

Stelmach Cabinet Announced

Ed Stelmach, Alberta's new premier, announced his cabinet last month, and ACCD is especially interested in the individuals directing three departments, that are particularly relevant to people with disabilities. These are: Seniors and Community Supports (AISH, PDD); Health and Wellness (home care, prescriptions); and Children's Services (supports for children with disabilities). ACCD visited the Alberta Government website to find out more about the ministers in charge of these departments. Here's what we learned:

Minister of Seniors and Community Supports, Greg Melchin

On March 11, 1997, Mr. Melchin was elected to the Legislative Assembly as MLA for Calgary-North West. On November 22, 2004 Mr. Melchin was re-elected for a third term and was appointed Minister of Energy on November 25, 2004. On December 15, 2006 Mr. Melchin was appointed Minister of Seniors and Community Supports.

Responsibilities

- » Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)
- » Office of the Public Guardian
- » Alberta Aids to Daily Living
- » Protection of Persons in Care
- » Office for Disability Issues
- » The Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities
- » Persons with Developmental Disabilities
- » Provides financial support and information services to seniors
- » Supports the management and enables the provision of seniors, family, and special purpose housing
- » Ensures inclusion and participation for Albertans with disabilities

Minister of Health and Wellness, Dave Hancock

Dave Hancock is in his third term as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Edmonton-Whitemud. Previously he was Minister of Advanced Education Minister of Justice and Attorney General, and Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs. On December 15, 2006 Mr. Hancock was sworn in as Minister of Health and Wellness and as Government House Leader.

Responsibilities

- » Home Care and other Community-Based Services
- » Primary Health Care
- » Prescription Drug Programs
- » Community Rehabilitation Services
- » Long-term Care
- » Continuing Care Review
- » Health Care Renewal
- » Sets direction, policy, and standards for the health care system
- » Determines the scope of the financial, capital, and human resources required
- » Promotes wellness and works to prevent disease and injury
- » Engages in cross-ministry initiatives to address challenges to the population's health and wellness

Minister of Children's Services, Janis Tarchuk

Janis Tarchuk was elected to her third term as Member of the Legislative Assembly for Banff-Cochrane on November 22, 2004. She has served on numerous government committees, and on December 15, 2006 she was sworn in as Minister of Children's Services.

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Responsibilities

- » Family Support for Children with Disabilities
- » Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- » Family Violence Protection
- » Foster Care
- » Family and Community Support Services
- » Child and Youth Support Program
- » Provides supports to children, youth, and families
- » Ensures that Alberta's children, youth, and families are safe and free from abuse and neglect
- » Works to prevent family violence, including supports for elderly people who are abused, and addresses its impact on children, youth, and families
- » Encourages and supports the development of family-friendly communities

Many other departments (including those that deal with housing, transportation, education, and employment) also provide services that are relevant to people with disabilities. To find out more about these departments, visit www.gov.ab.ca; click on "Government at a Glance" and then go to "Ministry overviews."

Ending Exclusion

On November 2, 2006, hundreds assembled in Ottawa to celebrate the advances Canada has made in championing the concerns of citizens with disabilities over the past 25 years. As well, individuals and organizations explored current disability issues and examined the potential of a federal disability act. In a ceremony concluding the event, the Declaration for an Accessible and Inclusive Canada was unveiled.

For more information on the End Exclusion event and to read the Declaration, visit www.endexclusion.ca



All Star Hockey Fun-Raiser Just Weeks Away!

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

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!



Together, We Hold The Power!

Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity