

## The Alberta Health Act: An Update

On September 15, 2010, Conservative MLA Fred Horne released his report on a new Alberta Health Act and Health Charter. The report, which was prepared by MLA Horne and an 8-member advisory committee, makes recommendations to the Government of Alberta regarding the key components that should be included in the Alberta Health Act. Albertans have identified priority actions that must be taken as the government proceeds to make future decisions regarding the publicly funded health care system.

The proposed draft health charter is an acknowledgement that health is a partnership among individuals, families, communities, health professionals, organizations that deliver health care services, and the government. The draft charter lists criteria regarding the following categories:

- What patients can expect of the health system;
- Patients' obligations towards the system;
- What Albertans who are working towards being healthy citizens can expect of the government as it develops fiscal, economic, and social policies.



The report also recommends that the government establish a Health Advocate. This position would report to the Health Minister and would be mandated to do the following:

- Provide education on the Health Charter and what it means for people and the health system;
- Help people determine the appropriate resolution mechanism through which they

can have their concerns addressed and resolved;

- Provide assistance to Albertans in accessing appropriate resolution mechanisms in the health system through the use of education, guidance and referral;
- Advocate on behalf of citizens who bring forward concerns under the Health Charter;
- Review and report on individual Health Charter-related issues that are not addressed by current resolution mechanisms;
- Report annually to Albertans.

Finally, the report presents the breadth of views expressed by Albertans from 23 communities across the province. Input was also received through a public survey, over 85 written submissions, and through meetings held with stakeholders.

To read Fred Horne's report, visit Your Alberta Health Act at <http://www.health.alberta.ca/initiatives/your-health-act-whats-new.html>.

## ACCD's New Video: What is Consumer Directed?

As a consumer-directed organization of and for people with disabilities, ACCD is dedicated to ensuring that we have a say in how, why, when, and where disability services and programs are provided.

ACCD's new video, which explains what consumer directed means, is now available for viewing on our website. Through the perspectives of board members, friends of ACCD, and our executive director, the video delivers the history of the consumer movement, a definition of the consumer-directed philosophy, and the personal perspectives of people who are consumers of programs and services for people with disabilities.

To view this video, visit [www.accd.net](http://www.accd.net).

## Municipal Elections 2010

Every three years, on the third Monday in October, municipal elections are held across Alberta. On October 18, 2010, citizens of Alberta will once again be casting their ballots in municipal elections, choosing representatives whom they feel will best address their concerns on a variety of issues.



Municipal politicians have the power to do a lot, like raise your taxes, implement affordable housing projects, improve roads and sidewalks, and impact the look of your community through the maintenance or construction of parks and green spaces, among many other things. The democratic process relies on you putting your vote behind a candidate that shares your vision for the community in which you live. Voting is one of your most important civic duties, and it is one of the most effective means for you to have your say on how things are done in your community.

People often say that one vote will never make a difference, especially not when so many others are casting their votes, too. But it's important to remember that many elections are decided by very few votes, and in some instances, a single vote determines the winner. In other words, your vote counts!

Now is the time for people to engage candidates in their municipalities, to let them know about issues that are important to people with disabilities. Candidates are eager to hear your concerns, and some might not even be aware of an issue until you address it with them. Voice the change you want to see in your community. Get engaged and raise your issues with your local candidates. And on October 18, be sure to cast your vote.

## Open House Invitation Celebrating International Day of Persons with Disabilities



Our annual open house is a time for meeting with old friends and newcomers, to let them know about the work ACCD is doing. Each year we focus on an exciting aspect of our organization and this year is no exception. We are eager to fill you in, so please join us at ACCD's office for food, drink, and merriment!

Date: December 3, 2010

Time: 3:00pm - 6:00pm

Location: 106-10423 178 ST, Edmonton

Parking is available on the west side of the parking lot. Accessible parking is available next to the building's south side entrance.

## 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, 2010. Nomination forms are available by calling ACCD's office at 780-488-9088 or toll free at 1-800-387-2514. Nomination forms are also available on ACCD's website, at [www.accd.net](http://www.accd.net).



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**Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity**