



**Aaron Johannes,
Director, Spectrum Consulting.
Collaborative: Learning, Research, Press.**

Monday, February 3, 2014

Re. Business Leadership award

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to write a letter of recommendation for Lifetime Networks, one of my favourite organizations in the province because of the passion and authenticity of their approach. Lifetime Networks is mostly comprised of families supporting other families who have a child or sibling with a disability to become active and engaged citizens in their communities. Through this process people with disabilities are safer and more secure, and also have greater opportunity to contribute as siblings, children, employees, volunteers, friends and good neighbours.

This mobilization of a marginalized community of folks with disabilities, their families and friends, within their neighborhoods to become active participating citizens also creates opportunities for contribution by volunteers. Having spoken to some of these and read their interviews it is clear that they feel they get as much out of their relationship with Lifetime Networks and those supported by this organization as they give. Not least of this is the opportunity to grow their own skills and connections, which strengthens their own capacities as employees, leaders and citizens.

Lifetime Network is an exemplary model, I think, of best practices for their colleagues in our field of disability supports, and also for other kinds of non-profits through their openness, professional standards and being always poised for partnerships.

It is difficult to do innovative things that are person centred and focused on supporting families, and to hold that standard above what government or other





agendas might want, but somehow the folks at Lifetime Networks manage to do this through good planning and a continuous learning cycle of practice, feedback, communication and reporting back through newsletters and media. Of the dozens of agencies and organizations I have spent time with, perhaps one of the most important factors that I've noticed at Lifetime Networks is that they never take "no" for an answer once they have a sense of what an individual with a disability or a family wants, and they go to great lengths as people and leaders to deliver the goods for those they care about.

I was lucky enough to profile Lifetime Networks for some work I was doing and at the end of the day my only suggestion was that our province should try to clone them.

Please do not hesitate to call if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Aaron Johannes,
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