



The VOICE of Albertans with Disabilities

October - December 2018

Together, We HOLD the Power!

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities is proud to have hosted its first Accessibility Conference and Forum! A two day dialogue and information exchange, featuring a keynote speaker and workshops that brought people together to exchange ideas and focus on ways to create strategies and tools to be used in the disability community.

The theme "Together, We Hold the Power!" gave purpose to the conference and forum. The conference brought a unified voice from VAD delegates showcasing how the community is moving forward toward inclusion and accessibility in Canadian society. The date of the conference was October 18 & 19 and it was held at the Radisson Hotel. See updates on twitter. #VADConference2018



Thank You Sponsors!

We would like to thank the sponsors of the Conference:

- Edmonton Community Foundation
- Construction & General Workers' Union Local No 92
- CHHA-Calgary chapter
- CNIB
- Radisson Hotel and Conference Center
- Canadian Hard of Hearing Association – Edmonton
- Alberta Hotel & Lodging Association
- On Site Placement

Thank You!

to our Sponsors

Accessible Canada Act - Bill C-81

The Conference held an information session about the bill with Steven Estey on Thursday afternoon as part of the ADF forum and a full panel on Friday including members of parliament, the John Howards Society and CCD. Delegates had the opportunity to learn about the Act and what is good and areas that need more teeth. Words like "May" need to be changed to "Shall" and there should be time lines for accountability. This is a monumental time to be creating an accessible Canada.



Tamarack Institute

Thursday evening the keynote speaker was popular with the delegates. Sylvia Cheuy outlined pre-conditions to benefit collaboration. Friday was a in depth workshop with active participation regarding the generation of ideas and practice of the collective impact process.



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

Door Prize Winners!

Congratulations to the following Door Prize Winners.

Hand-rolled Bees Wax Candles:

- Kimberley Mayer
- Sean Bennett
- Kelly Illkiw
- Herb Franklin

Grand Prize winner of the Limited Edition Print:

- Christina Ryan



Transcripts are Online.

Full transcripts of the conference are available online.

<https://vadsociety.ca/news-and-events/accessibility-conference>

Annual Driver Appreciation Day

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD) and Calgary Ability Network (CAN) are inviting your organization to join us in celebrating November 14, 2018, as Accessible Driver Appreciation Day (the second Wednesday of the month).



“The hope is that in showing appreciation towards our drivers, and making noise surrounding accessible transportation, that we will be able to increase awareness. Increased awareness about the need for appreciation of accessible transportation will help us move towards advocating for increases in funding, driver training, and an overall improved service.”

Ways to get involved:

- Print and post the poster at your agency.
- Share the poster on social media (now till November 14) along with a shout out to those making accessible transportation possible (e.g. Thank you for your welcoming manner, your professional driving skills, and your organization of complicated scheduling demands. Your work is essential to support the full participation of persons with disabilities in society.)
- Take and share pictures on social media with the hashtag #AccessibleTransportation, and send them to us.
- Provide coffee and/or treats for the drivers on November 14, 2018.
- Encourage your clients to let their drivers know that their services are much appreciated.
- Print thank you cards for the drivers and have them signed by individual riders.

Get Involved - Working Groups

There are many ways to get involved with VAD. We have five areas of action and the time commitments are variable. For more information about the working groups call VAD 780-488-9088.

iVAD – Individuals with Lived Experience

Time Commitment: This group is new. Frequency of meetings is still to be determined. The next social event is planned for December 7, 2018, at 2pm. Details will be announced.

Staff Retention Through Innovation Working Group

Time Commitment: Monthly meetings via conference call every third Thursday of the month. One hour in Length. The term for work to be completed is May 2020.

Bill C-81: An Act to Ensure a Barrier-Free Canada Working Group

Time Commitment: Monthly meetings via conference call every two months. One hour in Length. Work is to be completed by July 2019.

Government Relations Working Group

Time Commitment: Monthly meetings via conference call starting in November 2018. One hour in Length. Work is completed by November 2019.

VAD's Alberta Disabilities Forum Steering Committee

Time Commitment: Monthly conference calls. One hour in length. Term is typically 2 years.

Black Friday Cyber Monday

GIVINGTUESDAY™

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities is hosting a fundraiser sale on November 27, 2018!



Hand Rolled Beeswax Candles \$20/Pair



Commerce Place, 10155 102 Street

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

November 27, 2018

www.vadsociety.ca



Together, We Hold the Power!

Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity