

**Alberta
Disabilities
Forum Update**
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The New Alberta Health Act

This past June, ACCD reported on the provincial government's efforts to shape a new, made-in-Alberta health act. In mid January, 2010, Alberta's Health Minister, the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, appointed Edmonton-Rutherford MLA, Fred Horne, to lead a province-wide

consultation process. Through community consultations and an online survey (both of which have now concluded), the provincial government sought citizen input to help shape the direction of new health legislation. Albertans have stated overwhelmingly that they want clarity in the system and a reassurance that the new health act will work within the parameters of the Canada Health Act. Both ACCD and ADF attended community consultation sessions, ensuring the voice of Alberta's disability community was part of this important dialogue.

In a video currently posted on the Government of Alberta's website, Fred Horne lists the main issues identified by Albertans over the course of the consultation process. These issues will be considered in the development of new health legislation. The following is a summary of some of the key issues:

- Further public consultation on all future decisions
- Easier access to services
- A focus on prevention and wellness
- A plan for long-term sustainability

Another important aspect of Alberta's new health act is the development of a patient charter, the key purpose of which is to build a shared understanding – between patients, health care providers, and government – of the health care system. More specifically, the patient charter will outline what Albertans can reasonably expect of the health care system, while helping citizens understand what their personal responsibilities are when it comes to health and the publicly-funded system.



Although a final draft of the charter has yet to be completed, the Government of Alberta cites the following major themes that are typically included in patient charters elsewhere:

- Being treated with respect and dignity
- Having access to appropriate health care services and related supports
- Having all patients' circumstances taken into account in plans for their care or wellness
- Having access to publicly funded health services based on need
- Having an equitable allocation of resources
- Being assured of privacy of information
- Having timely and reasonable access to information

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Please send comments and letters to

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Alberta Disabilities Forum Update

The Alberta Health Act

ADF recently made an important presentation to the advisory committee on Alberta's new health act legislation. Through this presentation, ADF communicated items it wants included in the health act. ADF encouraged the government to focus on a person- and family-centred health care system when considering principles for the revision of the Act. The move away from the needs of providers and institutions to the needs of the person and the family is crucial to engaging the person and the family as equal partners in the health care system. ADF also encouraged the government to incorporate the uniqueness of individuals and their health care needs in the principles of the patient charter. Finally, ADF insisted the government uphold the principle of universal health care, as described in the Canada Health Act.

Integrating a culture of trust and respect, and including community organizations as partners in the health care service delivery system is vital. Working better together (i.e. including community as partners within the spectrum of health care) is a philosophy that needs to be actualized.

Continuing Care Working Group

ADF's continuing care working group is examining the "one size does

not fit all' when it comes to continuing care. In fact, the opposite seems to hold true: groups and people perceive priorities differently, depending on their circumstances. Recognizing that individuals with disabilities have unique needs within the spectrum of continuing care is critical. People need to direct their own care and to have choices in the kind of care they receive and how they live. ADF will be producing position papers with recommendations on three kinds of continuing care options: facility living, supportive living, and home living.

Facility living includes long-term care facilities, like nursing homes and auxiliary hospitals. In long-term care facilities, care is provided for people who have not been able to access adequate supports to remain at home or in supportive living. Most often, long term care settings do not provide age-appropriate care.

Supportive living combines accommodation services with other supports and care. It meets the needs of a wide range of people.

The home living setting supports people to live in their own home, apartment, or condominium, or in another independent living option.

If you are interested in working on these issues, contact Melita at Melita@accd.net.

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



**ACCD is providing free
Registered Disability Saving Plan
information sessions**
**For more information regarding the RDSP, or RDSP
information sessions, contact ACCD's office at
780-488-9088 in Edmonton
or toll free at 1-800-387-2514.**

Mailbox

“Not only did our students learn more about people with disabilities, they also met a man who has overcome amazing odds and is now using his experience to help others understand disabilities. Hearing Brian inspires us to pick ourselves up and try again.”



Raymonde Roulston, Principal
Legal School

The New Alberta Health Act *Continued from Page One...*

- Having the right to be fully informed about treatment and services
- Respecting the rights of other patients and health providers
- Ensuring patients understand the information offered by health providers
- Using services appropriately and wisely
- Learning how to better access health services and use them appropriately
- Making healthy choices where possible.

The Alberta Health Act and the patient charter have been met with some scepticism and opposition. Critics claim the new legislation mirrors language used in the 2002 Mazankowski report on health care in Alberta, and the government’s 2005 proposal for a “Third Way” program, which sought to privatize elements of the

publicly-funded health care system; however, ACCD and ADF are cautiously optimistic that the developing contents of the new Alberta Health Act and patient charter will benefit people with disabilities and help ensure the sustainability of the publicly funded system.

ACCD and ADF are monitoring the development of the Alberta Health Act and the patient charter, and we remain committed to voicing the needs and concerns of Alberta’s disability community as new legislation takes shape.

To view Fred Horne’s update on the Alberta Health Act, visit <http://www.health.alberta.ca/initiatives/your-health-act.html>.

Meet a Staff Member

Svetlana Jokovski

Great accountants are possessed of a special talent for calculating figures. ACCD’s accounting officer, Svetlana Jokovski, is no exception. Svetlana has balanced ACCD’s books for the past four years, and her contribution to ACCD is one for which we are all tremendously grateful.

Born and raised in Kiev, Ukraine, Svetlana studied at the Kostroma State Technological University through correspondence and



earned a degree in engineering economy. She began her professional career in the Soviet system, working for a finance department in a textiles factory. Svetlana left Kiev in the early 90s and settled in Tel Aviv, Israel, where she lived until 1997, before moving to Edmonton with her family.

Svetlana is a valued member of our team, and her commitment to hard work makes her a perfect fit here at ACCD.

Did You Know?

Accessibility to ACCD's Office Improved!

When ACCD moved from downtown to Edmonton's west end, our new office didn't meet our accessibility standards. Although we were quick to replace door knobs with lever handles and install grab bars in the washrooms, the office still wasn't where we wanted it to be, accessibility-wise. ACCD staff members got straight to work, looking for ways to fund some of the costlier improvements. Upon learning about the Alberta SCI Solutions Fund, ACCD submitted a proposal, and, this past May, we were given funding for a new power-operated door.

The goal of the Alberta SCI Solutions Fund is to respond to unmet priority needs of people with spinal cord injury, by providing solutions



to improve their quality of life. The AB SCI Solutions Fund is available in the form of grants to individuals with SCI and organizations providing services to individuals with SCI.

ACCD is grateful for this funding and for the opportunity to make our office even more accessible to people with disabilities. Without the Alberta SCI Solutions Fund, this improvement to accessibility would not have been possible.



The Alberta Paraplegic Foundation

The goal of the Alberta SCI Solutions Fund is to respond to unmet priority needs of people with spinal cord injury, by providing solutions to improve their quality of life.

ACCD Board of Directors, 2010-2011

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We look forward to another great year!

It's Time to Renew Your Membership!

ACCD programs and activities are supported by our fundraising efforts, by private and corporate donations, by core and project funding dollars, and, most importantly, by members like you.

If you haven't renewed your membership, please take the time to fill out our membership renewal form and consider sending a donation.

We thank you for your continued support!

Education for Life Bursary Recipients 2010

In celebration of our 25th anniversary in 1998, ACCD established the Education for Life Bursary. The bursary's purpose is to help students with disabilities overcome financial barriers to post-secondary education. First-time learners at the entry level or those attempting to take one course are eligible for the bursary. ACCD awards approximately \$3,000 annually in disbursements of \$200–\$800 per recipient.

We are pleased to announce this year's Education for Life bursary recipients:

- Teagan Armstrong, Medicine Hat College
- Brandi Johnson, SAIT Polytechnic
- Rachael Lodewyk, Grant MacEwan University
- Marc Moreau, Grande Prairie Regional College
- Lyle Rolleman, University of Alberta
- Deacon Scott, Olds College
- Jeanine Toth, Norquest College
- Cody Trewin, Grant MacEwan University

Call for Nominations CCD Award

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.



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."

Certificate of Recognition for Academic Effort and Achievement

Last January, ACCD launched a program that recognizes the outstanding efforts and achievements of post-secondary students with disabilities. Guidelines for our Certificate of Recognition program were submitted to 34 colleges and universities across Alberta. According to the guidelines, students must be nominated by faculty and staff, and certificates will be mailed to nominees at the end of fall and winter terms. Since ACCD launched the program, we have received forty-five

nominations and mailed out a corresponding number of certificates. Congratulations to all of the nominees for your hard work and dedication to your academic pursuits!

With the 2010-11 academic year just around the corner, ACCD is getting ready for another round of nominations! For more information on the Certificate of Recognition program, please contact Travis at 780-488-9088.

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.

Open House Invitation Celebrating International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Our annual open house is a time for meeting with old 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: 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

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.



Around Alberta Calendar of Events



Positive Behaviour Supports Workshop

- Alberta Council of Disability Services
- Bay 19, 3220 5 Ave. NE, Calgary
- September 8 & 9, 2010
- Phone: 403-250-9495



14th Annual Inclusion Awards

- Developmental Disabilities Resource Centre of Calgary
- October 7, 2010 at the MacEwan Conference Centre Ballroom at the University of Calgary
- Submit your nominations by September 3, 2010
- Phone: 403-240-3111



Changing Lives Changing Communities

Breakfast

- Toll free: 1-800-252-7556
- The Calgary breakfast:
 - Wednesday, October 13, 7:30 - 8:30 AM at the Westin
- The Edmonton breakfast:
 - Tuesday, October 19, 7:30 - 8:30 AM at the Westin



Sight Night – a fun run after dark

- Gather at Eau Claire Market, Calgary, at sundown, 6:00pm
- 8K run/3K walk on the Bow River Pathway
- Saturday, November 20, 2010
- Phone: Kevin Kaminski at 403-836-4544