

NB Family Leadership Sessions: Weekend 2

From March 25th to March 27th, Inclusion Canada and Inclusion NB staff and the National Training Team joined families and self-advocates in Miramichi, NB, to deliver weekend 2 of the 5-part leadership series.

Day 1: Check-in and Intro to the Weekend

It had been a few months since participants saw each other in person, so the evening began with checking in and catching up with one another. The national training team introduced the weekend's theme, Visioning and Taking Action, through videos and a presentation. The evening ended with some more (and much-needed!) socialization.

Day 2: Crafting a vision

Saturday morning kicked off with two presentations by parents Janet Leslie and Bruce Uditsky, to share their experiences of being a parent to a person with an intellectual disability and how their vision for their family member has influenced their life. For the remainder of the morning, family members and self-advocates had the opportunity to think about their own vision for their family member or themselves. They were prompted to think about what a fully inclusive life would look like and how their own vision can affect this.

After some small and large group discussions, the afternoon was spent crafting the vision and thinking about the necessary steps they would need to take to make this a reality. Participants then had the opportunity to share their ideas with others.

After a long but productive day, participants, facilitators, and the national training team shared a meal together. They ended the evening with a maritime kitchen party featuring a fiddle and some wooden spoons!

Day 3: Moving forward

The final day of weekend 2 began with prompting families and self-advocates to look inward at their own vulnerabilities and identify barriers that may prevent them from moving forward with visioning an inclusive life for them or their family member. Finally, participants discussed some solutions to these barriers in small groups and ended the morning with a presentation by Bruce Uditsky on the need for a renewed grassroots social movement.