

## Alberta Aids to Daily Living

When the Alberta Aids to Daily Living program began offering its services in 1980, a major commitment to the lives of Albertans with disabilities began. The original purpose and intent of the program was to assist those of us who were unable to cover the costs of necessary aids to daily living and to help make society more equitable and accessible to people with disabilities. 31 years later, the program continues to offer services that have an important impact on our lives by helping us maintain our independence at home and in the community, and by providing financial assistance to buy medical equipment and supplies.



AADL is primarily a cost-sharing program. Clients cover 25% of the benefit cost, to a maximum of \$500 per year; however, low-income Albertans and those who are on income supports are not required to make the cost-sharing payment. The supplies and equipment that people receive through this program are determined through an assessment process conducted by a health care professional.

People with disabilities of all ages – from children to seniors – can apply to the program to have crucial needs met that many take for granted; it is difficult to overstate the overwhelming impact this can have on our lives.

The program is open to people of all ages and represents a wide range of disabilities. Some receive help with the cost of mobility aids, like walkers and wheelchairs; others, help with the cost of incontinence supplies, like colostomy bags and catheters; still others use it for items ranging from specialized pediatric equipment to respiratory equipment to homecare accessories. Within the AADL program, we can also access RAMP: the Residential Access Modification Program. Through RAMP, eligible wheelchair users can receive up to \$5,000 in accessible home modifications so that we do not have to move from our current residences in the hopes of finding a place that meets our accessibility needs.

The Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities is guided by three principals: equity, accessibility, and full participation - principles which can be upheld by the AADL program. Many of us have the potential to be active members of our communities because we can apply for AADL benefits. The aids and equipment offered by the program can enable us to attend school, go to work, cultivate social lives, and live in our own homes. By providing supports to accomplish daily routines that otherwise we would not be able to accomplish, AADL has the potential to make our society more equitable, accessible, and accommodating of our full participation.



ACCD encourages the Government of Alberta to continue improving and investing in this critical program, and to engage the disability community in a dialogue that examines our diverse needs as people with disabilities. Doing so will protect the freedom that we as Albertans with disabilities have to make choices, live independently, and manage our daily lives.



## Education for Life Bursary: Apply Now!

June 30, 2011, is the application deadline for ACCD's 2011-2012 Education for Life Bursary. Individuals with disabilities seeking to continue their education as post-secondary students are eligible to receive bursaries ranging from \$300 to \$800. Preference is given to students entering their first year. Details and an application form can be found on our web site at [www.accd.net](http://www.accd.net), or you can contact the ACCD office at 780-488-9088 or toll free at 1-800-387-2514.



## Congratulations to Verlyn Olson

On February 18, Verlyn Olson – who is the MLA for Wetaskiwin–Camrose and, until recently, was the Deputy Chair of the Premier’s Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities – was sworn in to his new role as the Minister of Justice at Government House. Minister Olson began serving as Deputy Chair of the Premier’s Council when he replaced Fred Horn in the spring of 2010. Guided by the mission of the Premier’s Council, Minister Olson listened to the opinions of the disability community and fulfilled his duty to advise, make recommendations, and report to the Government of Alberta on matters relating to opportunities for achieving full and equal participation of Albertans with disabilities. Although his time with the Premier’s Council was brief, Minister Olson was a welcomed addition, and he will be missed. ACCD wishes him all the best in his new role as Minister of Justice.



## Certificate of Recognition

At the beginning of 2010, ACCD developed the Certificate of Recognition for Academic Effort and Achievement, and the first students to receive the award did so that spring. Now in its second year, the Certificate of Recognition’s purpose remains the same: to celebrate the effort and academic achievement of students with disabilities. The program, which is available in all of Alberta’s post secondary institutions and open to full- and part-time students with disabilities, enables faculty and staff to honour students with disabilities who demonstrate effort and achievement as they work to fulfill their educational goals. ACCD congratulates all of the recipients for the 2010 fall semester. Keep up the hard work!

## CCD Award

ACCD is proud to announce the winner of the 2010 Council of Canadians with Disabilities Award: Lois Hardy. An advocate for and educator of people with disabilities, Lois’ entire career has been built upon removing barriers to high-quality educational opportunities for people with disabilities. Lois’ life work embodies the spirit of the CCD Award, and we are thrilled to announce her as this year’s recipient!



But that’s not all! Because this year’s nominees were so remarkable, ACCD’s selection committee felt it was appropriate to honour two distinguished nominees, as well: Leanne Squair, for her work on behalf of people with disabilities through the City of Calgary’s Accessibility Committee, the Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association, Mount Royal College, and the University of Calgary, and Derek Christensen, whose work with the City of Edmonton, the federal government, and EmployAbilities has focused on removing physical and attitudinal barriers that negatively impact people with disabilities.

Everyone at ACCD extends their heartfelt congratulations to Lois, Leanne, and Derek for their tireless and inspirational work. Watch for a full write up on the CCD Award in next month’s Action News!

## 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!



*Together. We Hold The Power!*

**Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity**