

Tina Hjorngaard works as a mental health support worker, advocating for adults with mental illness in supportive housing. In her personal life, she is the parent of a 9-year-old girl, Mika, who has cerebral palsy. Tina relied on her strong advocacy and education skills when her daughter made the transition from a centre-based education program to the regular public school system in Toronto in September 2005. She approached this transition with a vision of what she would like for their daughter, and other children: full inclusion in an integrated educational setting providing her with an opportunity to learn and to be part of a social group. Tina is a self-described activist and advocate for equal opportunity.