



“The Bill of Rights was developed by the Participant Council and adopted in 2009 by the Board of Directors as a tool to determine participant satisfaction with organizational performance. For scoring purposes, Green = satisfactory; Yellow = noted improvement but more improvement required; Red = dissatisfaction and improvement required. Each point is collectively scored by the Participant Council on an annual basis. The annual results are reported directly to the Board of Directors by the Participant Council. In 2009 all points were scored red. The organization makes strategic decisions based upon the Participant Council annual reports and continues to diligently work to improve participant satisfaction.”

*Bob Bennett
Executive Director*

BILL OF RIGHTS

1) I HAVE THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY

- *This means that I want my private information to be kept confidential.*
- *This means that I do not want people listening to my conversations.*
- *This means that I do not want people reading my e-mails, mail, or information I have typed on the computer.*
- *This means I do not want staff to share personal information about me.*
- *This means you do not look in my personal belongings.*
- *This means I want privacy when I need assistance with personal care.*
- *This means I may want/need to spend time alone, i.e. Snoezelen room.*

2) I HAVE THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM DURING OUR BREAKS

- *This means that I may want to go to a quiet spot in the building during breaks.*
- *This means I may want to go for a walk in the community during breaks.*
- *This means I may want to go out and purchase my lunch during our break.*
- *This means I may want to go to the computer lab during our breaks.*
- *This means I may want to go outside and sit on the bench during our breaks.*
- *This means I may want to listen to music using my headphones during breaks.*

3) THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

- *This means I want to participate in decisions concerning the programs offered at Summer Street.*
- *This means I want to be offered choices when participating in programs and activities.*
- *This means I decide which leisure/recreational activities to participate in and not to participate in.*
- *This means I want to be part of the planning committees.*
- *This means I want to be part of the decisions if a program at Summer Street is going to be discontinued.*

4) THE RIGHT TO WORK IN A JOB I CHOOSE

- *This means that I want more than something to keep me busy.*
- *This means I want to earn a fair wage.*
- *This means staff may have to help me train for a job.*
- *This means staff may have to work evenings or week-ends if that is my work schedule.*
- *This means I will be part of a community through a paid or volunteer service.*
- *This means I may change my mind if I do not like the job.*
- *This means I have the same opportunity to work in the community as everyone else.*

5) THE RIGHT TO BE PART OF SUMMER STREET COMMITTEES

- *This means I will be told when meetings are taking place.*
- *This means I should be actively included.*
- *This means I will have the right information presented in a way I understand i.e., sign language and or simple language.*
- *This means my input should be considered and supported.*
- *This means I should have a say in the policies and rules that affect my life at Summer Street.*
- *This means I should be encouraged to join committees and have my voice heard.*

6) THE RIGHT TO BE SELF ADVOCATES

- *This means that I may need to speak assertively. I have a better chance of being heard when I speak assertively.*
- *This means to be free to say what I want and get information I need.*
- *This means I will speak up about people who are treating me unfair.*
- *This means I may have to go to management if I'm not satisfied with my support person.*
- *This means I have the right to say "no" if I am put in danger or asked to do something I do not feel is fair.*
- *This means I will stand up for my rights.*
- *This means my support staff should listen to me when I talk.*

7) THE RIGHT TO MAKE MY OWN DECISIONS

- *This means I want to make decisions about my life.*
- *This means I want my decision to be respected by others.*
- *This means I should have a say even if I need help making my decision.*
- *This means staff should watch closely to determine if I am happy with the decision, especially if I am not able to talk.*
- *This means I want to be informed of possible consequences.*
- *This means I want to be informed of other options.*
- *This means I want to have a say in the people who are hired to work with/for me.*

8) THE RIGHT TO SET MY OWN GOALS

- *This means I want staff to listen to what I really want.*
- *This means I may change my mind before my goal has been completed.*
- *This means I may have to ask for help in achieving my goals.*
- *This means staff may need to set up training programs to assist me in reaching my goal.*
- *This means I may make mistakes, but I hope to learn from these mistakes.*

9) THE RIGHT TO FRIENDSHIP

- *This means I want to learn more about friendships.*
- *This means I want more training in conflict resolution, tools to assist me in working things out with coworkers and support staff.*
- *This means I want to make new friends outside of Summer Street and stay in touch with them.*
- *This means I want training in relationship building.*
- *This means I decide what friends I want to be with.*
- *This means I should be able to choose my own friends*
- *This means I should have education in the area of healthy sexuality.*

10) THE RIGHT TO A SUPPORT PERSON WHO IS SUPPORTIVE

- *This means I should know who my support person is at all times.*
- *This means I should get help when I need help.*
- *This means my supports (staff/volunteers/students) should treat me with respect.*
- *This means staff should always be there to help with my needs.*
- *This means my support person should know my strengths, challenges, likes, and dislikes.*
- *This means I should hear good things about myself from my support person.*
- *This means I want to be spoken to with respect.*
- *This means I may need to educate people on how I want to be treated.*
- *This means I want to be informed of issues involving me.*
- *This means I wanted to be treated like everyone else .*
- *This means I want people to tell me the truth.*
- *This means support persons should be supportive to each other and not talking behind someone's back, especially in front of me or my coworkers.*
- *This means I should not be pre-judged because of my past.*
- *This means staff should be encouraging and supportive at all times.*

11) THE RIGHT TO BE SAFE FOR WORK

- *This means I want to be free from abuse and neglect.*
- *This means I should not be ignored; staff should not be talking and/or socializing with each other or on the computer doing personal things when it is my time.*
- *This means I have the right to say “no” if I feel I may be in danger.*
- *This means I may need to leave the work area to go to quiet spot to calm myself.*
- *This means I may need to leave the work area to go to quiet spot if someone else is upset or agitated.*
- *This means staff should listen when I bring safety concerns to them.*
- *This means I should have education on safety issues such as first aid, fire safety, WHMIS, and/or proper lifting.*
- *This means I should be part of the health and safety committee.*