

North Halton accessibility group asking for support to keep motor running

Community Living North Halton is appealing to the public for help to keep its motor running with the onset of winter nearing.

The organization, which supports the choices and personal growth of individuals with developmental disabilities, has a fleet of five wheelchair-accessible vehicles to transport the 20 individuals participating in CLNH programs in Halton Hills and Milton.

One of the vans, a 2006 Chevrolet Uplander with more than 200,000 km on the odometer, has no heat and severe rust has formed on one of its side ramps.

Linda Hunt, community partnership co-ordinator &

residential manager for CLNH, explained that the Uplander is beyond the point of being financially feasible to repair and that two other vans are also in a crucial state of roadworthiness.

The cost to purchase a new integrated transportation vehicle is \$70,214. The problem is, we don't have \$70,214, she said.

The consequences of having to pull the vehicle out of service will likely result in longer wait times or cancelled trips for the vans passengers, many of whom rely on CLNH and the Town's ActiVan to participate in activities in the community and maintain relationships with family and friends, Hunt added.

It's not fun being stranded here, said Misty Pritchett, who travels back and forth from her mother's home in Milton and the CLNH building on Todd Rd. in Georgetown, which is also home to Horizon Packaging.

I use the van to see my mom and to go to Voice Committee meetings, where we get together to discuss things that we need. And right now we need a van.

CLNH has started up a four-month fundraising campaign starting Dec. 1 for a new van, dubbed Help get our motor running, at the Canadahelps website: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/pages/help-get-our-motor-running/>



These four members of Community Living North Halton use one of the organization's five vans on nearly a daily basis and three of those vehicles are in dire need of repair and in the case of one of the vans, replacement. From left are Misty Pritchett, Nancy Garrison, Adam Partyka and Andrew MacPhee.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

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