

NW SCLS Agencies

GP's Mitch Cunningham

By Darlene Dube, NABIS' NW Regional Manager

It has been an interesting year, with employee competition wars with the private sector and public sector for wages. SCLS Contractors have had their share of issues. In spite of that, NABIS has managed to enlist agreement with three agencies in the Northwest that have been of great assistance to us. As we work towards creating more partnerships, our Supports for Community Living Service Contractors will continue to grow.

Marigold Enterprises

Located in High Prairie they have served individuals with Brain Injury Since December 2003. They, as many other agencies have had changes in staff, but have been able to keep up the great service they have provided to NABIS' clientele.



Hazel Hannem is the staff member who now is working with the individuals in the High Prairie area. She currently supports three clients, one that has housing issues, and she is supporting them to do daily living activities. She has worked in the disability related field for seven years for Marigold Enterprises.

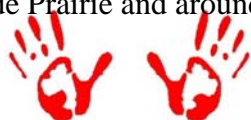
Peace Choices Unlimited

Located in Peace River, Peace Choices has newly joined our SCLS entourage. **Marj Briscoe** joins us with a great knowledge of Client Services, as she is the owner operator of her business. It is great to have Marj on board.



K-BRI Solutions

Located in Drayton Valley, K-Bri has been an SCLS Contractor with NABIS serving the Edmonton Region since early 2004. Agency Director **Brian Freier** has expanded his team to provide service in the Northwest. His staff work in Grande Prairie and around the High Prairie, Donnelly area.



By Maria Agunias & Carey Williams, SC Grande Prairie

His athletic prowess rated a two page spread in a 1999 special feature in a local newspaper, as the writer, George Hardy, wowed over Mitch Cunningham's completing of each of Alberta's seven different marathons. Mitch is a survivor of a horrendous brain injury in 1990, the result of a motor vehicle collision. Supported by his then fiancé, Angela Patterson, Mitch's two weeks in coma led to a long path of recovery which involved hospital, rehabilitation, reconstructive surgeries and will power. A few years after his accident, Mitch, who missed his sports involvement, decided to focus his determination on running. Marathoning utilized his self-discipline, focus and perseverance, qualities he'd drawn upon plenty during his recovery. Mitch, no quitter, returned to his job as a prison guard in Grande Cache a mere nine months after the near-fatal accident, despite difficulties he'd had to overcome with mobility, speech and report writing.

Mitch's recent accomplishments have been numerous, and the NABIS staff here at the Grande Prairie office site are proud to share his personal triumphs. Mitch is a true inspiration to all who know him. Three years ago, Mitch made a courageous and challenging move as he left the Correctional Services



department and joined the laborious and intensive oilfield industry, where he has been steadily employed. A big transition! Mitch has been quite successful as a hotshot and shop assistant and finds much satisfaction in his work. Besides, Mitch continues to run marathons, as he has for the last 12 years. In June, 2007, Mitch completed the 10 mile Brian Harms Memorial Run in Grande Prairie. Despite Mitch's hard work, a bout of the flu caught up with him. This, however, did not stop Mitch from completing the Daily Herald Tribune Press 10 km run later that month where he won 1st place in his age group. *Way to go Mitch!!* Unfortunately, following that marathon run, Mitch came down with second stage pneumonia. He has since recovered quite well. Today, Mitch is working hard at his job and is intensively training for his 18th marathon. Aug. 25th, Mitch will be participating in Edmonton's Capital City Festival 42.2 km marathon! **Best of luck, Mitch!**

We'll be rooting for you all the way!!