



# The VOICE of Albertans with Disabilities

January 26, 2021

## VAD Virtual Presentations

Did you know that VAD offers virtual presentations to businesses and schools? VAD has both disability awareness presentations and customized workshops available for booking through virtual platforms.



Our Education Coordinator, Michelle Bissell, works with a group of select volunteers who have been trained in the delivery of etiquette, disability stories, dispelling myths and 'how to's' for working with both able and disabled persons.

Michelle works closely with teachers in Elementary, Junior

and Senior High to create interactive presentations that the students find both interesting and informative. She includes a video in her presentations that showcases the similarities in daily activities that are done by individuals with disabilities - laundry, cleaning, cooking, etc.

Post Secondary Students benefit from learning about the disability sector in more detail and their presentations include discussion about personal stories and how to better assist those who are having difficulties, the correct way to ask to help someone and proper etiquette for moving a mobility device or assisting someone with difficulties.

Presenting directly to Allied Health programs allows VAD to instruct and educate individuals that may not have had exposure to individual with disabilities a chance to ask



questions and dispel myths about working with individuals with disabilities.

Businesses contact VAD to set up presentations and customized workshops that cater to their specific training needs for awareness and inclusivity in the workplace.

The goal of presentations is to break down barriers to accessibility and inclusion by creating awareness and understanding about people living with disabilities in staff. Interactive presentations include the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Dignity, Appropriate Language and Behaviour, Etiquette and Types of Barriers.



The presenters are VAD Staff and Volunteers who live with a disability, so they bring a personal perspective and experiences to the presentation through their own stories. For more information about the VAD presentations or to book a presentation for your group, business or school, please email Michelle: [presentations@vadsociety.ca](mailto:presentations@vadsociety.ca) or call 780-488-9088 and leave a message.



## Accessibility, Inclusivity, Equality

Respect among coworkers provides an important, but not complete foundation for a successful workplace. An organization must acquire diverse skills to fulfill its needed workforce. This begins with recruiting and hiring employees with diverse characteristics, backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives.

Efforts at diversity and inclusion ensure that the organization benefits from a broad base of ideas and solutions that best serve customers and address other stakeholder expectations.





[www.vadsociety.ca](http://www.vadsociety.ca); [vad@vadsociety.ca](mailto:vad@vadsociety.ca)  
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VAD works with businesses to ensure that they are meeting the needs of a diverse workforce. Our Accessibility Coordinator, Sam Mason, works with various business partners to best deliver a knowledgeable and in-depth look at accessibility, accommodation and inclusiveness when planning for the working environment.

VAD deals in the built environment, limitations felt by employees and their accommodation needs, as well as generating awareness and implementation of Bill C-81 - Accessible Canada Act. We work with individuals and organizations to create best practices for integrating diversity into the workspace.

What are the types of diversity?

- Cultural diversity
- Racial diversity
- Religious diversity
- Age diversity
- Sex / Gender diversity
- Sexual orientation
- Disability



VAD also assists with Human Resource complaints that test accommodation needs, inclusivity in the workforce. Working directly with individuals and employers VAD is able to assist in creating a diverse and inclusive work environment. Contact Sam, [accessibility@vadsociety.ca](mailto:accessibility@vadsociety.ca) or call 780-488-9088 and leave a message.

## #WorkForNonProfit

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities has a social media campaign to make people more aware of careers in the nonprofit sector, and we are requesting VAD Members support our marketing campaign.

The nonprofit sector is known to provide a high and meaningful purpose to its employees, so nonprofit employees are often extremely passionate and energetic for their work. Ironically, nonprofits often struggle with retaining employees or hiring new ones. One of the rea-



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**Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity**

sons behind this involves the lack of awareness of benefits and positive growth opportunities for a nonprofit organizations. People looking for a meaningful career or career change are often unaware of how their work-life balance could be better after joining a nonprofit organization. The campaign is based on testimonials, statistics and job links for potential nonprofit employees. Please show your support by sharing our social media assets and helping us fulfill our campaign goals.

More information about this campaign and downloadable resources are available on our website at

<https://vadsociety.ca/work-for-nonprofits> or by scanning the QR code provided here.





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## VAD Services

### One-on-One Support & Assistance

VAD offers assistance to fill out forms, photocopy documents and get the application ready for mailing.

- AISH Application forms
- AISH Appeal forms
- CPPD forms
- Leisure Access Pass forms
- Personal Taxes (for Low Income Individuals during March & April only)
- Income Support Application forms
- Disability Tax Credit Application forms
- Old Age Security forms
- Alberta Adult Health Benefit forms
- DATs Application forms
- Referrals for RDSPs



### VAD Organizational Advocacy

Our provincial services embrace an organizational focus. VAD works with local and provincial government for advocacy, policy and regulation reviews, current event solutions, and speaks as a unified voice of our province wide membership.

Reaching across Alberta, important disability issues are discussed, researched and information distributed for educational purposes to our organizational and individual members, as well as to MLAs, MPs and potential members.

Areas of community interest:

- Employment
- Transportation
- Housing
- Accessibility
- Education



### VAD GUIDING PRINCIPLES

#### Full Participation

- We are committed to breaking down barriers which prevent society from seeing beyond our disabilities so that we are included in all aspects of life.
- We will take charge of the social, political and economic decisions that affect our lives.



economic decisions that affect our lives.

- We must be accountable for our actions.
- We must have choice in the services and supports we require.
- We acknowledge and accept the dignity of risk.

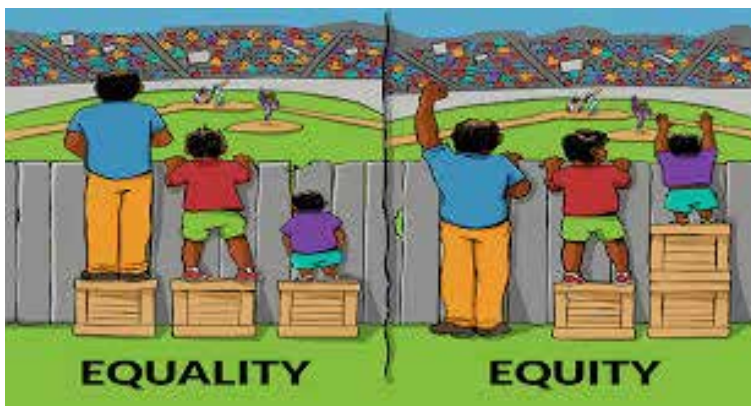


#### Accessibility

- All buildings and facilities must be accessible.
- Transportation, information, and communication services must meet our diverse needs.

#### Equity

- We will be vigilant to ensure that our rights and freedoms are upheld.
- We claim our right to be equal while maintaining our individuality.



### AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

The Society document outlines the following aims:

1. Provide information to our members and listening to their issues during personal visits or local forums
2. Gather and study data on the issues our members identify
3. Assess relevant provincial and national policies
4. Provide information to members and other potential stakeholders
5. Clarify the consumer perspective to be presented to our members
6. Provide a draft of all relevant information to members for final input and contributions
7. Publish and distribute documents

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Contact VAD for information about organizational projects, collaborations, partnerships, service presentations, and general membership information - 780-488-9088.



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