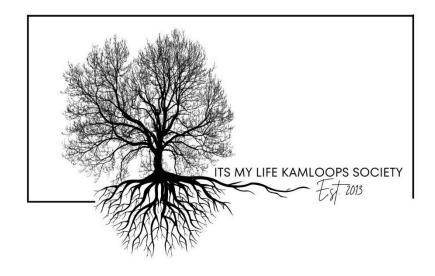
# It's My Life Kamloops Society (IMLKS)



## Accessibility Plan

### 2023 - 2024

Updated March 2024 Updated April 2023 Updated April 2022 Updated March 2021 Revised Oct 2020 Revised Sept 2019 Revised April 2018 Revised March 2018 Prepared August 2017

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

It's My Life Kamloops Society (IMLKS) currently serves 14 adults with developmental disabilities and their families.

IMLKS has values and beliefs that act as a guiding force in all the supports we provide to the persons served. Since 2013, IMLKS has been committed to supporting purposeful and meaningful lifestyles through personalized support systems to meet individual needs. This is completed through a continuum of prevention, intervention, and a focus on growth and development, by respecting personal choices, promoting valued roles in the society, empowering every individual, and utilizing their personal skills and capabilities to their full potential.

IMLKS's intent is always to enhance the lives of the people it serves, implement nondiscriminatory employment practices, meet all legal and regulatory requirements, and meet the expectations of all our stakeholders regarding accessibility, including our funders and public at large.

#### **REVIEW AND MONITORING PROCESS**

It's My Life Kamloops Society's Accessibility Plan is reviewed annually, and the communicated areas of improvement are noted. Input into the Accessibility Plan is sought out from persons served, employees, families, and external stakeholders. Progress is reviewed, documented, and dated. Accessibility is a standing agenda item in all IMLKS's managers' meetings, as well as person's served individual staff meetings. The Accessibility Plan is in writing and is used as a resource to inform operating and organizational strategic planning.

#### ACCESSIBILITY PLAN 2023-2024

Accessibility Potential Barrier	Examples of Past Improvements	Location	Current Barrier	Action	Priority	Cost	By Whom	Due Date
Architecture – Physical barriers to accessibility (community)	New office location, larger area for individuals to be part of workshops & interviews	All public buildings that are not accessible	Not all public buildings are accessible (parking, automatic doors, ramps)	Short term: Continue to talk to local businesses & brainstorm ways to accommodate & make the community more accessible	В	N/C	Service Coordinators, Direct Support Staff, & Contractors	Review annually, on-going
Priority "A" High Pri N/A: <i>Not applicable</i>			Priority "B" Mee N/C: No cost (or neglig					" Low Priority be determined
Accessibility Potential Barrier	Examples of Past Improvements	Location	Current Barrier	Action	Priority	Cost	By Whom	Due Date
Attitudinal – Goal is to be aware of attitudinal barriers & reduce or eliminate these	Provided SRV training either in-person or virtually to Service Coordinators & Staff	All IMLKS	Ensure all employees understand the history of the community living movement & the importance & benefits of person- centered planning	Continue to provide training opportunities for employees & families & that all involved recognize the importance & value that autonomy provides people	A	TBD	Executive Director, Service Coordinator, Human Resources Coordinator, Janet Klees, Darcy Elks	Upon hire & annually, or as training opportunities become available
Priority "A" High Pri N/A: <i>Not applicable</i>			Priority "B" Mee N/C: No cost (or neglig	2				" Low Priority be determined
Accessibility Potential Barrier	Examples of Past Improvements	Location	Current Barrier	Action	Priority	Cost	By Whom	Due Date
Attitudinal - Understanding & knowledge of all	Provided workshops as presenters &	All IMLKS	Ensure all employees understand the	Include this competency in staff training. Continue to educate new	А	N/C	Management	Annually

staff & families	funds were	history of the	staff on the changes				
of persons	available e.g.	community living	seen in the persons				
served of	Janet Klees' SRV	movement & the	served after adopting a				
cultural	workshop	importance &	person-centered				
differences or	Building a	benefits of person-	approach for them.				
disabilities	Context for	centered planning					
	Relationships		Continue to provide	Α	TBD	Executive	Upon hire
	& A Follow up	Staff retention	training opportunities			Director,	& annually
	Conversation		for employees &			Service	or as
	April & Oct 2014,	Workshops not	families, & ensure that			Coordinators,	training
	2015, 2016	available	all involved recognize			Human	opportunities
			the importance & value			Resources	are
	Michael	Funding	that autonomy provides			Coordinator,	available
	Kendrick Right		for individuals			Janet Klees,	
	Relationship &					Darcy Elks	
	Creative						
	Individualized		Satisfaction Surveys are	А	144	Service	Annually
	Support Options		distributed to all staff &			Coordinator &	
	January 2018		families annually			Human	
						Resources	
	Surveys sent out					Coordinator	
	in October of						
	2017 as well as		Include review of codes	А	N/C	Service	Upon hire
	April 2018		of conduct &			Coordinator	& annually
			cultural/diversity plans				
	IMLKS		at the time of annual				
	developed a		reviews				
	Cultural						
	Competency &						
	Diversity Plan.						
	This was done by						
	the Executive						
	Director on Aug						
	23 <sup>rd</sup> 2017						
Priority "A" High P		Priority "B" Me					" Low Priority
N/A: Not applicabl	e	N/C: No cost (or neglig	gible costs) to IMLKS			TBD: <i>To</i>	be determined

Accessibility Potential Barrier	Examples of Past Improvements	Location	Current Barrier	Action	Priority	Cost	By Whom	Due Date
Attitudinal - Understanding & knowledge of all staff & families of persons served of cultural differences or disabilities	In 2017 & 2019, IMLKS held a Strategic Planning Meeting, which all persons served, their families, employees, & Board Directors were invited to attend	All IMLKS	Ensure all employees & contractors actions in their work represent IMLKS's values as an organization	Ensure all IMLKS employees & persons served have access to continual training & resources by leaders in the human services field. Mission & vision statements to be reviewed annually with persons served, families, & staff. Work with other agencies to facilitate SRV workshops	A	2000- 4000	Human Resources Coordinator	Annually & upon hire of new employees & contractors Discussed in monthly team/staff meetings & weekly management meetings
Priority "A" High Pri N/A: <i>Not applicable</i>			Priority "B" Mea N/C: No cost (or neglig					" Low Priority be determined
Accessibility Potential Barrier	Examples of Past Improvements	Location	Current Barrier	Action	Priority	Cost	By Whom	Due Date
Attitudinal - Advocacy for persons served to find suitable employment in inclusive settings if they choose	A number of persons served have held or continue to hold employment in our community in inclusive settings for 6 months or longer	Employers in community	Reluctance to hire people with disabilities Staffing issues in all areas of employment, employers are hesitant to provide opportunities due to the time it takes to train	Continue to work with Inclusion Kamloops Society's 'IES' (Innovative Employment Solutions) manager to job match & job carve with local employers. Find alternatives through online, zoom, & other interactive opportunities	A	N/C	Service Coordinators, Direct Support Staff, Persons Served, & IES Manager	Under- going as required according to persons served individual plans & desire to seek employment On-going
Priority "A" High Pri N/A: <i>Not applicable</i>			Priority "B" Mee N/C: No cost (or neglig					" Low Priority be determined

Accessibility Potential Barrier	Examples of Past Improvements	Location	Current Barrier	Action	Priority	Cost	By Whom	Due Date
Communication – Absence of devices to assist people with certain disabilities, as well as use of language or materials that cannot be	Partnership with Communication Assistance for Youth & Adults (CAYA) A number of referrals were sent through to CAYA to support persons served	IMLKS	Not all IMLKS foundational documents are in "plain language":	Self-Advocates group to review all new documents and/or assist in the rewriting of documents in plain language (convert documents with help using pictograms, pictures instead of words, braille, audio, etc.	В	N/C	Human Resource Coordinator, Service Coordinators, & SUSA group	Fall 2020 Completed
understood by persons served	to receive adaptive devices CAYA Referral that was put through 2 years prior was		Individual Plans could be in a format that is easier for person served to share with people	Develop a person served handbook with pictures & in plain language	Α	N/C	Service Coordinators & Support Staff	Completed
	completed & we were able to get another person served set up with an alternate communication		Not all staff are trained in alternate communication methods	Individual Support Plans/Person Centered Plans to be available in an audio format by the end of 2024	А	N/C	Service Coordinators & Executive Director	End of 2024
	system to utilize on a trial basis Developed a		Referral process to CAYA very timely	Work with CAYA to try & expedite their referral process	А	TBD	Service Coordinators	On-going
	Persons Served handbook & Rights & Responsibilities booklet in plain language		Access to community resources for alternative	Ensure all people accessing service have access to best means of communication & train	А	TBD	Executive Director	On-going

Priority "A" High Pr		•	Priority "B" Med				-	" Low Priority
Potential Barrier Communication – Absence of devices to assist people with certain disabilities, as well as use of language or materials that cannot be understood by persons served	of Past Improvements See above	Location Community at large	<b>Current Barrier</b> Not all public buildings & facilities have staff trained in alternative communications	Action Public promotion of access for individuals with disabilities & technology assistance	Priority   A	Cost N/C	By Whom Executive Director & Service Coordinators	Due Date On-going advocacy
Priority "A" High Pr N/A: <i>Not applicable</i> Accessibility			Priority "B" Med N/C: <i>No cost (or negligi</i>					" Low Priority be determined
			communication are limited Short staffing has made it challenging to access CAYA services	staff in method preferred Person served surveys to be created with pictures by the end of 2024 Lifebooks have been started by persons served as a way to illustrate their life to others	В	TBD TBD	Executive Director & Service Coordinators Executive Director & Service Coordinators	End of 2024 On-going, books to be updated monthly

Accessibility Potential Barrier	Examples of Past Improvements	Location	Current Barrier	Action	Priority	Cost	By Whom	Due Date
Community Integration – All barriers keeping a person from returning to fully participating in their community	Provided Optimal Individual Service Design (OISD) training to management employees	Community at large	Beliefs & attitudes of community members, staff, & families that individuals with disabilities should be segregated because they are	Continue to educate by: Storytelling, setting, & reaching goals <i>"Breaking down walls of discrimination &amp; low or no expectations"</i>	A	TBD	Janet Klees, Darcy Elks, Michael Kendrick, Direct Support Staff, Service Coordinators	Upon hire of new staff & contractors
in such a way they deem fulfilling	Provided SRV training & Meaningful Day Training Provided workshops as presenters &		unable to fully participate Funding	Employees & families attending workshops & training	A	TBD	Executive Director, & Human Resources Coordinator	Upon new person & their family needing / requesting services
	funds were available e.g. Janet Klees, Michael Kendrick			Inviting community members to be a part of person's individual support networks (when applicable)	В	N/C	Executive Director, Service Coordinators	On-going
	Training was provided: Oct/Nov 2014 Apr/Sept 2015 Oct 2015-16 January 2018 February 2023			Looking into sending persons served &/or their families to Inclusion BC Conference	В	TBD	Executive Director & Service Coordinators	On-going, did not occur in 2020/21 due to COVID
				Provide IIDL Conference & Leadership Exchange to management	В	TBD	Service Coordinator &	Feb 2023 (moved to Feb 2024)

							Executive Director	
				Provide SRV training with Darcy Elks & other presenters to Service Coordinators	А	150	Service Coordinators	Completed May 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> 2018 Completed March 2019 Vancouver for SRV
				Continue to liaison & network with other agencies to arrange meaningful & relevant training as a way to be cost effective while being able to offer training opportunities	A	TBD	Executive Director, Human Resources Coordinator, & Service Coordinators	On-going
Priority "A" High Pri N/A: Not applicable			Priority "B" Mea N/C: No cost (or neglig					" Low Priority be determined
Accessibility	Examples		N/C. No cost (or neglig					
Potential Barrier	of Past Improvements	Location	Current Barrier	Action	Priority	Cost	By Whom	Due Date
Environmental – Any location or characteristic of the setting that compromises, hinders, or impedes service	Sharing office space in same building with another tenant Put a scent-free zone policy in	Main Office - 177 Victoria Street	A lack of office space & meeting rooms provides minimal privacy for confidential discussions	Difficult to address & correct these issues at this location because IMLKS currently rents space	В	3300/ month	Executive Director & Service Coordinators	Spring 2018: Additional office space added Feb 2020
delivery & the benefits to be gained	place to adapt to fragrance sensitivities		Extremely noisy & chaotic workspace	Long term objective: To find a new building conveniently located	С	TBD	Executive Director	Moved Nov 2022

				with adequate accessible space				
Priority "A" High Pri N/A: <i>Not applicable</i>			Priority "B" Mec N/C: No cost (or neglig					" Low Priority be determined
Accessibility Potential Barrier	Examples of Past Improvements	Location	Current Barrier	Action	Priority	Cost	By Whom	Due Date
Employment – Obtainment of qualified individuals with disabilities in employment, unions, public service, employer advisory, Chamber of Commerce, Human Rights, & access to education & training	Increase in community volunteer & paid work positions e.g. All Aboard Games, Penny Pinchers, Wildlife Park, Big Little Science Center, Valley First Aid, Dr. Doolittle, Puddle Jumpers Daycare, The Eagles Lodge, Save On Foods, Own Cleaning Business, Dearborn Ford, & Finning's	Individuals & Community Perception	Belief that many people with disabilities can't work, or if they do it will affect their PWD entitlement	Continue to network, educate & provide information with proper support to enable successful employment Continue to educate persons served & their families on the changes to the Residential Services: Individual Financial Payments structure.	Α	N/C	IES Manager & all IMLKS employees & contractors	On-going as required according to persons served individual plans & desire to work
Priority "A" High Pri N/A: <i>Not applicable</i>	5	1	Priority "B" Mec N/C: No cost (or neglig	2	1	1		" Low Priority be determined

Accessibility Potential Barrier	Examples of Past Improvements	Location	Current Barrier	Action	Priority	Cost	By Whom	Due Date
Employment – Obtainment of qualified individuals with disabilities in employment, unions, public service,	See above	Community at large	Beliefs & attitudes of community members & employers that persons with disabilities can't or shouldn't work	Community & business partnerships Continue to support our individuals to participate in the life of the community in an	В	N/C N/C	IES Manager & All IMLKS & Contractors Employees & Contractors	On-going On-going
employer advisory, Chamber of Commerce, Human Rights, & access to education & training				inclusive way that interests them & utilizes their skills & abilities				
Priority "A" High Pr N/A: <i>Not applicable</i>			Priority "B" Mee N/C: No cost (or neglig					' Low Priority be determined
Accessibility Potential Barrier	Examples of Past Improvements	Location	Current Barrier	Action	Priority	Cost	By Whom	Due Date
Employment – Obtainment of qualified individuals with disabilities in employment, unions, public service, employer advisory, Chamber of	See above	IMLKS	Lack of skilled staff to support individual job placement	Mentor new staff & provide appropriate training opportunities for employees. Ensure staff understand & support IMLKS's Strategic Plan & philosophy	A	TBD	Service Coordinators, Direct Support Staff, & Contractors	Upon new hire of employees & contractors, need based of person served

Commerce, Human Rights, & access to education & training				Participate in job fairs, create documents that test competency, create tests to evaluate staff's knowledge of medical needs	В	N/C	Service Coordinators & Direct Support Staff	On-going
				Work in partnership with HSCL to host in- service workshops on seizure & medication management	В	N/C	Service Coordinators & Direct Support Staff	On-going
Priority "A" High Pr N/A: <i>Not applicable</i>			Priority "B" Mec N/C: No cost (or neglig					" Low Priority be determined
Accessibility	Examples							
Potential	of Past	Location	Current Barrier	Action	Priority	Cost	By Whom	Due Date
Barrier	Improvements							
Financial – Minimum wage standard, benefits for individuals with disabilities, funding for services, government assistance, fundraising for services that are not affordable	Development of flexible, cost effective supports for supported living Partnerships with alternative service providers & families have allowed supports at reduced costs Raised our starting hourly	All	Staff wages non- competitive with competing industries; employee attraction & retention is difficult	Long term: Continue to be competitive with our wage & benefits as much as possible All contracts are up for renewal in May 2024/25 & the Executive Director will be negotiating for increased salary amounts with CLBC	A	N/C	Executive Director & Human Resources Coordinator	On-going

benefits, MPP & MSP to full and part time staff		
Advocating with individuals to funders has helped meet the support dollars required for adequate support		
Working with HSCL to gather information to send to the Provincial government regarding medical expenses for those over 65		
IMLKS has changed the requirements to be considered a full and part time employee		
Priority "A" High Priority N/A: <i>Not applicable</i>	Priority "B" Medium Priority N/C: No cost (or negligible costs) to IMLKS	Priority "C" Low Priority TBD: <i>To be determined</i>

Accessibility Potential Barrier	Examples of Past Improvements	Location	Current Barrier	Action	Priority	Cost	By Whom	Due Date
Financial – Minimum wage standard, benefits for individuals with disabilities, funding for services,	See above	Community at large	Amount of service available (waitlists – not enough \$)	Continue innovation & best practice partnerships through IIDL & IIMHL sister agency network. Obtain membership in IBC and support their advocacy initiatives	A	2000	Service Coordinators & Executive Director	Currently under- going & on-going
government assistance, fundraising for services that are not affordable			Cost saving measures result in a general move towards the "Home Share" model	Obtain membership in BC CEO Network for information & assistance in requirements	Α	2100	Executive Director	On-going
			Increasingly complex funding & reporting guidelines	Continue to work with families & person served to advocate for a person-centered model	А	N/C	Executive Director	On-going
				Continue to work with our local & provincial funders	А	N/C	Executive Director	On-going
	Priority "A" High PriorityPriority "B" Medium PriorityN/A: Not applicableN/C: No cost (or negligible costs) to IMLKS					" Low Priority be determined		
Accessibility Potential Barrier	Examples of Past Improvements	Location	Current Barrier	Action	Priority	Cost	By Whom	Due Date
Financial – Minimum wage standard, benefits for	See above	Community at large	Programs & funds for families: can't afford admission to training events, etc.	Ensure that families are educated about upcoming conferences & workshops	A	N/C	Executive Director & Service Coordinators	On-going, review annually & monthly at

individuals with disabilities, funding for services, government assistance, fundraising for services that are not affordable Priority "A" High Pri	iority		Priority "B" Med	Research grants & continue efforts to increase available funds by expanding social enterprise dium Priority	А	N/C	Executive Director Priority "C	team & staff meetings On-going ' Low Priority
N/A: Not applicable	2		N/C: No cost (or neglig	ible costs) to IMLKS			TBD: To	be determined
Accessibility Potential Barrier	Examples of Past Improvements	Location	Current Barrier	Action	Priority	Cost	By Whom	Due Date
Financial – Minimum wage standard, benefits for individuals with disabilities, funding for services, government assistance, fundraising for services that are not affordable	See above	Community at large	Availability of affordable housing – usually more than 50% of income	Continue to work with Inclusion Kamloops to expand social enterprise initiatives, with the funds going towards safe & affordable housing in areas convenient to amenities & public transportation. Support people to access employment to replace or supplement PWD	A	N/C	Executive Director in conjunction with Inclusion Kamloops	On-going, review annually
			Activities, funding for transportation, & post-secondary education	Support individuals & families to apply for subsidies & reduce admissions whenever possible. Lobby provincial government for more funding	A	N/C	Executive Director, Service Coordinators & Direct Support Staff	As needed, on-going

Priority "A" High Pri	lority		Priority "B" Med	Continue to utilize allocated funding in creative ways	A	N/C	Executive Director & Service Coordinators	Current contracts, on-going "Low Priority
N/A: Not applicable			N/C: No cost (or neglig					be determined
Accessibility Potential Barrier	Examples of Past Improvements	Location	Current Barrier	Action	Priority	Cost	By Whom	Due Date
Community access	In March of 2020 the COVID-19 Pandemic was declared. Community access was diminished due to business having to close done & all interactions suspended	Community at large	Awaiting the vaccine, employment & volunteer opportunities still on hold Individuals may not be able to comply with the distancing & mask wearing requirements. No longer a barrier however vaccinations of at least 2 doses are still a requirement in our sector. This makes recruitment very challenging	Vaccinations	A	TBD	Executive Director, Human Resources Coordinator, & Service Coordinators	On-going All persons served vaccinated against COVID in March 2021 & received boosters in 2022. All staff vaccinated with 2nd dose by March 2021. 2 employees went on a leave due to not vaccinating
Priority "A" High Pri N/A: <i>Not applicable</i>			Priority "B" Mee N/C: No cost (or neglig					" Low Priority be determined

Accessibility Potential Barrier	Examples of Past Improvements	Location	Current Barrier	Action	Priority	Cost	By Whom	Due Date
Transportation – Distance from transit or accessibility to other means of transportation that result in individuals unable to reach service community	Borrowing wheelchair accessible vans from sister agencies to help persons served attend events & facilitating relationships & making use of natural supports	IMLKS	Some persons served are not comfortable taking city buses	Ride the city bus regularly to increase comfort	A	N/C	Direct Support Staff & contractors	As needed (daily, monthly, weekly, etc.)
Priority "A" High Pri N/A: <i>Not applicable</i>	ority		Priority "B" Mea N/C: No cost (or neglig		L	I		' Low Priority be determined
Accessibility Potential Barrier	Examples of Past Improvements	Location	Current Barrier	Action	Priority	Cost	By Whom	Due Date
Transportation – Distance from transit or accessibility to other means of transportation	See above	Community at large	Handy Dart has wait-lists, reservation requirements, & time restrictions	Supporting individuals to ride Handy Dart once per month & making use of the taxi vouchers Handy Dart provides	A	N/C	Service Coordinators, Direct Support Staff, & Persons Served	Once per month
that result in individuals unable to reach service community			Taxi services are not cost effective or reliable; wheel chair accessible cabs do not have the same 24-hour availability, & reservation is required	Continuing to support individuals in making friends (unpaid natural supports), helping facilitate those relationship will help to create greater access to community	A	N/C	Service Coordinators & Direct Support Staff	On-going, day-to-day interaction

Priority "A" High Pri N/A: Not applicable			Priority "B" Mec N/C: No cost (or negligi		A	80,000- 160,000		May 2024 Low Priority be determined
Accessibility Potential Barrier	Examples of Past Improvements	Location	Current Barrier	Action	Priority	Cost	By Whom	Due Date
Service Intake Criteria/Other – Practices that do not comply with the mandate of our values in the services offered prevent those otherwise	N/A	IMLKS	An individual must fit CLBC criteria in order to receive funding. They must qualify for funding before IMLKS can directly support them	Work with individual & family to connect with the appropriate services & advocate when necessary	В	TBD	Executive Director & Service Coordinators	As needed basis
eligible to full participation			If an individual qualifies for funding but wants a support model that IMLKS doesn't offer (e.g. group home, day program)	Inform families & individuals about how IMLKS's services might be able to benefit their lives, or refer them to an agency that better meets their needs	Α	N/C	Executive Director, Service Coordinators, & Human Resources Coordinator	As needed basis; transition fair (annually); job fairs (annually); community events (annually); & annually & annually each year in June
Priority "A" High Pri N/A: <i>Not applicable</i>			Priority "B" Mec N/C: No cost (or neglig	U U				' Low Priority be determined

Accessibility Potential Barrier	Examples of Past Improvements	Location	Current Barrier	Action	Priority	Cost	By Whom	Due Date
Diversity – See IMLKS Cultural Competency & Diversity Plan	IMLKS offered diversity training to employees in the past	IMLKS	Due to COVID-19 restrictions, no in- person workshops available	Zoom or online	В	150	Service Coordinator & Human Resources Coordinator	On-going
			Priority "B" Mea N/C: <i>No cost (or neglig</i>				-	" Low Priority be determined

#### ACCESSIBILITY PLAN APPROVAL

The undersigned acknowledge that they have reviewed the Accessibility Plan for It's My Life Kamloops Society. Changes to the Accessibility Plan will be coordinated with and approved by the undersigned or their designated representative.

Signature:	
Print Name:	
Title:	
Role:	Date:
Signature:	
Print Name:	
Title:	
Role:	Date:
Signature:	
Print Name:	
Title:	
Role:	Date: