



Friends of Inclusion,

On January 29, 2021, the Manitoba government announced the closure of the Manitoba Developmental Centre. We extend special thanks to Premier Pallister, Minister Squires and Minister Stefanson for recognizing the rights of people to live in the community as equal citizens. An authentic democracy includes all citizens.

The journey to close institutions has been led by People First of Canada, Inclusion Canada and their associated chapters and provincial and territorial branches. Self-advocate David Weremy from People First of Manitoba, has been just one of scores of people who have advocated over decades for an end to institutional care.

Since the Welcome Home initiative in the 1980's, the closure of Pelican Lake in December of 2000 and the significant downsizing of MDC and St. Amant, self-advocates have fought for their rights and families have supported their family member to have a good life. They have been joined by a cast of people from advocacy and service provider organizations, community members, legal organizations, service providers, government, media, and students. There have been significant events including filing the Human Rights Complaint, the Freedom Tour, demonstrations on the steps of the legislature. Every person played a key role.

We want to acknowledge the collective efforts of the many people who have been on this path together, and we want to hear your stories about the people, past and present, who championed the closure of the Manitoba Development Centre. We are asking for the names and stories of people who should be acknowledged, celebrated and noted for historical purposes. Please send an email to info@inclusionwinnipeg.org and in the subject note: Champions of Freedom OR send us a direct message on facebook.