



The VOICE of Albertans with Disabilities

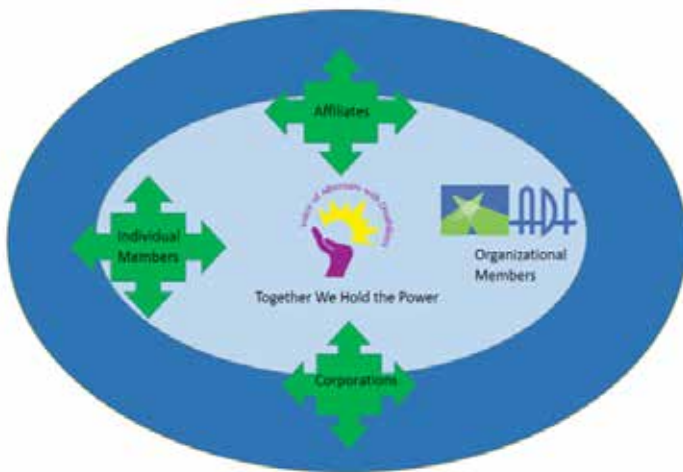
November 2017

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities Update

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD) is pleased to provide you with an update on changes occurring with VAD and the Alberta Disabilities Forum (ADF).

VAD has always been the umbrella organization that hosted the Alberta Disabilities Forum. The difference between VAD and ADF has caused on-going confusion for many stakeholders. Voice of Albertans with Disabilities is taking a number of actions to address this issue.

1) The following graphic outlines the Four Networks that support and undertake the work of Voice of Albertans with Disabilities.



2) The two membership categories have been clarified:

- Individual Members: individuals with a disability and their families and allies
- Organizational Members: organizations that promote support to people with disabilities.

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities will reinforce through communication, website alignment and logo alignment the fact that ADF is part of VAD.

This means that there will no longer be two categories of Organizational Members (VAD and/or ADF). Now all Organizational Members will be a member of Voice of Albertans with Disabilities and part of the Alberta Disabilities Forum.

with Disabilities looks forward to working with you to be a united provincial voice on legislative, policy and program change that “actively promotes full participation in society and provides a voice for Albertans with Disabilities”.

Membership for 2018-2019 year will be invoiced in April of 2018. The fee structure has been set at \$25 for Individual Members (previously \$10.00) and \$150 for Organizational Members (previously \$125.00 to be a VAD and ADF member).

Making Government Internships More Inclusive

A new recruitment process will connect Albertans with disabilities to government internships so they can gain the skills and experience they need to get good jobs. The government is partnering with community organizations that specialize in disability employment services to recruit interns and ensure they have the physical, emotional and mental supports they need to actively engage in the workplace. Community groups such as EmployAbilities, Calgary Alternative Employment Services, and Prospect: The Worx will help promote the positions, reaching out to prospective applicants and providing advice on the types of workplace supports the interns might require.

Twenty successful candidates will be placed in 12 month positions in a variety of areas. For more information, and to apply for one of the internship positions, please visit jobs.alberta.ca.

A prospective applicant may scroll through the latest job postings or, search the website using the keyword “intern”. There are three separate postings: Program Services Worker, Human Services Worker and Administrative Assistant. Each job ad gives information about the positions and the locations. All applicants must submit a resume and a cover letter. The cover letters must indicate which location(s) the applicant is interested in. The internship postings will also be available through all disability resource centres within publicly funded post-secondary institutions. The application deadline is Nov. 17, 2017, and interviews will take place throughout December.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Voice of Albertans

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Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: @VADisabilities

#GivingTuesdayCa

Voice of Albertans will be in the lobby of Baker Centre in Edmonton, from 10 am to 2 pm on November 28, selling our *hand-rolled beeswax candles* as a fund-raiser. Come by and get your holiday gifts while supporting Voice of Albertans with Disabilities.

<http://givingtuesday.ca/partners/voice-of-albertans-with-disabilities>

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities Award

Each year, Voice of Albertans with Disabilities presents the Voice of Albertans with Disabilities Award to an Alberta citizen for his or her “dedication and integrity in the continuing pursuit of full participation in society by people with disabilities in Alberta.”

Criteria

In order to be eligible for the Voice of Albertans with Disabilities Award, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Live in Alberta and have been a resident for at least one year
- Show outstanding commitment to improving the lives of persons with disabilities by promoting the three guiding principles of the Voice of Albertans with Disabilities: full participation, accessibility and equity.

Process

To nominate an individual, complete a nomination form and submit it along with a minimum of one and a maximum of three letters of support (400 words or less) by December 31. The Voice of Albertans with Disabilities board of directors selects the individual found to be the most deserving of the award. Voice of Albertans with Disabilities promotes the award through its newsletters, website and other appropriate communication materials.

Nominate

Download a Voice of Albertans with Disabilities Award nomination form from the website!

<http://vadsociety.ca/what-we-do/bursaries-and-awards>



Together, We Hold the Power!

Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity

Accessible Driver Appreciation Day November 15, 2017



Voice of Albertans with Disabilities would like to acknowledge our appreciation for the drivers and schedulers that work hard every day to delivery transportation that support people with disabilities to be active members of our communities.



IDPD

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities promotes an understanding of disability issues and support for the dignity, rights and well-being of people with disabilities. It also raises awareness of the benefits from the integration of people with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

2017 International Day of Persons with Disabilities celebrations are being held in Edmonton on Monday, December 4, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Steadward Centre at the University of Alberta, 8831 116 Street.



November 11, 2017 Remembrance Day



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