

Nidus at International Summit on Accessibility

The Zero Project Conference held in Vienna, Austria last month was a huge success! The conference, a new venture sponsored by the World Future Council and Austria's Essl Foundation is working toward a world with zero barriers for people with disabilities. One of the strategies for achieving this goal is researching and promoting policies from around the world that provide the best hope for eliminating barriers. British Columbia's Representation Agreement Act was chosen as one of these best policies by a scientific advisory panel to the World Future Council. Nidus Board President, Christine Gordon, presented the Representation Agreement Act at a workshop during the two-day International Summit on Accessibility.



Attendees at Zero Project Conference in Vienna, Austria.

New for Nidus in 2012

Things are already in high gear at Nidus as we near the end of the first quarter for 2012. We have a new office address, new brochures and new tools to help you make your legal documents. Keep reading for more details.





New Mailing Address

As of March 1, 2012, the Nidus mailing address is:

1440 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver BC, V6H 1M8

Note, we do not have our own reception, so please do not hand deliver items or drop-in to this address without making an appointment first. The rest of our contact information (phone number, fax number, and email address) will remain the same and is provided at the end of this newsletter.

Stay Connected

-  Follow us on [Twitter](#)
-  Like us on [Facebook](#)
-  View us on [Tumblr](#)
-  Watch us on [Nidus TV](#)

Registry Tip

Did you store a copy of your document when you registered it with the Nidus Personal Planning Registry?

Fortunately Nina did (name and identifying details changed for privacy). Recently, the Nidus Registrar received a call from a social worker at the ICU (Intensive Care Unit) asking if Nina had registered an Agreement as she had suffered a heart attack and important decisions might need to be made soon. The representatives were at the hospital but did not have a copy with them.

Nina had made an Agreement in 2006 through Nidus and it was registered. Nidus provided a secure copy to the social worker who put it in Nina's hospital chart.

A representative's authority comes from the Representation Agreement, so having a copy available was necessary. It was especially important in this case as the Agreement stated that a specific family member must not be involved. Without the Agreement, that family member might have been contacted to act as Nina's Temporary Substitute Decision Maker as they were ranked higher on the default list than the people named as representatives, who were friends.

See our new [Registry fact sheet](#), or go to www.nidus.ca/registry



New Brochures

Nidus has developed two brochures to help raise public awareness about personal planning. One brochure is geared to adults who are planning for the **future**. The other brochure is for those who are supporting adults who need **help today**. If you are interested in distributing these through your organization, please use the order form at the following link: www.nidus.ca/PDFs/Nidus_Brochure_order_form.pdf

New Forms

The Custom RA9 Program is now online. A Representation Agreement with Section 9 Broader Powers is for adults who can make their own health care and personal care decisions now but want to plan for the **future** in case they need help. Nidus offers a basic form on our website to download for free as well as customized forms. A customized RA9 form is \$75.00, which includes the fee to register the completed document with the Nidus Personal Planning Registry. For details about your options and links to access the forms, please see the [RA9 Preparation Guide and Forms](#).

For adults who need **help today** with managing their financial affairs and making health and personal care decisions, see the Representation Agreement [Section 7 Preparation Guide and Forms](#).

Supported Decision Making Reduces Barriers

by Christine Gordon, Nidus Board President

I was honoured to be invited to present the Representation Agreement on behalf of Nidus at the first international Zero Project Conference in Vienna on January 22 and 23, 2012.

The conference was attended by 300 invited guests from every corner of the world and it took place in a regal palace in the heart of Vienna. Most of the conference participants were innovators, theorists, policy makers and activists and each brought deep knowledge of their respective country's policies and practices. In the two workshops where I presented the Representation Agreement, there was great interest in British Columbia (so big and romantic to most Europeans) and even greater interest in how we had managed to achieve the Representation Agreement's innovative vision of capability and supported decision making.

Questions from our Readers

Q. *My mother has a Representation Agreement registered with Nidus. She was given an Advance Care Plan to fill out when she was in hospital recently. Is it the same as what she already has?*

A. No. A Representation Agreement is a legal document; an Advance Care Plan is not. However, your mother may decide to use an Advance Care Plan to list values and wishes to guide her representative if they have to act on her behalf.

Your mother is not required by law to fill out an Advance Care Plan.

More about Advance Care Planning

Advance Care Planning is a term used by Health Authorities to promote planning about **health care**. Nidus uses the term personal planning to promote planning for **all areas** of your life: health care, personal care, legal affairs and financial affairs. See our diagram of how these fit together: [Types of Planning](#).

The Advance Care Planning Guide includes an Advance Care Plan document. It has a place to list possible Temporary Substitute Decision Makers (TSDMs). These are the people who might be called on when you are incapable and a health care decision has to be made and you do not have a Representation Agreement.

The Advance Care Plan also invites you to write out beliefs, values and wishes. These can serve as a guide to your representative or a TSDM.

A representative or TSDM must follow your wishes and values however they are expressed – verbally or in writing. These can be written in any type of format. The Advance Care Plan is one type of format.

My presentation focused on the importance of the ground up process in designing and implementing the Representation Agreement and the crucial role that has been played by Nidus, in creating a center of excellence for practice.



Presentation by **Ms Christine Gordon** (second from right), Chairperson of Nidus Personal Planning Resource Centre and Registry, British Columbia, Canada. Panelists (from left): **Ms Lana Kerzner**, Lawyer, Canada; **Dr Eilionóir Flynn**, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Disability Law and Policy, National University of Ireland Galway; **Mr Albert Brandstätter**, Executive Director of the Lebenshilfe Austria; **Mr Charles Siegal**, Lawyer and Member of the Human Rights Committee of the International Law Association

Many of the key note presentations at the Conference assessed how well the world is doing in implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The record of achievement has been slow and disappointing, so our experience in British Columbia with a grass roots process and a tool like the Representation Agreement that is fully inclusive was deeply encouraging to the conference participants and seen as a beacon of hope. In a communication from the Zero Project organizers immediately after the conference, we learned that the host country Austria "has started to promote the BC Act as a good example for a further development and reform of the Austrian Guardianship legislation." Similar efforts are underway in Ireland, where the B.C. experience has been closely studied.

To see more photos from the Zero Project Conference, check out our [Tumblr](#) site.

ContactUs:

Starting March 1, 2012, our new mailing address is:

1440 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver BC, V6H 1M8

tel 604.408.7414 | t.free 1.877.267.5552 | fax 604.801.5506

info@nidus.ca | www.nidus.ca

Survey Tracks "55+" Attitudes About the Environment

An international survey tracking the attitudes of those over 55 to the environment is being led by Simon Fraser University's Gerontology Research Centre (GRC) and the University of York's (UK) Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI).

The EnviroSurvey55 aims to identify difficulties that people over age 55 face in personally taking action to reduce their environmental footprint. It will be conducted from February 1 – March 31, 2012, and anyone over the age of 55 is invited to complete it by visiting www.envirosurvey55.com.

Nidus is a Latin term for nest: a symbol of safety, support and self-development.

Personal Planning:

[Pur-suh-nl plan-ing]

verb – the act of making one or more legal documents that authorize your personal supporters to help you manage your affairs or make decisions on your behalf if you need assistance due to illness, injury or disability:
Carla is gathering information about personal planning because she is aging and concerned about maintaining her independence.

Personal planning is different from estate planning in that personal planning is about making arrangements for while you are alive, whereas estate planning is about making arrangements for after your death.