a family member with a disability. Your generosity allows us to continue to provide FREE family-to-family mentoring as well as offer low-cost to no-cost learning events. Through these connections, we continue to strengthen families and help them navigate systems and open doors. WEFN assists dozens of families every year, families who are feeling lost, confused and don't know where to turn. We connect them with another family member who understands, someone who has walked a similar path and can listen to them and help guide the way forward. To remain a grassroots group for families with no ties to government funding we rely on memberships and donations to provide support. As well, when applying for grants and donations, having a large membership base shows that large groups of the community will be helped.

Please consider filling out a membership form in this newsletter or you can do it online by visiting our website (Get Involved - Become a Member) or at https://clw.formstack.com/forms/wefn_membership

Become a Volunteer Today

Windsor-Essex Family Network thrives because of volunteers just like you. Don't have much time - that's ok, we can work around your schedule! Not sure how you can help? We would be pleased to explore your strengths and interests to see what would be a good fit. Worried you don't have much to offer? Don't sell yourself short - if you are the family member of someone with a disability, you have something to offer and we would love to welcome you to our team. An hour a month to a few hours a week, in the office or all from the comfort of your home. The decision is all yours.

Possible Volunteer Opportunities

- Administrative Assistant
 - Social Media Contributor
 - Writing for the Newsletter
 - Fundraising
 - Event Decor
 - Event Planning
 - Registration Desk at Events
 - Workshop Presenter
- ... and so much more



Benefits to Volunteering Include:

- giving back to the community
- a sense of purpose
- a way to meet other families
- learn new skills
- showcase your skills & talents

Still not sure what's the right fit for you? Join us at Family Network for a **Volunteer Fair Open House on April 11, 2024 from 2:00 to 6:30 pm**. We will have examples of opportunities we can offer, explore what your interests might be, light refreshments, and time to connect with other family leaders & volunteers, as well as door prizes.

RSVP to info@windsorsexfamnet.ca

The Natural Authority of Families

Michael Kendrick is well known internationally for his work on leadership, quality, advocacy, safeguards and the promotion of community living for people with a disability. He has made a significant contribution to the field as an educator, consultant, and advocate for over 35 years. Dr Kendrick works regularly in Australia and has a long history of collaboration with CRU. His book, ["Letting in the Light"](#), was published by CRU in 2009.

With great regularity, consumers of services and their families will find themselves having to confront professionals, bureaucrats and others in roles of authority. Not uncommonly the authority of these persons tends to overshadow the authority of "small people". It can sometimes help to remember that families have a natural authority of their own which can go a long way to reducing this imbalance of power and authority. In order for this to happen, however, families need to appreciate this natural authority and be willing to act on it. What follows is a brief description of some of the common sources of authority that families can call on when they are acting in the interests of a family member.

1. The public generally recognises the primacy of families in terms of their responsibility for a person's wellbeing. In this way, families have the authority to be highly engaged because they also tend to have greater responsibility for the wellbeing of their family members.
2. Families have authority (normally) arising from knowing their family member the most fully and over the longest period of time. In this way they have the authority that arises from long term observation, insight and personal relationship.
3. Families typically care about or love their relative more than would be true of others, however committed the others may be. Not only do families usually care more but they are also expected to care more.
4. Families have a stake in outcomes. For example, they have to live with the long-term consequences of service failures to a greater extent than any other party, except the person themselves.
5. Families are expected to advocate for their own members. Not uncommonly, they are granted considerable presence in the decision-making processes affecting their family members, even where legal formalities do not require it.
6. The family is an authoritative witness to the performance of professionals and systems and may have special (though not necessarily exclusive) insight into events that take place.
7. Family members bring to their role a wide range of talents and experiences which can give them additional authority on many matters. For example, a parent might also be an expert educator.
8. Families are often best positioned to see how everything, in its entirety, adds up in a person's life. For this reason they can often see the incongruencies of different interventions.
9. Family members are often free of the vested interests which call into question the credibility of other parties. Frequently family members are granted a degree of independence which highlights their credibility and purity of motive.

While these common sources of authority do not, in the end, resolve the question of ultimate authority, they do offer families some measure of security that their views should matter as much as, or more than, others who also claim authority in deciding what will happen to a person. Because it is very difficult for a person to advocate if they hold some doubt about the legitimacy of taking on the role, these points may help to strengthen the resolve to hang-in-there and advocate for your family member.



Windsor-Essex Family Network

7025 Enterprise Way, Windsor ON N8T 3N6 Phone: 519-974-1008 Fax: 519-974-4157
Email: info@windsoressesxfamnet.ca Website: www.windsoressesxfamnet.ca

Name _____

(Please Print)

Address _____

City/Town _____ Postal Code _____

Primary Phone _____ Email _____

I would like to be an individual voting member for the 2024 year - Jan.1-Dec. 31, 2024. I am:

- a family member (parent, brother, sister, grandparent, aunt, uncle, etc.)
- a person who has a disability
- a friend, interested individual

Enclosed with this form is my membership fee of: **\$15.00** cash cheque # _____

OR

I could use the financial support of a bursary for my membership this year: Bursary

I would also like to make a donation in the amount of \$ _____ (Tax receipt will be issued.)

Please consider filling out the following information to assist us with providing family-to-family support, sending out helpful information and providing specific learning opportunities:

a) the disability/disorder(s) you are experiencing _____

b) birth-date or general age of your loved one/focus person _____

c) your loved one's stage of life: early childhood ___ elementary age ___ adolescence ___ adulthood ___ later life ___

Describe what topics you would like to learn more about through: events ___ info packages ___ email ___ other _____

Are you looking for any assistance at this time? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, please describe: _____

Would you like to learn how you could share your life experience or gifts with another family?

Yes ___ No ___ If yes, please describe your area of interest or experience: _____

Would you like to participate in any other volunteering? For example helping at: events _____

in the office _____, or from your home _____. Other ideas: _____

Personal Information Consent: By signing below I am giving consent for the name, address, telephone, or email information provided here to be used for updating me on activities of WEFN including programs, services, events, funding needs, government changes and opportunities to volunteer through periodic notices and contacts. My personal information will not be shared with any other organization or business. If I no longer want to receive notices I will contact the WEFN office at 7025 Enterprise Way, Windsor, ON, N8T 3N6 or by email at any time to unsubscribe. By signing below, I also acknowledge that I am giving consent to receive electronic correspondence/email from WEFN.

Signature _____ Date _____

OFFICE USE ONLY Date Received: _____ Membership 2024 **Comments:**

Charitable Receipt #: _____ Main Database