

Alberta's Continuing Care Strategy: Aging in the Right Place

In December, 2008, the Alberta government presented Continuing Care Strategy: Aging in the Right Place. Ron Liepert, Minister of Health and Wellness, announced that the strategy aims to “improve health and personal care service options for seniors and persons with disabilities by enhancing supports to help them live within the community.”

This goal will be accomplished through five directives:

- Investing in community supports
- Building infrastructure that meets the “aging in the right place” vision
- Changing the way long-term care accommodations are paid
- Funding individuals based on needs and/or fund operators
- Providing equitable pharmaceutical coverage for individuals in all types of settings

Milestones have been set in each of these areas, and implementation is scheduled to take place over the next three years. ACCD's board president, Dave Storey, notes: “We applaud the government for its decision to improve service options for seniors and persons with disabilities so they can live independently in their communities. We look forward to giving input and working with government as the strategy unfolds.”

ACCD will be monitoring the development of the strategy throughout the planning and implementation stages. We believe it is critical that adequate home care services are in place before changes

take place so that seniors and people with disabilities have the supports they need to be healthy and safe.



You can read the Continuing Care Strategy: Aging in the Right Place on the Government of Alberta web site at <http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/Continuing-Care-Strategy-2008.pdf>.

If you would like to share your thoughts on the Continuing Care Strategy, we'd like to hear from you. Please call Trudy at 780-488-9088 in Edmonton or 1-800-387-2514 (toll free).

Setting the Direction: New Framework for Special Education

An education system that ensures inclusivity for all students is the goal of a new framework for special education in Alberta presented to Education Minister Dave Hancock by the Setting the Direction Steering Committee on June 8.

Albertans have engaged in creating a Special Education Framework that has common language and understanding around vision, principles, policy, accountability and funding for all school types – public, separate, Francophone, charter and private.

The proposed framework plus additional information on the Setting the Direction initiative can be found online at www.settingthedirection.alberta.ca. While the framework works through the government approval process, Alberta Education will work with school authorities through the 2009/2010 school year to develop an implementation strategy and prepare for possible change.

Education for Life Bursary: Apply Now

June 30, 2009 is the application deadline for ACCD's 2009-2010 Education for Life Bursary. Individuals with disabilities who are upgrading their education as first-time, post-secondary students are eligible for bursaries ranging from \$300 to \$800. Details and an application form can be found on our web site at www.accd.net, or you can contact the ACCD office at 780-488-9088 in Edmonton or 1-800-387-2514 (toll free).

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

ACCD is pleased to announce the completion of its Safe Haven project. The Safe Haven curriculum is designed to improve women's shelter access for women with disabilities by:

- Inviting shelter workers to examine their own assumptions about people with disabilities
- Introducing shelter workers to the functional needs approach (FNA) to assessing the needs of women with disabilities who seek their support
- Emphasizing the importance of community partnerships to help shelters support women with disabilities



Funded by the Human Rights Citizenship and Multiculturalism Education Fund, ACCD visited women's shelters across the province, met with women with disabilities, and consulted with women's shelter staff. Using the information gathered in these meetings and through our research, we developed a sensitive and meaningful workshop that we believe will benefit women's shelter staff and the women with disabilities who access their services.

ACCD hosted two workshops, one in Edmonton and one in Calgary, to pilot the materials. Staff from rural and urban shelters attended the sessions. ACCD contracted Brenda Bannerman, BSW, MSW, to facilitate the pilot sessions. Brenda has worked as a life skills instructor for people with developmental disabilities, as a

counselor in a crisis centre, and in an urban native health centre.

ACCD executive director, Bev Matthiessen and Alberta Disabilities Forum provincial coordinator, Melita Avdagovska, will be facilitating the workshop on June 23, 2009, in Peace River. Front-line staff from women's shelters in the area will attend.



For more information on having this workshop presented at a women's shelter in your community, please call ACCD at 780-488-9088 in Edmonton or 1-800-387-2514 (toll free).

ACCD Welcomes New Board

At our AGM in late May, ACCD welcomed four new and six returning board members. We look forward to a productive year.

ACCD Board of Directors 2009-2010

President:	Dave Storey, Grande Prairie
Vice President:	Doreen Gyorkos, Lethbridge
Treasurer:	Maryetta Thielen, Milk River
Secretary:	Karol Gouschuk, Calgary
Nominating:	Earle Snider, Edmonton
Bursaries and Awards:	Donalda Erickson, Lethbridge
Director:	Margot Brunner-Campbell, Grande Prairie
Director:	Judy Hellevang, Calgary
Director:	Weslyn Mather, Edmonton
Director:	Ray Royer, Edmonton



Together. We Hold The Power!

Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity