



Sinneave
FAMILY FOUNDATION

2018 IMPACT REPORT

SHAPING THE FUTURE
TOGETHER





President's Message

The Sinneave Family Foundation (Sinneave) is focused on improving the transition to adulthood for people with autism. We have set a bold agenda to improve outcomes in Education, Employment and Supported Independent Living.

As we entered our second decade of operation, 2018 was a pivotal year to reflect on our growth and our role as a catalyst for shared impact. We expanded and deepened our partnerships and networks, and added a depth of knowledge and experience in evaluation and measurement to our organization. Sinneave set a goal to drive systems change through collective attention and collaborative action, and will work with others towards a future where barriers are reduced, opportunities are created, and lives are fulfilled.

This Impact Report features some highlights from our work in 2018 and clearly illustrates that we are gaining momentum, achieving collective outcomes, and shaping the future together.

We are grateful for the continued commitment of our volunteer Board of Directors, our exceptional staff and the many partners and collaborators with whom we work.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tanya McLeod'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tanya McLeod
President

Shared Vision, Mission and Values

The staff at Sinneave work together with passion and discipline to deliver on our mission to share promising practices, build system capacity and foster policy development with the vision that autistic individuals are supported in the transition to adulthood to realize their highest quality of life.

We are a diverse team of dedicated, skilled and creative individuals who share the values of respect, collaboration, innovation, accountability, and sustainability.



A note on autism language

There are varied preferences in the autism community regarding the use of 'person first' language as compared to 'identity first' language. Sinneave acknowledges that language evolves and preferences are personal, and we aim to be inclusive of all stakeholders. For the purpose of this Impact Report, we have included both person first (individual or person with autism) and identity first (autistic) language and we hope that our broad audience sees themselves in our work.

We imagine a future where everyone has access to credible information, navigation and support - when they need it.



Guiding the Way

Learning about autism, knowing what information and resources are credible, while trying to navigate multiple systems of support can be overwhelming.

The Ambassadors in the Resource Centre at Sinneave are frequently the first point of contact for individuals and families who aren't sure what to do first, where to turn next, or how to prepare for the future. They share their knowledge of autism and the various systems of support available both locally and provincially, and provide a safe space to seek support, access information and make informed choices. All individuals, families, professionals and community members interested in autism information and resources are welcome in the Sinneave Resource Centre.

Throughout the year, workshops were offered at Sinneave on various autism related topics. A unique partnership with Community Education Services helped remove barriers to access and expanded our reach by making the events available as live and recorded webinars.

In 2018, we expanded our reach deeper into the community through a variety of events and partnerships, and we leveraged technology to remove barriers to access.

“

They helped us find some resources and supports for our son, and we left with a sense of hope, direction and feeling like we were part of a supportive community.”

- Parents



82

Community Outreach Activities



486

Referrals to Community Supports



746

Phone Calls, E-Mails, In-Person Meetings

We imagine a future where young adults have the support they need to develop their skills for independence.

Supporting Skill Building

After high school, as many as 80% of individuals with autism are either unemployed or under-employed. Many are not yet ready to pursue continued education or to live independently.

In 2018, we transformed our approach to building independence. The Launch + Skills program was developed to offer a customized combination of community-based 1:1 skills coaching, group-based learning, and opportunities for individuals to socialize.



“I’m making new friends, and we have fun cooking food together and having lots of laughs in the cafes.”

- Launch + Skills Participant

We also introduced a new web-based resource called Launch Online, enabling families in urban, rural and remote communities to access information designed to help them plan and prepare for their youth’s transition to adulthood.

The Launch into Life! Workshop series was expanded through training partnerships across Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario.



388

Skills Coaching Sessions with Launch + Skills Clients



79

Registered Users of Launch Online



206

Attendees at Launch into Life! Workshops

Collaborating on Innovative Housing Solutions

Many adults with autism live at home with their parents with no change in sight. Parents are aging and worry what will happen when they are gone.

There is no single solution that will meet the supported independent living needs of all individuals with autism. Many pieces need to come together for any solution to be successful and sustainable.

Sinneave works with our partners and networks to create connections between autistic adults, families, community-based support services, and housing agencies. We help to convert big ideas and aspirations into tangible outcomes.

In 2018, we facilitated a formalized partnership between an autism service provider, an affordable housing provider and a group of adults with autism. By year end, a number of very excited individuals moved into a beautiful new building in Calgary. The residents receive varied levels of support tailored to their specific needs, and are beginning to engage in social opportunities that come from living in the same building.

“

“This is my forever home and I’m really happy here.”

- New Resident,
Glamorgan Project



3 Individuals
Living Independently with
a Supportive Roommate



3 Individuals
Living in a Group Home
with Support



10 Individuals
Living Independently
with Support

We imagine a future where all adults have a safe home with the right amount of support and social connection.





WHO WE SERVE, COLLABORATE & PARTNER WITH



Improving the Transition to Adulthood for Individuals with Autism

Sharing Promising Practices

OUR REACH

INFORMATION & NAVIGATION

SKILL DEVELOPMENT



8 Provinces

Programs + Training Delivered Across Canada



Conferences/Presentations (Canada, USA, Europe, Asia)



13932

Website Visitors
• 68534 views



1646

E-Newsletter Subscriptions



1903

Facebook Followers
• 275 posts
• 103612 reach



242

Twitter Tweets
• 277 followers
• 92399 reach



342

Tip Sheets Shared



13

Research Summaries + Knowledge Tidbits



9

Videos Produced



1

Peer Reviewed Publication

Resource Centre
Phone - E-mail Connections - In-Person Meetings



662

Individuals + Families

84

Community Professionals



launch.
+ skills

54

Clients Enrolled

launch.
online

79

Registered Users

launch. into Life!
workshops

206

Attendees at 13 Workshops

388

Skills Coaching Sessions with Clients

launch. guide

231

Attendees at 16 Workshops for Clients + Parents



Downloads
• 80 personal
• 8 group

388

Attendees at 35 Cafes with Active + Past Clients



a little somethin' café

2

Unpaid Trainees to Paid Interns to Employed in the Community

WORKTOPIA
Opportunities that matter.

209

Employment Works Canada
Participants across Canada
• 46 employed
• 25 returned to school

METICULON
precise • exceptional • diligent

47

Employment Contracts
• 30 new, 17 carried over

94

Community Works Canada®
Participants across Canada
• 7 employed
• 81 returned to school

SPECTRUM ADVANTAGE
Employment Without Borders

24

Participants Employed
• 2 returned to school

OUTCOMES



16

Individuals Living Independently with Support

SUPPORTED INDEPENDENT LIVING

Our Shared Impact

2018



Partners
(Public/Private)



Government
(Municipal/Provincial/Federal)



Educational/Academic
Communities



Networks
(Local/Provincial/National)

Building System Capacity

Fostering Policy Development

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

PARTNERSHIPS & NETWORKS

POLICY/SYSTEMS CHANGE

66 EVENTS + CONFERENCES

Exchanging knowledge, information and resources through engagement in local, provincial, national and international events and conferences (as a sponsor, host, presenter and/or attendee).

96 Autism Related Training Sessions offered in the Community (e.g. Autism 101)



Community Outreach

5 Building Community Capacity export of programs into Community (e.g. Launch Programs, Beast Mode)



Connections with Families & Professionals

215 Attendees at 5 Workshops (Hosted)
101 Attendees at 4 Workshops (Delivered)

Sinneave is taking an active role in fostering policy to improve lives and brighten futures. We contribute national data, initiate conversations, and attend formalized policy events and announcements.

8

Stakeholder Engagements

12

Meetings with Elected Officials

88

Meetings with Influencers

The following are some important milestones relevant to our work in 2018:

Bill C-81, the Accessible Canada Act: An Act to Ensure a Barrier-free Canada. Sinneave provided input throughout the public consultation process and will continue to be informed and engaged as this legislation advances.

Bill 26: An Act to Combat Poverty and Fight for Albertans with Disabilities. Income support benefit for Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) indexed to inflation. Sinneave is a member of the Calgary Ability Network, one of many stakeholders that advocated for this policy change.

Provincial Proclamation declaring October as Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM). Sinneave is a member of the Calgary Employment First Network that advocated for this proclamation with the goal of ensuring that inclusive employment is a priority in Alberta.

Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) Program Review. Sinneave provided input to the review process both in-person and on-line. We leveraged our website, newsletter and social media channels to encourage community engagement in the review.

Bill 5: An Act to Strengthen Financial Security for Persons with Disabilities was passed for 2019. Sinneave shared information with families and stakeholders and encouraged them to provide their input.

19 Contractual Partnerships financial commitments/shared data

301 hours 6 Formal Collaborations project-based/aligned with Mission

912 hours 14 Committees | Advisory Groups work aligned with Mission

34 hours Consultations with 4 Industry Experts to inform/strengthen our work

6476 hours Community Based Support (In-Kind) 11 users of space at The Ability Hub

\$84,328 Community Based Support (\$) 14 functions/events, 3 scholarships/awards

EMPLOYMENT

126

Individuals Employed

EDUCATION

108

Individuals Returned to School



We imagine a future where everyone has an opportunity for meaningful employment.

Improving Labour Market Participation

The 2012 Canadian Survey on Disability found that working-age people with autism had the lowest employment rates in Canada at 14.3% as compared to the general population at 92.7%. This significant under-engagement in the labour force emphasized the need to consider new and innovative approaches to employment.

In 2014, Sinneave identified employment as its primary focus for capacity building and investment for a 3 to 5 year period. We committed time, energy and resources to building and supporting networks of non-profit allies to advance common work in employment. We also leveraged our investment to attract over \$13 Million dollars of federal government funding to accelerate this work.



An example of this effort was the Worktopia project, which brought together 12 leading disability service agencies from across Canada to deliver employment readiness programs and enhance employer awareness and capacity. The 4-year national project concluded in 2018, and our collective results exceeded all targets and expectations with the program participants achieving an impressive 32% employment rate.

The success of the Worktopia Project has resulted in new funding from the Government of Canada through the Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities Program to deliver the EmploymentWorks National Project. The 3-year project will commence in April 2019.

In partnership with Autism Speaks Canada, Sinneave will provide project oversight and backbone support to eight organizations across Canada delivering programming.

109

Participants Employed
Across Canada

328

Employer Partners
Across Canada

32,177

Job Sampling/Volunteer Hours
performed by Participants

Providing Early Work Experience

Young people with autism are capable of many things, including working and establishing a rewarding career. Exploring potential career paths and finding work experiences should begin early.

SchoolWorks was a collaboration between The Calgary Board of Education, Sinneave and Autism Speaks Canada as part of the Worktopia project. The collaboration was designed to complement Alberta Education's off-campus education program.

Through the program, a group of Calgary students with developmental disabilities participated in school-based, community or intensive summer work experience placements. Students were given an opportunity to explore their interests in a wide variety of workplace settings and learn skills in areas related to social-communication, resume building, interviewing, transportation, job etiquette and safety. Concurrently, they gained confidence and received credits towards their high school diploma.


In September 2018, Alberta's Minister of Education, Honourable David Eggen met with high school students, teachers, parents and local media to acknowledge SchoolWorks as an important and innovative program. Based on the success of the program, the Calgary Board of Education is expanding access to work experiences for all students with special needs within the school division.

The Calgary and Area Regional Collaborative Services Delivery, which is provincially funded and led, has committed to expand the summer work experience program for high school students to all school authorities in the region in 2019.

“

**“I learned confidence...
you figure out what to do
and you just do it.”**

- Student, Henry Wisewood



We imagine a future where all students have opportunities to volunteer and develop work skills while still in high school.



We imagine a future where policies and systems of support improve the lives of all Canadians.

Fostering Policy Development

A report on the National Autism Spectrum Disorder Surveillance System by the Public Health Agency of Canada in March 2018 reported 1 in 66 Canadians aged 5-17 are autistic. Policies and systems of support have never been more relevant to the futures of individuals with autism.

Working one-on-one to build capacity improves the odds of positive outcomes for individuals and families. Working at the community and systems levels changes the odds for many.

In 2018, Sinneave set a goal of increasing our level of engagement in policy and systems change activities and took an active role in fostering policy to improve lives and brighten futures. We contributed national data, initiated conversations, and attended numerous policy events and activities.



“We’re listening.
We’re committed to
doing more.”

- Honourable Irfan Sabir, MLA
Minister, Community & Social Services,
Government of Alberta



8

Stakeholder
Engagements



12

Meetings with
Elected Officials



88

Meetings with
Influencers



Board Chair Message

2018 was a milestone year for The Sinneave Family Foundation. We celebrated our 10-year anniversary as a foundation, and enjoyed reflecting on our work and achievements since early 2008, while breaking new ground and gaining momentum on our strategic priorities. I am honoured to be Board Chair and to join my fellow Board Members in providing governance and strategic guidance to the organization as we look ahead to exciting times.

We are proud to work with many others locally, across Alberta and nationally to deliver on improving outcomes for individuals with autism. I want to reinforce that autistic individuals, their families, our staff and our partners are the driving forces behind the shared impact that is evident in this report. Thank you to each of you for your energy and your contributions.

The Sinneave Family Foundation will continue to collaborate and leverage opportunities to shape the future through our shared impact in 2019.

Garry McCulloch, CIM
Board Chair

Board of Directors

We would like to acknowledge and express our sincere thanks to members of The Sinneave Family Foundation Board of Directors for their time, dedication and thoughtful governance.

Current Board Members

Laurene Beloin	Dawn Leonard Gaudreault
Catherine Best	Garry McCulloch
Roby Brar	Adam McKnight
Andrew Hakin	Rutger Niers
Ian Holloway	Gayla Rogers
William Karny	Rick Sinneave
Michael Lambert	Edward Wooldridge

President

Tanya McLeod

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Christopher Burrows	Perry Mack
Jack Davis	Don Ross
David Dodge	Chuck Shultz
Don Kelly	Jim Sinneave
Fauzia Lalani	David Tuer

Honorary Board Member

Richard Haskayne

In Memoriam

Don Kelly began his law career with Ward, Patterson, Dingle, Patterson and Waite in 1957, and he practiced with that firm's successors until his retirement on January 1, 2001. Don was a founding member of The Sinneave Family Foundation's Board of Directors, and remained a dedicated member until his passing in 2018. He will be sadly missed.





Contact Us:

The Sinneave Family Foundation
300, 3820 - 24 Ave NW
Calgary, AB T3B 2X9

P 403.210.5000
Toll Free 1.888.733.7976

www.sinneavefoundation.org