



New Story Group Members

Our members represent a range of organizations and areas of interest, including families, developmental disabilities, aging, immigrants and New Canadians, health and well-being, mental health, and neighbourhood development.

John Lord, Chair

Lorna Aberdein, Plan Lifetime Networks

Marg Cybulski, Waterloo Regional Homes for Mental Health

Cameron Dearlove, The Family Centre

Darla Fortune, University of Waterloo

Tracy Franks, KW Habilitation Services

Sharon Froehlich, Research & Community Collaboration

Barb Hill, KidsAbility - Centre of Excellence

Janet Howitt, Immigration Partnership

Jenny House, Disability Leader

Susan Lott, Facile Waterloo Region

Marie-Pascale Desjardins, Community member

Stephanie Prysruk, Disability Leader

Verlyn Rowett, Planned Lifetime Networks

Roz Vincent-Haven, Family Leader

Kim Schnarr, Community Care Access Centre

Sue Simpson, Waterloo Region Family Network

Niki Stevenson, Extend-A-Family Waterloo Region

Yesenia Torres, Community Support Connections

Anne Yardley, Plan Lifetime Networks

The New Story Group of Waterloo Region



Building a New Story Toward
Inclusion & Belonging

The New Story Group of Waterloo Region

Supporting Disenfranchised Citizens in Our Community

Vision

Waterloo Region is a welcoming community, valuing all people so they can participate in, and contribute fully to, community life.

Values

These values shape the philosophy and guide the activities of The New Story Group.

- **Inclusion/Belonging**
Full involvement in community for all
- **Choice**
The opportunity to make self-determined choices
- **Respect**
Mutual respect and kindness for all
- **Full Citizenship**
Valued membership in community
- **Collaboration /Partnerships**
Working well together with others
- **Relationships**
Social networks and friendships
- **Uniqueness**
The individuality of each person



Background • History • Accomplishments

As a grass-roots organization, The New Story Group of Waterloo Region is dedicated to building inclusive communities where every community member has an opportunity to experience belonging.

Many in Waterloo Region are trying to figure out how to enhance belonging. Many are asking: What does belonging mean? What does it look like? And how do we nurture it?

By taking part in conversations about belonging, The New Story Group has heard various stories and concerns.

- Seniors are living alone and are very isolated.
- People with mental health issues are lonely and have few friends.
- New Canadians need support to enhance their sense of belonging.
- Civic engagement seems to be at an all-time low.
- Some neighbourhoods are welcoming and others are not.

The New Story Group supports and develops projects such as:

- **The Waterloo Region Family Network**
Supporting the families of children with special needs.
- **Facile: Independent Facilitation Waterloo Region**
Assisting people with disabilities and their families to plan for and build a good life in the community.
- **The Belonging Conversations**

