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To whom it may concern:

The purpose of this letter is to document why we are so grateful to be involved with the Lifetime Network Victoria Society (LNV). Our daughter Melanie (37), has cerebral palsy and currently has a network supported by one of LNV's Network Facilitators. Over the years we have witnessed how comfortable Melanie is around the LNV staff and her network. This Agency has a culture where the emphasis is on "friendship." This feels better than when the focus is on "service provision."

We are entering our "senior years". Melanie wants individuation/independence. This is a typical stage of growth and development for humans. She requested that her parents not be included in all of the Network activities, and the facilitator and network respects that request.

When we die, Melanie will inherit our possessions. Because LNV has come to know and understand Melanie at a deep level, we feel confident that her network will be at her side when she needs help dealing with Financial TRUST officers, condo managers, government service providers, medical staff and any other places where she needs a friend/advocate. This gives us all enormous peace of mind and confidence.

Our family members, friends and especially Melanie want to see the continual evolution of an inclusive society where all lives matter and are celebrated. Friendships are an indicator of progress in this area. Much progress has been made since the closure of large institutions and inclusive education. Still, many citizens do not get the opportunity to meet and bond with people with various types of diverse abilities and communication styles. LNV is a innovative, contemporary organization dedicated and focused on promoting friendships and inclusive community building! They are succeeding! See their values (attached).

The staff and family members (participants) at LNV provide support and mentorship for Melanie, her parents and members of all the networks. We try to reciprocate. This has a ripple effect on community building and a better, more caring world.

Thank you LNV for your innovation, creativity and willingness to evolve.

Sincerely,

Janice and Robert Maxwell

VALUES – Values are the beliefs shared and demonstrated by an organization's stakeholders.

**The 2017 Victoria Lifetime Networks Values are:**

- Person-centred planning rather than program-centred planning.
- A commitment to maintain Networks for the lifetime of the person being supported.
- Accessibility to services with no eligibility restrictions.
- Respectfulness through recognition and celebration of the inherent worth of each person.
- Financial responsibility by working diligently to keep services and supports cost effective and affordable.
- Volunteerism through belief in the importance of unpaid relationships in the lives of people we support.
- Lifetime friendships and support for people with disabilities.