

## Welcome

Welcome to the May edition of the Nidus Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed of upcoming events, Registry news, tips on personal planning and progress of our projects.

April proved to be a busy month for the Nidus team. Not only were new resources and videos developed (both of which are featured in this month's newsletter), but we also saw the 10th Anniversary of the Representation Agreement Act highlighted on the Attorney General's [website](#) along with the photo below.

We hope you enjoy the features in this month's newsletter. You can check out previous editions of the Newsletter, including the March Anniversary Edition, [HERE](#).



(Front row L-R): Bob Geddes, Attorney General Michael de Jong, QC.  
(Back row L-R): Arlene Schouten, representative for Bob Geddes, Joanne Taylor, Executive Director of the Nidus Personal Planning Resource Centre and Registry, Melissa Simard and her representative Cherilynne Simard.

## Enduring Power of Attorney – A Personal Planning Tool for Financial and Legal Matters

Nidus has developed a new Enduring Power of Attorney fact sheet to bring you some important information you need to know for personal planning, like:

- Having a Will and everything joint with your spouse is not enough!
- A Bank Power of Attorney may be convenient but has limited use.
- An Enduring Power of Attorney does not cover health care.

## Nidus is on Twitter!

Follow us on Twitter for the latest news and updates!



## Registry Tip

Have you reviewed your legal documents lately? It is always a good idea to review all of your legal documents every two to three years. Circumstances may have changed since you first made your legal documents; check to be sure they are up to date!

## Frequently Asked Question...

Do my spouse and I each have to make our own Enduring Power of Attorney and Representation Agreement?

**Yes.** It is the same as making a Will. Each person has to make their own documents. Often spouses will name each other as well as an adult child to ensure they have a back-up. People will often name the same person as their executor (in the Will), their attorney (in the Enduring Power of Attorney) and their representative (in the Representation Agreement). This can provide continuity as each legal document covers different types of things.

## Representation Agreements and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Nidus recently completed a project to explore how adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and their personal supporters may use Representation Agreements as a tool for supported decision making.

Now the answers to your most common questions about Enduring Powers of Attorney are just a click away! Read the Nidus fact sheet on Enduring Power of Attorney [HERE](#).

The People's Law School offers a publication on Power of Attorney which you can find [HERE](#).

## **Announcing the Nidus Self-Help Course to Make and Register a Representation Agreement with Standard Powers**

Nidus is excited to introduce our NEW Nidus Self-Help Course to Make and Register a Representation Agreement with Standard Powers.

The Nidus Self-Help Course includes a questionnaire, tutorial and appointment with Nidus staff, as well as the legal forms required to make a Representation Agreement with standard powers.

If you or someone you know is interested in making and registering a Representation Agreement with standard powers, click [HERE](#) to read more.

## **Nidus Video on Making and Registering a Representation Agreement with Standard Powers**

Have you ever wondered what is involved in making and registering a Representation Agreement? Are you unsure of where to start or what you need to think about?

Nidus is pleased to announce a new video called, "Making and Registering a Representation Agreement with Standard Powers: Bruce's Story Part 2."

You might recall Bruce from last month's newsletter. Nidus introduced Bruce and his mother June to our readers just as they were learning about the difference between Representation Agreements and Adult Guardianship. If you have not already watched it, you can watch Bruce's Story Part 1 [HERE](#).

Now you can watch Bruce and his supporters as they learn more about Representation Agreements in Bruce's Story Part 2 [HERE](#).

## **Nidus - A Key Stop on European Study Tour**



with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and their personal supporters may use Representation Agreements as a tool for supported decision making.

You can read more about the project in the following publications:

- Project Report Summary [HERE](#)
- Fact Sheet on Representation Agreements and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions [HERE](#)
- Research paper titled, *Experiences of adults living with FASD and their personal supporters in making and using a Representation Agreement* [HERE](#)

Nidus would like to thank the community groups who assisted with hosting and organizing information workshops and Dr. Deborah Rutman who oversaw the research and evaluation components of this exploratory project.

Thank you to the Victoria Foundation, FASD Action Fund, for funding this project.



## **Recent Words of Praise**

*Thank you very much. The website is a wealth of information, and the videos are well done. I will be passing the website on to my friends and acquaintances, many of whom are dealing with the same issues concerning their aging parents and relatives.*  
—Individual helping relatives

On April 12, Nidus met with guests from the Czech Republic, Ireland, Austria, and Greece, who were participating in a study tour organized by the Canadian and British Columbian Associations for Community Living to learn about supported decision making and see it in practise.

During the meeting, Nidus shared 20 years of experience about navigating the law reform of British Columbia's adult guardianship legislation, which led to the creation of the Representation Agreement Act. Nidus also shared examples of how Representation Agreements are made and used as a tool for supported decision making.

Thanks to the Community Legal Assistance Society for providing space for the meeting as well as CLAS staff lawyer and participant, Diane Nielsen, with the Mental Health Law Program. ([Visit their website here](#))



## Gold Star Awards

This month's Gold Star Award goes to Executive Director Richard Ashton, and Family Support Worker Arlene Schouten, of [MSA Society for Community Living](#) in Abbotsford, for their leadership in promoting supported decision making and Representation Agreements.

Nearly 10 years ago, as the Representation Agreement Act came into effect, Richard saw the potential of this new legal tool and created a new position dedicated to assisting individuals and their supporters to learn about, make and use Representation Agreements. Arlene has been in this position since the beginning.

One of the unique features of this initiative is that the service is not only available to those connected to the MSA Society, it also serves adults in the broader community. Thanks to the MSA Board of Directors, Richard and Arlene!

- [Nidus is a non-profit, charitable organization.](#)
- [Nidus is a Latin term for nest: a symbol of safety, support and self-development.](#)
- [Nidus promotes Alternatives to Adult Guardianship by helping people learn how to make a legal plan.](#)
- [Learn about Representation Agreements, Enduring Powers of Attorney and Living Wills/Advance Directives.](#)
- [Register your legal plan with Nidus so it is available when needed.](#)

*I have sent this [newsletter] to all our staff who appreciate the clarity, the info and photo (so nice to see a picture!)  
—Community Living Association*

*Your organization helps so many vulnerable seniors by providing guidance and information about topics that are sometimes very confusing.  
—Caregiver Support Program*

*Thank you for your help with this process; it has been a very beneficial and important step in moving [our daughter's] life forward now that she has turned 19. —Parent*

*I just can't tell you what an incredible relief it has been to have the time and energy and support that Nidus has given. I really do mean that. I am very grateful. —Representative*

**Thank you to our current project funders:**



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### ContactUs:

411 Dunsmuir Street  
Vancouver, BC V6B 1X4  
tel 604.408.7414  
toll free 1.877.267.5552  
fax 604.801.5506  
email [info@nidus.ca](mailto:info@nidus.ca)  
[www.nidus.ca](http://www.nidus.ca)