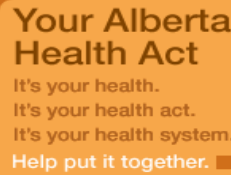


## Have Your Say on the Alberta Health Act



On September 1, 2009, former Health Minister, Ron Liepert, appointed a 16-member advisory committee to make recommendations on how to improve Alberta's health care system. The committee looked at ways to promote innovation and develop suitable responses to emerging health issues faced by Albertans. The Minister's advisory committee made several recommendations, the most significant being the need for a made-in-Alberta health act that streamlines a complex web of health care legislation and regulation, some of which date back to the period between the 1900s and 1960s. The government accepted the advisory committee's recommendations, which also include the following:

- a 5-year funding plan that provides stable and predictable funding for health;
- strategies to reduce wait times and increase access;
- new legislation that reflects the views of Albertans that will guide the system into the future.

On January 12, 2010, Alberta's current Health Minister, the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, appointed Edmonton-Rutherford MLA, Fred Horne, to lead a province-wide consultation process. (Mr. Horne was also co-chair of the Minister's Advisory Committee on Health). Aimed at Albertans and health professionals, the province-wide consultations will seek input on how best to implement the recommendations in the report submitted by the Minister's Advisory Committee on Health, including the development of new health legislation. Stakeholder input will also be used to develop a patient charter that clearly states what patients can expect of the health care system.

This is an important opportunity for Albertans with disabilities to have their say. To give your input into the future of health care in Alberta, visit [www.health.alberta.ca/initiatives/your-health-act-share.html](http://www.health.alberta.ca/initiatives/your-health-act-share.html) and fill out the government's online survey. You can also send letters directly to Fred Horne at his Legislative Assembly email address: [edmonton.rutherford@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:edmonton.rutherford@assembly.ab.ca).

A limited number of Albertans will be able to voice their thoughts and concerns, in person, at a series of community consultations scheduled across the province. For a list of dates, times, communities, and venues, you can visit [www.health.alberta.ca/documents/AHA\\_Consultation\\_Schedule.pdf](http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/AHA_Consultation_Schedule.pdf). Due to the volume of interest in these consultations, space is limited and interested parties are asked to call 1-888-436-0986 to reserve a spot. Names will be placed on a list, along with the date and time of the call, and they will be invited to attend on a first-come-first-serve basis.

For more information, call toll-free (within Alberta) 310-4455, or send an email to [ahinform@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ahinform@gov.ab.ca). For general enquiries regarding the consultation, email [yourhealthact@buksa.com](mailto:yourhealthact@buksa.com) or phone 1-888-436-0986.

### It's Time to Renew Your Membership!

ACCD programs and activities are supported by our fundraising efforts, by private and corporate donations, by core and project funding dollars, and, most importantly, by members like you.



If you haven't renewed your membership, please take the time to fill out our membership renewal form. We thank you for your continued support!

## Barrier-Free Health and Medical Services in Alberta Project: an Update

ACCD's project team is rolling right along with our newest project, Barrier-Free Health and Medical Services in Alberta. Our project team is currently gathering input through an ACCD web site questionnaire ([www.accd.net](http://www.accd.net)) and by conducting community consultations in several locations in Alberta. From this input, we will identify types of barriers – physical, attitudinal, or otherwise – that hinder full access to health and medical services in Alberta for people with disabilities.

We have completed two consultations so far: one in Edmonton and one in Calgary; and there are four still to come:

- **June 3 Vegreville**  
Location: VALID Association's boardroom  
4843 49 Street
- **June 4 Rocky Mountain House**  
Location: Rocky Mountain House Public Library, 4922 52 Street
- **June 7 Lethbridge**  
Location: Royal Canadian Legion  
324 Mayor Magrath Drive
- **June 11 Grand Prairie**  
Location: Grand Prairie Public Library  
101-9839 103 Ave.

If you wish to register for an upcoming community consultation, please contact Melita at 780-488-9088, or 1-800-387-2514, or by email at [melita@accd.net](mailto:melita@accd.net). For those who are unable to attend scheduled community consultations, ACCD is also accepting written statements. Send your thoughts and perspective on this important issue by email to [melita@accd.net](mailto:melita@accd.net) or by post to the following address:

The Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities  
106-10423 178 Street  
Edmonton, AB T5S 1R5



Funded by The Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund



*Together. We Hold The Power!*

**Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity**

## ACCD's New Video on the Web



ACCD's new promotional video is on the web! The video is available in high and low resolution formats, making the video accessible to users with varying internet connection speeds. Guests who do not already have QuickTime media player must download the latest version by clicking the QuickTime link on our webpage. The download is free and it only takes a few minutes to install on your computer. Join us on our website and learn more about who we are and what we do. [www.accd.net](http://www.accd.net).

## Fast-Approaching Deadline for the Education for Life Bursary

In honour of our 25th anniversary in 1998, the Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities created the Education for Life Bursary, an award that helps students with disabilities achieve full participation in society. Each year, the Education for Life bursary helps first-time post-secondary students overcome the financial barriers of new educational challenges. Since 1998, ACCD has awarded bursaries to 76 students with disabilities at a cost of over \$34,000.

June 30, 2010, is the application deadline for ACCD's 2010-2011 Education for Life Bursary. Individuals with disabilities seeking to continue their education as first-time, post-secondary students are eligible for bursaries ranging from \$200 to \$800. Details and an application form can be found on our website at [www.accd.net](http://www.accd.net), or contact the ACCD office at 780-488-9088 in Edmonton or toll free at 1-800-387-2514.