



# The VOICE of Albertans with Disabilities

July 2017

## Meet the Voice of Albertans with Disabilities New Executive Director



**Meloney  
Patterson**

The Voice of Albertans with Disabilities would like to welcome Meloney Patterson as our new Executive Director!

Coming to us from Alberta Disabilities Forum (ADF), and PLAN Edmonton, Meloney brings a wealth of experience and knowledge about individuals with disabilities and the community resources available to them. Meloney has a lived experience as a family member supporting, first her father who lived with multiple sclerosis. He lived in a rural area and lived at home for many years with the support of his family. Secondly, she has supported her daughter who lives with an intellectual disability. She has supported her daughter, with the assistance of other family members, to live her daughter's vision of a good life.

Professionally, Meloney has completed a Master of Education degree, specializing in Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies with an undergraduate degree in psychology and social psychology. She has over 30 years of volunteer experience in the non-profit sector working in various organizations that support individuals with disabilities. We look forward to working with Meloney and hope you will be as excited as we are for this new adventure at Voice of Albertans with Disabilities.

## Meet the Alberta Disabilities Forum (ADF) New Provincial Coordinator



**Maureen  
Murphy-  
Black**

ADF is pleased to present Maureen Murphy-Black as the new Alberta Disabilities Forum Provincial Coordinator!

Maureen has been the Voice of Albertans with Disabilities Project Coordinator and we are pleased to see her transition into a new role. Maureen comes to VAD with a background in government, the educational system and the non-profit sector. This includes experience with PDD and AISH, teaching at Grant MacEwan and University of Calgary, as well as working with non-profit organizations in Calgary, Edmonton and the rural areas of Alberta. Her work has included individual support, program design, research, policy development, workforce development, change management and strategic planning.

Maureen has a Masters in Social Work with a specialty in policy, planning and administration. Her valuable experience and knowledge will benefit ADF and her continuing project work with Voice of Albertans with Disabilities. Please join us in welcoming Maureen to her new post.

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Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: @VADisabilities

## Meet the Voice of Albertans with Disabilities New Education Coordinator



**Michelle  
Bissell**

The Voice of Albertans with Disabilities would like to welcome Michelle Bissell as our new Education Coordinator.

Michelle is the heart behind our disability awareness presentations. She will be a great addition to the office as a contact for the school and business presentations which happen throughout the year. We welcome Michelle to our office in her new role.

Michelle Bissell came onto the Board of Directors of the Voice of Albertans with Disabilities in October 2014. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Certificate in Career Development from Concordia University College of Alberta. She participates with an occupational therapy class at the University of Alberta as a panelist for their sexuality workshop. She also serves as Chairperson of the DATS Advisory Board in Edmonton.

## Next Newsletter

- AISH Application Update
- Meet the Board of Directors

## Happy Canada Day!



CANADA 150  
1867-2017

## Did You Know...

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities offers free assistance to the public needing help filling out with various types of application forms

- AISH Applications
- AISH Appeals
- CPPD
- Seniors' forms
- Leisure Access Program
- and many other types of forms...



Call 780-488-9088 today and book an appointment to get the help you need to keep from feeling overwhelmed; or recommend someone that could use our help filling out forms. We help people from all walks of life with all types of government and other forms. Call 1-800-387-2514 for assistance over the phone outside the Edmonton area.

As a society that works with individuals with disabilities, it is our mandate to ensure that the clients we serve are comfortable in getting the help they need and confident that our in-office support and referral services will be beneficial to them personally.



*Together, We Hold the Power!*

**Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity**