

## Not-for-Profits Exempt from Lobbyists Act

On November 14, the government of Alberta announced its commitment to exempting public-service, not-for-profit organizations from *Bill 1: Lobbyist Act*. This is great news for organizations like ACCD who were concerned about the implications of the Bill as originally proposed. The original version of the Lobbyist Act had serious implications for the not-for-profit sector and would have severely limited our ability to communicate with government officials.

The exemption was announced by the Honorable Dave Hancock, Minister of Health and Wellness and the Government House Leader, who said the government had decided to introduce a public-good exemption to the Bill. The amendment exempts directors, officers, or employees of a not-for-profit organization from the Act.

Bob Wyatt, executive director of the Muttart Foundation, worked hard to bring together the voice of the not-for-profit and volunteer sectors in challenging the original Bill. In a letter sent to MLAs in early November, the Muttart Foundation clarified some of the problems posed by the bill. The letter argued that the price that not-for profits were being asked to pay was “too high . . . particularly when no one has suggested that there has ever been improper lobbying behaviour by public-service not-for-profit organizations.” The concerns outlined in the letter included:

- » The bill will take away time from service to Albertans.
- » It will create problems in recruiting and retaining directors who work for the province or for a prescribed entity.

- » It will create a chill in communications between government and people in the voluntary sector who are experts in their fields.
- » It will place unnecessary and problematic constraints on not-for-profit organizations that want to communicate with a public office holder.

In an email message applauding the amendment to the Lobbyist Act, Wyatt states, “For all charities, and for the vast majority of not-for-profit organizations in Alberta, this afternoon's announcement is great news indeed!” ACCD President Margot Brunner-Campbell agreed, saying, “Congratulations to Minister David Hancock for listening to us when we brought forward issues about Bill 1 as originally presented. The amendment he has proposed is good news for Alberta’s non-profit organizations!”

### Call for Nominations

Once again this year, ACCD encourages you to nominate an Alberta citizen for the CCD award. With this award, the Council of Canadians with Disabilities acknowledges an individual who is dedicated to the “*pursuit of full participation in society by people with disabilities.*”

The deadline for nominations is December 15, 2007. Nomination forms are available by calling the ACCD office at (780) 488-9088 in Edmonton or 1-800-387-2514 for the rest of the province. Nomination forms are also available on the ACCD website at [www.accd.net](http://www.accd.net). Click on the Bursaries and Awards icon in the web site menu.



## International Day of Disabled Persons

Once again this year, organizations and individuals across Alberta are joining together to celebrate the International Day of Disabled Persons. While various events take place throughout late November and early December, the celebrations culminate at Edmonton City Hall on Dec. 3.

At City Hall, the occasion will be marked by a Trade Fair and Art Show, two performances of *Our Stories*, a short program by the Brail Tone Music Society of Canada, and a keynote presentation by mental health advocate, Dr. Austin Mardon. During the celebrations, the Alberta government will announce the winners of this year's Premier's Council Awards of Excellence. These awards recognize individuals and organizations that have demonstrated outstanding leadership in making positive, progressive, and sustained change toward full inclusion of people with disabilities in society. To read about the award winners, visit the Premier's Council website at: [www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/CSS/premiers\\_council/award/index.asp](http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/CSS/premiers_council/award/index.asp)

The slogan for the 2007 celebration is "Nothing About Us Without Us, It's Time to Employ Us." This theme is particularly pertinent when we consider Alberta's current labour market shortage. "This year," says Margot Brunner-Campbell, president of the Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities (ACCD), "the theme sends a message that people with disabilities are looking for meaningful employment opportunities, and we encourage communities, businesses, and government to consider hiring a person with a disability."

IDDP has been observed since 1992, when the UN declared December 3 as a day to recognize the rights of people with

disabilities everywhere. Bev Matthiessen, executive director of ACCD, says, "It's all about promoting an understanding of disabilities issues and mobilizing support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of people with disabilities. By doing so, we raise awareness about our situations while ensuring an inclusive and equitable society."

## Order Yummy Xmas Treats Today!

Are you looking for yummy holiday treats to bring to the office or serve to guests? It's not too late to order a box of delicious homemade candy straight from Ma's Kitchen!

This made-in Canada recipe has been perfected over several generations. Try some this holiday season!

**Single box: \$20**

**Three boxes: \$50**



Order forms available at [www.accd.net](http://www.accd.net) or call Don at 488-9088.

## All Star Hockey Fun-Raiser Just Weeks Away!

Ticket sales for the All Star Hockey Fun-Raiser are going fast! Do you have yours? You won't want to miss the fun this Family Day Weekend at the Clare Drake Arena.

**Monday, February 18, 2008. Clare Drake Arena, U of A, Edmonton. 1:30 p.m.**

*This year the Green & Gold clash with the Faded Blues  
 Edmonton Eskimos Alumni  
 vs  
 the Edmonton Police Faded Blues*

Tickets are just \$8.00 each or \$32.00 for a family. Call Don at 488-9088 in Edmonton or toll free at 1-800-387-2514. We look forward to seeing you there!



*Together. We Hold The Power!*

**Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity**

Our Voice In Alberta!