

## 7.3 BEHAVIOURAL INTERVENTIONS

### Our Commitment

The Association regards behaviours as a natural means of both communication and personal expression. In our view, the goal of establishing so-called “normal” behaviours is neither a necessary nor sufficient reason for behavioural intervention. As with any citizen, those receiving our services have the right to conduct themselves in whatever manner they so choose, provided they are neither harming themselves nor others.

At the same time, we are committed to ensuring that the following principles are evident in all our services to individuals:

- > Their safety and well-being
- > Their rights, dignity and quality of life
- > The promotion of learning
- > The provision of opportunities for community involvement and inclusion

Consistent with these principles, we see our role as assisting persons to find the most meaningful and effective means to communicate with others, and to build bridges to communities, cultures, and individuals that are of importance to them.

We believe that a proactive response to challenging behaviours begins with:

1. Building self-esteem and positively reinforcing the person’s strengths and abilities in daily interactions
2. Considering medical and environmental factors
3. Supporting the individual to develop more effective methods of communication
4. Supporting the individual to acquire general skills for coping with day to day living
5. Having meaningful dialogue with the individual in order to both understand him or her better, and to provide assurances that they are important and valued.

In cases where intervention practices are required for the safety of the individual and those around him or her, they will at all times be implemented with empathy and respect, and with consideration for the person’s physical and emotional needs. Where possible, consensus will be established with stakeholders prior to the establishment of a behaviour intervention strategy, and input will be sought from professional and qualified persons with respect to the particulars of the strategy.