

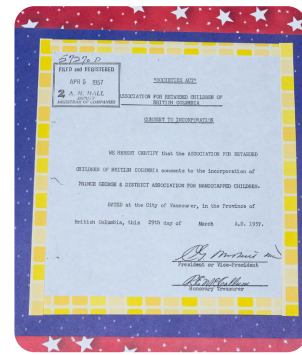
# Discover AiMHi's History

## The Founding and Evolution of AiMHi

All information included in this timeline was found in the history books at the Main Office. Specific dates are from news articles and documents. Where no date details were available, information is included by the year or decade.

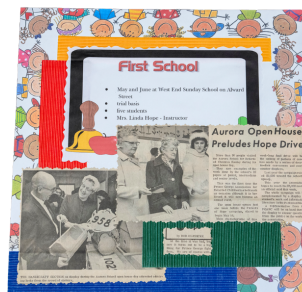
1950s

**1955** –The first meeting was held at a health unit that consisted of 3 set of parents, a medical doctor, and a public nurse.  
**March 29, 1957** – Under the “Societies Act” the Association for Retarded Children in British Columbia consents to be incorporated to PG and District Association for Handicapped Children.  
**June 21, 1958** –The two-room Aurora School was built in one day on what is now the Harwin School grounds. Seventy tradesman arranged by the Kiwanis Club donated their time. The cost of the project was \$14,000, but with some materials and the labour donated, the cost of the project was \$5,000. The tradesman started at 3am and finished by 9pm. Association Board meetings were held at the school.



1960s

**February 12, 1962** – Third name change to PG and District Association for Retarded Children. Aurora Services moves to 5th Avenue, where it has room to accommodate 20 clients. At the time there was one paid worker and four part-time volunteers.  
**Oct 12, 1965** – Aurora School made a motion to SD57 to be fully-operated by the District. At this time there were 22 students, 3 full-time and 2 part-time teachers, 1 janitor, 1 bus driver, and a 25-passenger bus. The financing for school in 1964 was \$15,619.53.  
**May 9, 1967** – Aurora Industries now has 40 people supported and producing furniture, crafts, Christmas decorations, and the very popular Mr. PG's.



1970s

**1972** – Name change to Prince George and District Association for the Retarded.  
**1978** – Aurora Industries adds an extension to its woodworking shop – Northern Lights Woodworking  
**1979** – Name change to Prince George Association for Retarded Persons.  
**1979** – AiMHi introduces The Infant Development Program. Referrals came from doctors, parents, social workers, and public health nurses.



1980s

**1980** – Name change to Prince George Association for Handicapped Persons.  
**1982** – Name change to Prince George Association for Individuals with Mental Handicaps.  
**February 1982** – A press release was issued stating the first group home will be the home for 5 clients. The opening sentence to the press release was “An ordinary house on an ordinary Prince George street will be the home to 5 clients.”  
**June 1983** – Canadian Tire was the first local retailer to hire two individuals from Aurora Industries to work in the stock department. The feedback was these individuals were “quite accepted.”  
**June 25, 1986** – AiMHi sets the standard in the province. AiMHi plays a leading role in initiating new government programs and services throughout B.C. The B.C. Ministry of Health issued handicapped people their own Charter of Rights. The government is of one mind to put the “statement of philosophy” into practice. The statement guarantees handicapped people and their families the right to make choices and decisions as to lifestyles and goals.  
**June 28, 1986** – Northern Lights Woodworking Ltd, which employs AiMHi clients, opens a showroom at AiMHi's ticket center at Fifth Avenue and Dominion Street. Furniture made from Lodgepole Pine consisted of bedroom and living room furniture, as well as patio furniture.  
**1986/87** (specific date unknown) – AiMHi unionizes under the BCGEU. At the time there were 92 employees.  
**July 1987** – AiMHi “breaks the rules” by going against Ministry of Health government law when they placed 2 clients into the Ospika adult home rather than placing them in an institution. Both clients aged out of children's residence (age 19) and due to being re-classed to non-ambulatory adults, they were meant to be institutionalized.  
**Sept 16, 1989** – An article announces Aurora Industries closes their doors to sheltered employment after 30 years. AiMHi committed to the naturalization and integration of clients in the community.



1990s

**1990** – Latest name change for the Agency – Prince George Association for Community Living  
**Sept 15 1996** – The first camp outing at Ness Lake. It was four days of fun and laughter. Some of the activities were tie-dying tee shirts and dancing, and lifeguards were available for swimming. All together 30 people served attended this great event.  
**January 29, 1999** – AiMHi puts a proposal in motion to the City to purchase 2.5 acres of a 20 acre parcel of land on the corner of Fifth & Tabor. A \$2M office building would be built to bring the agency in one location.  
**Feb 8, 1999** – City Council voted “Yes” to start negotiations.



2000s

**July 26, 2001** – AiMHi has a family picnic at Fort George Park  
**October 2001** – Mayor Colin Kingsley makes a proclamation that October is Community Living Month.  
**November 18, 2001** – The Self Advocate at AiMHi speaks out to support the end of the 3-month transit strike. She states “Our phones are ringing off the hook from people who need rides to get to their Life Skills classes.”  
**Dec 7, 2001** – AiMHi rallies on the lawn of City Hall regarding the proposed cut of 30% to the Ministry of Children and Family. An estimated 200 protesters from people supported to employees showed their support for Community Living programs.  
**December 5, 2003** – AiMHi achieved its first 3-year Accreditation by CARF  
**February 27, 2004** – Hosted a Community Forum at the AiMHi Focus Centre. The goal of the forum was to gather feedback from the community based on three questions:

- What does AiMHi do well?
- What could AiMHi improve?
- What could community services look like in the future?

**April 14, 2005** – AiMHi has a grand opening in the new location of 950 Kerry Street!



2020s

