



The VOICE of Albertans with Disabilities

October 2017

#GivingTuesdayCa



Most people know about Black Friday and Cyber Monday ...now GivingTuesday is coming to Canada - a new day for giving on November 28, 2017.

We are proud to be a #GivingTuesdayCa partner. <http://givingtuesday.ca/partners/voice-of-albertans-with-disabilities>



Disability Employment

What's your DEAM job?



"A place that will welcome my assistant."

Awareness Month (DEAM)

DEAM is looking for examples of employees with disabilities who shine in their roles (DEAMjobs) and employers who are leaders in recognizing the employability of people with disabilities (DEAMemployers). Email DEAM and share your success stories (50 words or so) to success@deamjob.ca and they will post them throughout October. Discover the calendar of activities being planned for DEAM at www.calgaryemploymentfirst.ca.

IDPD

2017 International Day of Persons with Disabilities Celebrations are being held Monday, December 4, from 10:00 am to 2:00 p.m. The location for Edmonton's IDPD event is the Steadward Centre at the University of Alberta, 8831 116 Street. Other events will be held throughout the province; details to come.

The event in Edmonton is held to bring together the many individuals, organizations, community and governments associated with persons with disabilities for one day of celebrating within Edmonton.

There is going to be a Community Info Fair, the Steadward Centre Open House, an official program emceed by Quinn Ohler of Global TV, a Wheelchair Rugby demonstration and lunch is provided for attendees. Watch for more information about this event at #IDPD2017, www.idpdedmonton.ca or contact Leslie Tanzi directly at 780-405-7731 or email her at leslie.tanzi@edmonton.ca.





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

Disability Awareness Presentations

Our Disability Awareness Program is a service to educate about differences, while promoting acceptance and inclusion.



WHY YOU SHOULD PARTICIPATE

By educating people about disability related issues, people will:

- Be Aware of the diverse needs of people with disabilities.
- Work to create **inclusive** and **accessible** environments.
- Display a **positive attitude** towards people with disabilities.

To schedule a presentation, contact us at presentations@vadsociety.ca or call 1-800-387-2514 – Honourarium preferred.

LEARNING INSPIRES

- Removing **BARRIERS**
- Changing **ATTITUDES**
- Appropriate **LANGUAGE**
- Understanding **MYTHS** and **FACTS**
- Being an **ALLY**

Participants will gain knowledge in:

- How to treat and act around a person with a disability
- Appropriate use of language
- The meaning of disability
- Understanding of people with disabilities rather than myths and misconceptions
- Attitudes and barriers faced by people with disabilities
- Disability as a rights issue
- Programs and services available for people with disabilities

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities is a provincial cross-disability organization that has worked since 1973 to promote full participation in society by Albertans with disabilities

LOOK for us on Facebook and Twitter!

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ADF Fall Forum October 5, 2017

This year's fall forum was a great success. With over 30 people in attendance, most of which were member organization representatives, Voice of Albertans with



Disabilities was able to get direction and a great deal of interaction and participation from our attendees. Showcasing the networks within the new VAD membership setup, ADF is now able to focus the energy from organi-



zations into a holistic approach for issue resolution. With updates on the ADF projects and the announcement of the first annual VAD Conference in October 2018, the messages received were a great foundation for round table discussions and brainstorming to give VAD and ADF direction and support from our members and guests.

Disability Awareness Presentations

Throughout the year, Voice of Albertans with Disabilities offers disability awareness presentations to local schools and businesses. At each event, we receive feedback from the attendees telling us what they have learned and how the presentation was effective to learn about respecting others with differences. Here are a few of the comments that we received:

- Your presentation was excellent and very engaging! The staff gave me feedback that they found the information useful and it inspired a lot of reflection on the topics you discussed. - *Candice, Brain Care Centre*
- To be an ally is easier than it seems. To find the ability in disability is part of being an ally, giving a helping hand when it is needed. - *Student, Queen Elizabeth High School*
- Roxanne and Michelle taught me that having a disability is not a downside but another life that someone is given. - *Student, Queen Elizabeth High School*



Together, We Hold the Power!

Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity

Three areas that came from the audience as areas for VAD to focus on are:

1. Accessibility - A collaborative approach
2. Building a bigger membership - individuals and organizations, as well as the dissemination of information that goes with these networks
3. Influencing at political and bureaucratic levels

Ron Wickman was the lucky winner of the \$50 Chateau Nova Gift Certificate. Voice of Albertans with Disabilities is most appreciative to Lee Ramsdell



from Canadian Hard of Hearing Association - Edmonton Branch for setting up the loop system for the forum. Thank you to everyone who attended, both members and non-members. Your feedback was most greatly appreciated.