

Microboards

A microboard consists of a small group of people selected by an individual with special needs or their family, to become life-long advocates. Some families with special needs children choose to use microboards to broaden the advocacy group around their child as they become an adult. Microboards often consist of a few selected friends, family members or acquaintances, who are invited by the family or special needs person to be part of their board. These persons usually are invited because they are committed to:

- knowing the person over time
- having a reciprocal relationship with the individual

Relationships are the most important component of a microboard. In B.C., a minimum of five people must be on the microboard to satisfy the legal requirement for the Provincial Society Act. It is a good idea not to have too many people on the microboard as this can become unmanageable as well. Many parents who use microboards have indicated that they feel comforted knowing that there is a network of other caring people who are there to support their child, should something happen to them. Also, some families find it helpful to have other close people to assist with sorting out care issues and exploring resources for their child who is now a young adult. The responsibilities are often spread throughout the group instead of falling on one person's shoulders

VELA is a group funded by the Ministry to assist families in creating a microboard. They will do this free of charge for families. As part of this process, they also offer to assist in facilitating a PATH for the special needs individual.

For more information about microboards and VELA, check out the web site:

<http://www.microboard.org/whatis.html>



Microboards can consist of former school staff (who are close to the student), friends and extended family.

This forms a close network to surround the individual as they move through their adult lives.