

Federal Government to Discontinue PALS

**Information
is Power**

Our Services

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The Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS) is Canada's national survey that gathers information about adults and children whose daily activities are limited by a physical, mental, or other health-related condition. Data collected through this survey informs ongoing reporting and policy development regarding full participation in society for Canadians with disabilities. It also includes information on bodies that support research related to disability, such as the Canadian Institutes for Health Research and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

PALS is to be discontinued in 2011. The federal government plans to develop a new data collection strategy to provide timely, responsive and flexible data that is efficient and inclusive. The sample size of the new strategy will ensure the depth of data and data analysis that PALS has provided. Assurances have been given that the disability community will be consulted on the new strategy's design, and that end users of the data will also be engaged in its development.

The federal government has acknowledged some limitations and challenges posed by the new strategy, particularly related to data on children. ACCD urges the government to ensure that the new strategy finds ways of dealing

with this need, as well as the need for better data on Aboriginal people with disabilities.

ACCD is concerned by the reduced scale of the new strategy. While we understand and support the need for good labour force participation and health data, these are only two areas of concern for persons with disabilities. Data on access to services, education, poverty levels, availability of technical devices, sources of income, housing, and family relationships remain equally important to us.

PALS has been an important tool for the disability community, and it is the only source of reliable data on persons with disabilities available to researchers, governments, and the disability community. Good programs can only be developed and implemented with good data; and only through ongoing data collection can we determine over long-term periods whether programs are having positive impacts. PALS has been developed over the years through supported consultation with our community. ACCD urges the federal government to engage and seek input from the broad community of persons with disabilities, so that the new data collection strategy provides Canadians with a high level of quality statistical data regarding people with disabilities.



Information is Power

Our Services

Here at ACCD, we are dedicated to serving Albertans with disabilities, and we do this in a variety of ways. Whether we are conducting an accessibility audit, helping someone fill out AISH forms, or conducting disability-related research, our programs and services help people with disabilities to achieve full participation, accessibility, and equity in society.

Education and Awareness

ACCD educates individuals, organizations, legislators, schools, decision-makers, and employers about disability-related issues through presentations, accessibility audits, consultation, information services, and non-partisan election campaigns.

Accessibility Audits

ACCD provides accessibility audits for employers, public facilities, and other businesses to accommodate access for persons with disabilities. Our audits encourage businesses to make their facilities more accessible to persons with disabilities by increasing opportunities for greater access and full participation in the community. We are now working along with safety codes officers in the City of Edmonton during building inspections, and we are also consulting with designers and architects, to make sure that buildings are designed to be accessible before the ground is broken on new construction projects.

Disability Awareness Presentations

Board, staff, and community volunteers present to elementary schools, junior and senior high schools, post secondary institutions, organizations,

businesses, individuals, groups, and boards or committees. Our presentations provide information about people with disabilities while educating and dispelling myths and stereotypes that continue to exist about persons with disabilities. Positive role models answer questions and engage in thought-provoking discussions.

Projects and Research

ACCD provides in-depth analysis of issues that affect the disability community. The materials we generate enhance our understanding of specific disability-related issues and inform the presentations we deliver. We are currently working on *Barrier-Free Health and Medical Services in Alberta*, a project that is examining the disability community's access to health and medical services, through communication, physical accessibility, and other factors.

Consumer Support and Referral Services

ACCD's resource officers provide support and referral services to people with disabilities, their families, and advocates. Requests for information and support are received by telephone, email, mail, the web and in person. ACCD staff members assist people with filling out forms, including AISH and CPPD, understanding policy, writing appeals, or voicing complaints.

Collaborations and Partnerships

ACCD's slogan, "Together, We Hold The Power" reflects our commitment to developing effective, dynamic partnerships with like-minded organizations and individuals.

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*It's our
turn to
pass this
information
on to you*

Mailbox

“Thank you, everyone at ACCD. We appreciate your assistance in trying to fill our needs. Also, the continued use of your boardroom means that our group has a place to come to learn and share.”



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Speech Reading Group

Collaborations and Partnerships

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ACCD plays an active role on numerous committees and through project partnerships, offering an experienced, responsible, and effective voice for the disability community. ACCD's closest working partnership exists with the Alberta Disabilities Forum, a group of 40 provincial organizations working to unify the voice of Alberta's disability community. As ADF's host organization, ACCD provides a venue for ADF to carry out administrative duties, hold meetings, conduct research, and produce literature and position papers on topics that are important to its member organizations.

For more information on ACCD's services, please contact Travis at 780-488-9088 or by email at travis@accd.net.

Bursaries and Awards

Our Education for Life Bursary provides financial assistance to post-secondary students with a disability.

The Certificate of Recognition is awarded to students with a disability for Effort and Academic Achievement. Since ACCD launched the program, we have received 45 nominations and mailed out a corresponding number of certificates.

The CCD Award is presented for dedication and integrity in the continuing pursuit of full participation in society by Albertans with Disabilities.

Meet a Staff Member

Melita Avdagovska

In the three years that she has worked for the Alberta Disabilities Forum, Melita Avdagovska has played a critical role in the success of ADF. As the Provincial Coordinator, she has helped build ADF's reputation by addressing a wealth of issues, including respite care, education, and employment, to name a few. Melita is also ACCD's Projects and Research Manager and is the project coordinator and researcher for ACCD's newest project, Barrier-Free Health and



Medical Services in Alberta.

Melita has a Masters degree in political science. Born in Macedonia, she has also lived in the United States and Morocco, and she speaks several languages. Melita's dedicated commitment to the disability community and her work through ADF and ACCD, fit well with her education and experience. Keep up the great work, Melita!

Did You Know?

In 2006, the Participation and Activity Limitation Survey showed the following statistics regarding Canadians with disabilities:

- An estimated 4.4 million Canadians—one out of every seven in the population—reported having a disability in 2006, an increase of over three-quarters of a million people in five years.
- Data showed that the number of people who reported a disability increased 21.2% from 3.6 million in 2001, the last time the survey was conducted.
- In 2001, 12.4% of the population reported a disability. By 2006, this rate had increased to 14.3%.
- The report suggested that one factor in the increase was the aging of the population, but that this played only a partial role. Another factor may have been increased social acceptance of the reporting of disabilities.
- Disabilities were reported by the respondents themselves to interviewers. The report suggested that perceptions of disability have changed significantly as society has evolved, and that respondents may be more willing to report them.

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Thank you to our Volunteers!

**ACCD's Volunteer Appreciation Party was held Friday, October 22.
The success of our organization depends on the valuable contribution of
our volunteers.**

**At ACCD we appreciate the commitment and hard work of
our volunteers.**

Season's Greetings!

*All of us here at ACCD wish you and your loved
ones a safe and happy holiday season!*



Call for Nominations CCD Award

Open House Invitation

Celebrating International Day of Persons with Disabilities

CCD Award
“These individuals are recognized for their dedication and integrity in the continuing pursuit of full participation in society by people with disabilities in Alberta.”

Do you know an Albertan whose commitment to the disability community deserves recognition? If so, please consider nominating that person for the CCD award. Another year has passed, and ACCD will once again present the Council of Canadians with Disabilities Award to an individual who is dedicated to the “pursuit of full participation in society by people with disabilities.”

If you would like to nominate someone for this award, the deadline for nominations is December 31, 2010. Nomination forms are available by calling ACCD’s office at 780-488-9088 or toll free at 1-800-387-2514. Nomination forms are also available on ACCD’s website, at www.accd.net.

Our annual open house is a time for meeting with friends and newcomers, to let them know about the work ACCD is doing. Each year we focus on an exciting aspect of our organization and this year is no exception. We are eager to fill you in, so please join us at ACCD’s office for food, drink, and merriment!

Date: December 3, 2010

Time: 3:00pm – 6:00pm

Location: 106-10423 178 St.

Parking is available on the west side of the parking lot. Accessible parking is available next to the building’s south side entrance.

Service Canada Mobile Outreach Services

At Service Canada we are committed to providing service in the communities where clients live. We now offer mobile outreach service to communities (rural, remote and urban) to provide information on programs that benefit all our clients.

Our information services are free of charge and can include seminars, information sessions, printed material describing our programs and information booths at fairs and events!

- Employment Insurance (including Regular, Sickness, Maternity, Parental and Compassionate Care benefits)
- Canada Pension Plan (including Disability, Retirement, Children’s and Survivor benefits)
- Old Age Security (including the OAS pension, Guaranteed Income Supplement, Allowance)
- Apprenticeship Grants
- Social Insurance Numbers
- Job Bank (for job seekers and employers)

To enquire about mobile outreach services for your organization please call 780-495-3612.

For more information:

Pour de plus amples renseignements :

Click / Cliquez servicecanada.ca
Call / Composez 1 800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232)
(TTY / ATS : 1-800-926-9105)
Visit / Visitez a Service Canada Centre
un Centre Service Canada

**Service
Canada**
*People serving people
Au service des gens*

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

On Friday, December 3, 2010, the United Nations will once again be encouraging people to celebrate the achievements of people with disabilities. This year's theme is "Keeping the Promise: Mainstreaming Disability in the Millennium Development Goals Towards 2015 and Beyond."

The purpose of this important day is to promote the achievements of people with disabilities, to create awareness of disability issues and the benefit gained by creating a fully inclusive society.

IDPD Events

Calgary

- Contact Diane Kreuger, 403-228-1741

Edmonton

- Friday, Dec. 3, 11:00am to 2:00pm
- Clareview Recreation Centre, 3804 139 Ave.
- Contact Leslie Tanzi, 780-496-1472

Fort McMurray

- Friday, Dec. 3
- School events
- Contact Leigh Young, 780-791-3009

Grande Prairie

- Sunday, Nov. 28, 5:00 to 8:00pm
- Elks Lodge, 10806 106 St.
- Contact Agnes St. Jean, 780-532-3305

Lethbridge

- Friday, Dec. 3, 8:40 to 11:45am
- G. S. Lakey School
- Contact Mike Mitchell, 403-327-7577

Medicine Hat

- Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and Dec. 3
- Movies at Monarch Theatre, 609 2 St. SE
- Nov. 17, Presentation at Elm Street School
- Thurs., Dec. 2, 7:00pm, Richard Pimentel at Medicine Hat College Theatre
- Friday, Dec. 3, Richard Pimentel in City of Medicine Hat Chamber
- Contact Kandee Corbett, 403-527-3302

Red Deer

- Friday, Dec. 3, 1:00 to 4:00pm
- Parkland Mall
- Contact Sherry Albrecht, 403-347-8844

Around Alberta Calendar of Events



The foundation
of kidney care.

Edmonton Kidney Care Conference

- Sunday, Nov. 14
- Chateau Louis, Edmonton
- Preregister: Call Kim Kearns, 780-451-6900 Ext 222



Community Education Forum

- Tuesday, Nov. 16
- 7:00 to 9:00pm
- Jewish Community Centre
- 1607 90 Ave. SW, Calgary
- Preregister: 1-800-321-1433 Ext 2223



Money Management Workshop Consumerism: Moving Toward Simplicity

- Wednesday, Nov. 24, 1:00 to 3:00pm
- 134-3359 27 St. NE, Calgary
- Preregister: Call Gina, 403-263-6880 Ext 226

Families Forward Meeting- Advocacy 101

- Thursday, Nov. 25, 7:00pm
- Gateway Association boardroom
- 105-18304 105 Ave., Edmonton
- Contact Renate Burwash 780-454-0701 Ext 233



Conference: Strengthening Today Building Tomorrow

- January 27 and 28, 2011
- Fantasy Land Hotel, Edmonton
- Contact Dawn Papineau, 780-428-3660