

Accessibility at the Jasper Park Lodge

At the start of 2009, the club house at the Jasper Park Lodge's golf course was inaccessible to people who use wheelchairs, just as it had been since it was built, back in the late 1960s. Thanks to the efforts of one ACCD board member, this long-standing barrier would soon become a part of the clubhouse's history.

In April, 2009, the President of ACCD's board of directors, Dave Storey, planned a trip to the Jasper Park Lodge to attend the annual Alberta Library Conference (Dave is also a member of the Grand Prairie Public Library's board of directors), which was being held in one of the clubhouse's meeting rooms. Curious about accessibility, he called the lodge in advance to see if the facilities would meet his needs as a wheelchair user. Lodge staff members made arrangements to ensure his accommodations would be accessible; but one barrier persisted: the entrance to the clubhouse. If Dave was going to get inside the clubhouse to attend the library conference, he would have to be carried up a set of stairs, a risk he was unwilling to take.



Concerned, Dave sent a letter to the Jasper Park Lodge to inform management about the problem. He suggested they build a ramp and referred them to the 2008 Barrier-Free Design guide, a publication that uses plain language and diagrams to explain the Alberta Building Code's barrier-free design requirements, which

include ramps. True to their reputation for outstanding service, management and staff at the Jasper Park Lodge immediately responded by building a code-compliant wheelchair ramp, connecting the sidewalk to the clubhouse. Because of these efforts, Dave was able to fully participate in the library conference, and the management and staff at the Jasper Park Lodge gained a new perspective and understanding of the needs of people with disabilities.

ACCD thanks Dave Storey and the Jasper Park Lodge for their collaborative effort to remove barriers and promote full participation in society for people with disabilities. Keep up the good work!

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, 2009. Nomination forms are available by calling the ACCD office at 780-488-9088 or toll free at 1-800-387-2514. Nomination forms are also available on the ACCD website at www.accd.net.



*A HEARTFELT WISH FROM
ACCD TO YOU AND YOURS
FOR A RELAXING, HAPPY, AND
SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON.*

ACCD's Services

On November 20th, ACCD held its annual open house, but this year there was a twist. In addition to the usual sharing of food and drink, ACCD used the gathering to inform friends and colleagues about our services. For those who were unable to attend the open house, here is an update on how ACCD continues to serve Albertans with disabilities:

Safe Haven: Enhancing Accessibility in Alberta's Women's Shelters

Funded by the Human Rights Citizenship and Multiculturalism Education Fund, ACCD developed a functional needs approach template that women's shelters across the province can use to assess and respond to accessibility issues at their shelters. As well, we developed an awareness-raising workshop for shelter workers to enhance their understanding of the unique situations faced by women with disabilities who are experiencing and/or escaping abusive situations.

Accessibility Audits

Since 1994, ACCD has audited businesses and public buildings to determine how accessible they are to persons with physical and sensory disabilities. These audits have two main functions: to educate the public about the need for barrier-free design, and to provide solutions to those seeking to make their establishments more accessible to people with disabilities.

AISH Network

In an effort to fill the gap that formed when the AISH Network disbanded in 2008, ACCD will begin offering some of the AISH Network's former services. ACCD staff members are ready to assist AISH

applicants and recipients who need assistance filling out forms, understanding policy, writing appeals, or voicing complaints.

A Blueprint for Advocacy: Being Better Advocates

This is an educational workshop offered by ACCD to help individuals and organizations become better advocates. The workshop facilitator helps participants identify their specific needs, goals, and objectives so that advocacy efforts can effectively be prepared, planned, set in action, and evaluated.

For more information on any of these services, please contact ACCD's office in Edmonton at 780-488-9088 or 1-800-387-2514.



**International Day of
Persons with Disabilities -
Alberta**

On Thursday, December 3, 2009, the United Nations will once again be encouraging people to celebrate the achievements of people with disabilities. This year's theme is "Making Millennium Development Goals Inclusive: Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Their Communities around the World." The theme of this important day can be observed in many different ways, including distributing information and raising awareness about how people with disabilities can further their role as stakeholders in community development.

For a calendar of IDPD events around Alberta, please visit our website:
www.accd.net



Together. We Hold The Power!

Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity