

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1) Why did you change your name?

The sector we work in is changing quickly. For example, people choose their own services more often now than before. Through research, we found that people who know us really appreciate Christian Horizons' history and our commitment to excellence. People who don't know us are often confused by our name. They might mistake us for a church, think they're not welcome here, or feel unsure about what we actually do.

It is because of our core values and our commitment to our Christian identity that we want *everybody* to know that they will experience belonging here. We have changed our name to invite a conversation about what we care about and to be more specific about the services we provide. This name change will help us to be better prepared for our future while celebrating our rich history and commitment to our values, vision, and mission.

### 2) How did you decide that a name change would be beneficial?

In 2022, we started asking questions to learn how people viewed us as an organization. We wanted to know what and how people think about Christian Horizons. We wanted to hear if we were doing a good job sharing our work and if people were experiencing our core values, like belonging.

It was a big project! We hired people who are experts in this area. We asked questions of over 1,000 people through a survey. People who responded included employees, people who use our services, funders, people who work in the disability services sector, and people who donate to the work we do. Then we met with nine groups across Ontario and Saskatchewan to really focus on the important questions.

We worked closely with our Board of Directors and our founding family along the way. We were committed to staying true to our Christian faith roots and to our values, vision, and mission. By the end of 2022, we decided that changing our name was the best way forward.

### **3) Can you explain the meaning and significance of the new name, Karis Disability Services?**

Our name “Karis” is from the Greek word “*charis*” and can mean grace, favour, loving-kindness, and is related to the word gift. Karis expresses our conviction that all people have value and unique God-given gifts to share. Everybody is a gracious gift to their communities, and their communities are not whole without them or the gifts they share. So this name reflects both our legacy and our future.

“Disability Services” clearly describes what we do. We come alongside people with disabilities. We embrace the word “disability” as an important aspect of human diversity. The word “disability” is the preferred term within our communities. We celebrate the people we journey with and their unique identities and gifts.

### **4) Are you maintaining your Christian identity?**

Yes. Our new name continues to represent our core values and our identity, firmly rooted in the Christian faith. We believe that all people are made in the image of God and are loved and valued equally.

Our name is changing, but our values are staying the same. As an expression of our beliefs, *we work together with people who have disabilities to accomplish their goals and nurture communities where everybody belongs.* Karis Disability Services has an incredible faith-rooted legacy that will continue under this new name.

### **5) Is anything else changing other than your name?**

Karis Disability Services has a long history of coming alongside people with disabilities and delivering the care and support that people need to thrive. None of this will change! As the largest provider of developmental services in Canada, we will continue to be a reliable and innovative partner and service provider for decades to come.

### **6) When will all these changes happen?**

The changes to our organization started yesterday and will continue to roll out over the next year. Our current website, [www.christian-horizons.org](http://www.christian-horizons.org), is still up and running and will serve us until our new site is ready. In the meantime, we have a homepage with our new name and new look at [www.karis.org](http://www.karis.org) that you can check out!

Our social media channels will change from Christian Horizons to Karis Disability Services on October 5, 2023.

The rest of the changes will be rolled out in phases, and by September 2024, we will have fully transitioned from Christian Horizons to Karis Disability Services. We look forward to how our new name will help build our vision of belonging!

**7) If I have questions about the rebrand, who can I contact?**

For any media inquiries, please reach out to [communications@karis.org](mailto:communications@karis.org).

For general inquiries, please reach out to [info@karis.org](mailto:info@karis.org).