

FEBRUARY 11, 2021**MOWI DONATION HELPS EXPAND SPECIAL RECREATION PROGRAMS**

Donations for recreation programs are making a world of difference for people with disabilities in Campbell River.

“With COVID-19 hitting hard for people around the world, recreation programs can be a lifeline. This is especially true for people with disabilities and their families,” explains Michele Sirett, the City’s recreation manager. *“Especially during the pandemic, we’re grateful to tell the story of how the support of donors like MOWI Canada West help keep people social, active and healthy.”*

The City of Campbell River offers a variety of COVID-safe programs for people with disabilities that creates a supportive sense of community, boosting spirits and activity levels.

“The Campbell River Specialized Recreation programs provide much needed support to those in need in our community. Mowi is grateful for the opportunity to sponsor these important programs,” states Dean Dobrinsky, Human Resources & Safety Director at MOWI Canada West, referring to a donation in 2020.

Twenty-seven-year-old Isabelle Castle (Izzy) says the pandemic has been a time to *“make health my priority,”* and that socializing that comes with specialized recreation programs helps her mental health.

“The Specialized Recreation programs have gotten me out into the community, and I’ve made more friends,” Izzy says, describing how seeing her friends, having conversations and enjoying laughter makes her feel like a kid. *“We’re all kids at heart.”*

Having seen some of her peers succeed as volunteer leaders, and having a personal passion for fitness, Izzy volunteered to lead a new program called the Walkie Talkies. Beginning Feb. 22, the Walkie Talkies is an exercise walking group that will explore and enjoy scavenger hunts along accessible Campbell River trails. The program follows pandemic safety precautions and includes guest walkers to share information such as the history of Campbell River, local plants and animals and geocaching.

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COVID-19

Please note: We have new procedures in place to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

We are gradually – carefully – resuming in-person services and limited public access to City facilities. For the most recent information on City services, please see our website (campbellriver.ca). Reach us with general inquiries by email (info@campbellriver.ca) or telephone **250-286-5700**.