

**Information  
is Power****Alberta Supports***Page Two...***Alberta Launches MS Observational Study**

The Government of Alberta has provided funding for a new web-based study that will document and track the experiences of Albertans who have MS, in particular those who have had the Zamboni treatment or other similar procedures. The study is now up and running. Researchers at the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta, along with representatives from the Multiple Sclerosis community, have worked since Dec., 2010, to put the study together.

Not currently approved for use in Canada, the Zamboni treatment is being offered in other countries to treat chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency (CCSVI). CCSVI is a syndrome that appears to be linked to the reduced drainage of blood between the brain and heart; some researchers believe CCSVI is linked to MS.

The Minister of Health and Wellness, Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, has heard from many people with MS who have talked about improved mobility following treatment, and he remains cautiously optimistic: "Many people told us about their improved mobility and quality of life after the Zamboni procedure, but care must be taken because some patients experienced adverse effects and even death. We want to learn more, so I am asking Albertans with MS to participate in this new study. This will help us in making decisions about follow-up care for those who have received the treatment abroad. It will also help determine safety and will support the design of effective clinical trials."

Alberta Health and Wellness is investing up to \$1 million in the study, which is titled *The Alberta Multiple Sclerosis Initiative (TAMSI)*. The study will include a self-administered online survey, available at [www.tamsi.ca](http://www.tamsi.ca). Once registered, people with MS or related conditions will fill out the survey at 6, 12, 18 and 24 month intervals. The study will match anecdotal information with files from patients' electronic health records that reflect physician visits or medical tests. "This study will complement other ongoing CCSVI studies to address questions that must be answered in order to design clinical trials," said Dr. Luanne Metz, Calgary MS Clinic Director and TAMSI lead researcher. "It also provides an opportunity for all Albertans with MS to participate whether they have had CCSVI treatment or not. Furthermore, participants will be able to indicate their willingness to be considered for participation in future research."

"In order to fully understand the benefits of treatment and possible complications of CCSVI as it relates to MS, we need the personal, first-hand accounts of Albertans living with MS," said Neil Pierce, President, MS Society, Alberta & Northwest Territories. "The TAMSI study will increase our ability to track people's treatment experience and advance our knowledge."



ACCD supports the government's decisions to listen to people who are living with MS, and we are hopeful that the study yields encouraging results and moves us closer to a cure.

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# Information is Power

## Important Services for People with Disabilities

### The Alberta Supports Webpage

**Alberta Supports** is a new service designed to make the search for programs and services easier for Albertans. Through its webpage, Alberta Supports acts as a single point of contact that allows people to quickly find information they need and to help them determine their eligibility for an array of provincial and federal programs for people with disabilities.



### Financial Help

Many people require assistance paying for daily needs or a one-time purchase. Others are looking for advice about managing finances. Alberta Support's Financial Help section puts people with disabilities in touch with income support services, and provides information on important decisions such as guardianship and trusteeship.

### Housing & Rent

Finding accessible or affordable housing isn't easy. But sometimes it doesn't take much to make a place physically or financially accessible. This section of the website links people

with disabilities to important services like RAMP (Residential Access Modification Program) and special-needs housing programs.

### Working & Keeping Active

Whether you are already working, looking for work or just wanting to keep active, services and resources in this section will help you address issues related to your disability.

Alberta Supports also offers a wealth of information regarding services specifically for developmental, hearing, mobility, visual, and other disabilities, as well as resources for professionals who work with people with disabilities.

For more information, visit <http://www.programs.alberta.ca> or call 310-0000 toll-free in Alberta.

### ACCD Consumer Support and Referral Program

ACCD's Consumer Support and Referral Program is available to Albertans with disabilities who require further assistance accessing any of the above mentioned programs and services, as well as programs like AISH and CPPD. For more information on ACCD's Consumer Support and Referral Program, email us at [accd@accd.net](mailto:accd@accd.net) or phone our office at 780-488-9088 or toll-free at 1-800-387-2514.

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

# Mailbox

*“I wanted to send a short note of sincere thanks for all the help and support you provided to my father and me in completing the AISH forms. Your guidance was very helpful.”*



Consumer Support and Referral Client

## ADF Update

### Continuing Care Working Group

The Alberta Disabilities Forum Continuing Care Working Group recently completed position papers: *Addressing the Needs of Albertans with Disabilities in Home, Supportive, and Long-term Care Living Settings*. The papers identify and address some of the issues that Albertans with disabilities experience in the continuing care system.



### AADL Working Group

ADF's newest working group was established to address issues with the Alberta Aids to Daily Living program that are of concern to members of ADF organizations. The Working Group will be addressing a variety of issues, examining ways in which this valuable government service can be improved for everyone involved.

### Employment Working Group

The ADF Employment Working Group is meeting with various employers to discuss some of the challenges in hiring and maintaining employment for people with disabilities. ADF is interested in the employers' experiences and why they choose or choose not to hire people with disabilities. A position paper addressing these challenges is in the process of being developed.

### Legal Aid Workshop

ADF will be conducting a workshop on how low-income earners can address legal issues affordably. Legal Aid Alberta will come and talk to the attendees about the services that people with disabilities can access across Alberta.

## Meet the Board

### Arthur Erickson

Recently elected to ACCD's board of directors, Art Erickson has lived in various parts of the province, including Fort McMurray and the Village of Wabamun, which lies 45 minutes to the west of Edmonton. Art has been married for 31 years, has two children, and has, over his career, been employed in a wealth of different positions. For instance, he served in the Canadian Armed Forces as a blaster, equipment operator, water quality specialist, and military policeman. He has also worked for TELUS (and previously AGT) as a communications cable electrician and as a member of the company's corporate communications team. Art also served as



a councillor for the Village of Wabamun and represented the municipality on the Capital Region Board during the development of the Capital Region Growth Plan. Art's disability is a result of a workplace accident. Since his accident, he has worked closely with the disability community, first (and currently) with the Canadian Paraplegic Association (Alberta); and now as a member of ACCD's board of directors.

Art is a welcome addition to our team, and all of us here at ACCD are looking forward to working with him!

# Did You Know?

## Community Access for People in Continuing Care

Community Access for People in Continuing Care (CAPCC) is a program designed to coordinate community access for individuals who are under the age of 65 and are residing in a continuing care facility. The program's intent is to reduce social and cultural isolation. Community Access Coordinators are available to assist residents in continuing care to become more active in their communities. Individual service plans are developed based on a person's interests and the activities available in his or her community. Activities could include outings with family and friends, volunteer activities, church or spiritual activities, movies or continuing education.

CAPCC provides support to adults across the Health Zones. For more information visit [www.seniors.alberta.ca/communitypartnerships/capcc/](http://www.seniors.alberta.ca/communitypartnerships/capcc/)



The CAPCC initiative is to provide supports to Albertans under the age of 65, living in continuing care centres who are socially and culturally isolated.

## ACCD Board of Directors, 2011-2012

Dave Storey, President, (Grande Prairie)  
Weslyn Mather, Vice President, (Edmonton)  
Earle Snider, Treasurer/Nominating, (Edmonton)  
Raymond Royer, Secretary, (Edmonton)  
Donalda Erickson, Awards, (Lethbridge)  
Harold Crittenden, Director, (Calgary)  
Arthur Erickson, Director, (Wabamun)  
Susann Grodsky, Director, (Calgary)  
Doreen Gyorkos, Director, (Lethbridge)

**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 2011

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. ACCD awards approximately \$4,000 annually in disbursements of up to \$800 per recipient.

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

- Joshua Corcoran, University of Calgary
- Rahim Kanji, NAIT
- Charis Mutch, MacEwan University
- Lucas Orton, Mount Royal University
- Nadine Rutledge, University of Calgary
- Brittini Turner, Red Deer College

## 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. 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, 2011. 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: [www.accd.net](http://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

In 2010 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 the school year. In 2011 we received 28 nominations and mailed out

a corresponding number of certificates. Congratulations to all of the recipients for your hard work and dedication to your academic pursuits!

With the 2011-12 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 toll-free at 1-800-387-2514.

# International Day of Persons with Disabilities

On Saturday, December 3, 2011, the United Nations will once again be encouraging people to celebrate the achievements of people with disabilities. This year's theme is "Together for a better world for all: including persons with disabilities in development." 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 2, 2011**  
**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



## Annual Family Conference

The Alberta Association for Community Living's (AACL) 20th Annual Family Conference will be here before we know it. Mark your calendars for April 13 & 14, 2012. For more information, contact AACL toll-free: 1-800-252-7556.



## Conference for Acquired Brain Injury

Brain Injury Association of Alberta's (BIAA) Fifth Biennial Conference for Acquired Brain Injury will be held in Calgary on November 11 – 13, 2011, at the Hyatt Regency Calgary. For more information, call BIAA toll-free: 1-888-533-5355.



## Pathways to Community Conference

The Cerebral Palsy Association in Alberta presents *Pathways to Community Conference*, September 30, 2011, Deerfoot Inn & Casino, Calgary. For more information, call toll-free: 1-800-363-2807.



## Annual Conference

The Annual Conference of the Learning Disabilities Association of Alberta, *Transcending Barriers: Levelling the Playing Field for All*, will be held November 24 and 25, 2011, at the Capri Hotel & Conference Centre, 3310-50 Avenue, Red Deer. For more information, call toll-free: 1-866-408-5322.