

St. Amant Research Centre's Vision and Strategic Directions

The Research Centre's vision is *a nationally recognized, interdisciplinary, and sustained research and knowledge resource centre for developmental disabilities serving the whole community*. Four elements of the St. Amant Research Centre's vision guide the strategic directions of the Centre from 2008 to 2013.

A Comprehensive Knowledge Resource Centre In addition to creating new knowledge, researchers need to deliver useful knowledge to influence practice for caregivers, practitioners, and policymakers whose decisions affect the lives of people living with developmental disabilities. The Centre's interdisciplinary research team is uniquely equipped and positioned to collaborate with stakeholders and to develop a knowledge translation process for developmental disabilities.

A Diverse and Growing Research Network The Research Centre's relationships with community stakeholders and other researchers are vital to its success in becoming a knowledge resource centre. Our Community Advisory Group provides valuable input from diverse perspectives and our Research Affiliates who are distinguished researchers from across Canada contribute to the creation of important new knowledge. The Research Centre strives to build on the existing network.

A Sustained Research Institution A secure foundation is needed to support the rapidly growing activities of current and future researchers. The Centre pursues permanent infrastructure funding to build on the support from our current partners.

An Effectively Shared Identity Communicating the Centre's identity to the community is important to raise awareness and support of developmental disabilities research. The Research Centre does so accurately, effectively, and with a diverse audience.

The Centre's mission is to improve the quality of life of people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities through research. We believe that all people, including those with an intellectual/developmental disability, have a right to develop to their fullest potential and to become as independent as possible in all areas of their lives. We also believe that research is essential for the development of environments that emphasize dignity and respect for each person, that enable the individuals to make choices and take reasonable risks, and that will enhance their quality of life and sense of worth as valued members of our society. We value partnerships with others interested in research because combined efforts are more likely to achieve each partner's desired outcomes.