

AISH: Disability Awareness Training

In April, 2005, the Government of Alberta announced its support for the recommendations presented to the Department of Seniors and Community Supports by the MLA AISH review committee. Renewing AISH: Report and Recommendations of the MLA AISH Review Committee made 11 recommendations for improving the AISH program, many of which were addressed immediately, and others that are in the process of being implemented.

ACCD is particularly excited about the work taking place to fulfill the recommendation to partner with disability organizations to provide ongoing training for AISH staff. ACCD Executive Director, Bev Matthiessen, along with Ruth Hofer, Director AISH Program and Policy, Seniors and Community Supports, is co-chairing the AISH Disability Awareness Training Steering Committee. Bev says, "For some AISH workers, this training is a refresher, and for others, it is a first time opportunity. This training is fully supported by the community and Seniors and Community Supports and will be considered part of ongoing training for AISH staff in the future."

The steering committee first met in April 2006. Since that time, they have:

- » Researched the availability of disability awareness training materials across Canada
- » Hosted a pilot workshop provided by reachAbility of Halifax, Nova Scotia in Edmonton (September 2006)
- » Worked with reachAbility to customize the training materials for AISH staff based on input received during the pilot workshop
- » Hosted ten workshops across the province (Grande Prairie, Calgary, Lethbridge, Red Deer, Vegreville and Edmonton)

Commenting on the success of the workshops, Ruth Hofer noted, "AISH workers throughout the province participated in the workshops, and their evaluations have been extremely positive." In February, AISH staff will have the opportunity to participate in train-the-trainer sessions provided by reachAbility, allowing these workshops to be offered on an ongoing basis.

The Steering Committee is now working on the development of a Disability Awareness website for the Seniors and Community Supports staff intranet. This website will provide staff with an easily accessible information resource. In addition, the steering committee will begin to work with reachAbility to revise their web-based e-learning module. The website will be launched in March, and the e-learning module will be in place in April 2007.

ACCD is pleased to be a part of this worthwhile endeavor. The recommendation to provide ongoing training for AISH staff has been important to members of the disability community for many years. ACCD President Margot Brunner-Campbell confirmed the worthwhile nature of this project stating, "It is good to see the Government of Alberta is following through on the recommendations made from the MLA AISH Review. We fully support this initiative."

Extension of Deadline to File Claim under the Class Action Settlement

The deadline to file a claim under the Alberta Income Support Class Action Settlement has been extended to March 31, 2007. You can learn more about the extension by contacting Crawford Class Action Service at 1-877-507-7706 or visit www.incomesupportsettlement.ca.

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The Edmonton Centre for Equal Justice is assisting people with their claims. Their phone number is (780) 702-1725 and their address is 900, 10025 106 Street, Edmonton, AB, T5J 1G4.

Education for Life Bursary: Apply Now!

It's never too early to start making plans to attend college or university this fall. If you're thinking about upgrading your education, ACCD might be able to help.

Each year, ACCD presents its Education for

Life Bursary to individuals with disabilities who are upgrading their education. With this award, we support first-time, post-secondary students with bursaries ranging from \$300 to \$800. In 2006, ACCD awarded bursaries to eight students attending post-secondary campuses across the province.

Apply now for the 2007-2008 school year. Details and an application form can be found on our website at www.accd.net. Or you can contact us at the ACCD office by calling (780) 488-9088 in Edmonton or toll free at 1-800-387-2514. The application deadline is June 30, 2007. We look forward to hearing from you!



Join Us for the All Star Hockey Fun-Raiser!

This is your last chance to buy tickets for the ever-popular All Star Hockey Fun-Raiser! You don't want to miss the fun this Family Day Weekend at the Clare Drake Arena in Edmonton.

Monday, February 19, 2007

Clare Drake Arena, U of A

1:30 p.m.

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 in the rest of Alberta. We look forward to seeing you there!



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Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity