



AISH Update

In November 2016, the Auditor General released a report to recommend improvements to the AISH program. Here are three recommendations that outline the commitment to Albertans to make the AISH program better.

1) Improve Program Accessibility

- make the AISH program information more accessible and user friendly.
- simplify the AISH application form. The new simplified AISH application form is scheduled to be available by July 31, 2017.
- improve the internal AISH application process.

2) Set Service Standards and Improve Eligibility Procedures and Guidelines

- set standards for application processing times.
- improve communication with applicants who are not eligible for AISH.
- support staff decision-making through enhanced training and supports.
- track and analyze appeal panel decisions.
- review all eligibility policies...to provide clarity and transparency.
- strengthen internal oversights and implement the Ministry's Internal Audit recommendations.

3) Improve Reporting on Efficiency

The following indicators will be monitored and publicly reported on:

- efficiency/timeliness of program delivery.
- effectiveness of program delivery.

Donate A Car

You can turn your vehicle donation into generous dollars to support Voice of Albertans with Disabilities! Working on our behalf, Donate a Car Canada will accept your vehicle for donation -- running, or not! Old or new!

There is no cost to you, and the process is incredibly easy! Donate a Car Canada will facilitate all aspects of your car donation from the pick up to the final sale, ensuring that your vehicle will be sold for the highest sale outcome possible. They will then forward the net proceeds on to us here at Voice of Albertans with Disabilities and we will send you a tax receipt.

Meet the Voice of Albertans with Disabilities Award Recipient: Cindy Gordon

The Voice of Albertans with Disabilities Award is given for dedication and integrity in the continuing pursuit of full participation in society by Albertans with disabilities.

In 1995, Cindy, co-founded the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association - Edmonton Branch (CHHA-Ed), a self-help and self-advocacy organization. Cindy has served in various capacities on the CHHA-Ed board of directors and is currently a staff member working in the CHHA-Ed office in the capacity of Program Coordinator.

Cindy has been very active in the Edmonton community and has held volunteer positions on various boards and committees.

In 2004, Cindy was awarded the Gary McPherson Award of Excellence, recognized throughout Alberta as befitting only those who go "well beyond the call of duty" towards establishing accessibility and equitable treatment for people with disabilities in Alberta and Canada.

In addition, Cindy has been instrumental in the development of the City of Edmonton's Communication Policy highlighting the availability of captioning at all public events, TTY accessible emergency contact at 911, and the training of city staff regarding communication and access for people with hearing loss and deafness.





Website: www.vadsociety.ca; Email: vad@vadsociety.ca
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: @VADisabilities

Alberta Disabilities Forum

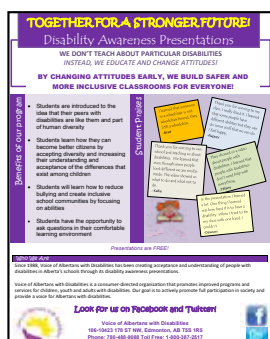
The Alberta Disabilities Forum is still accepting applications from disability related organizations for the 2017-18 membership year. Make sure you get your membership dues paid to benefit from this great organization. Alberta Disabilities Forum (ADF) consists of organizations guided by the fundamental belief that everyone has equal value and worth. As a collective, ADF is committed to identifying issues that are common to all of our members, educating the public of disability-related issues and providing a deeper understanding of these issues to legislators, authorities and policy makers who make the decisions that affect the disability community.

Our Mission: To provide a united voice to advance public policy on issues of importance to Albertans with disabilities. The Provincial Coordinator works closely with the ADF Steering Committee and the ADF Working Groups. We conduct research, coordinate and facilitate meetings, projects, and training sessions.



Disability Awareness Presentations

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities offers disability awareness presentations to local schools, organizations, and businesses. Call today to book a presentation in 2017 for your work or school, 780-488-9088.



Upcoming Notable Dates

- June 27 Canadian Multiculturalism Day
- July 1-7 Canada History Week
- August 1 Alberta Heritage Day
- August 9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- August 12 International Youth Day

LAST CHANCE!

Each year, Voice of Albertans with Disabilities provides financial support to students with disabilities who are continuing their education as post-secondary students. Funding is available through our Education for Life Bursaries (usually \$500), the Elsa Marie Lodewyk Memorial Bursary, \$1000, and the Pembina Pipeline Corporation Bursary, \$2000.



The application deadline for the 2017-2018 school year is July 15, 2017. Visit the link www.vadsociety.ca/what-we-do/bursaries-and-awards for full details and the application form. Call 780-488-9088 or 1-800-387-2514 if you have any questions.

What should I do if I meet a Service Dog team?

Here are some tips for what to do when you meet a service dog team in public.

1. Do not distract the dog or interfere with their job.
2. Never offer food to a service dog.
3. Please do not photograph or record a service dog team without permission.
4. Do not be offended if a service dog handler will not let you pet his or her dog.
5. Treat service dog handlers with dignity - speak to the person and not the dog, do not ask personal questions about his/her disability.
6. Do not ask for the dog to do a demonstration.
7. Offer to help but do not insist.

To perform their jobs, service dogs must focus on their handler and the task at hand. Taken from <http://pleasedontpetme.com/etiquette.php>



Together, We Hold the Power!

Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity