



The VOICE of Albertans with Disabilities

January 8, 2021

This edition of The VOICE is dedicated to advocacy and the organizations that help individuals reach their advocacy goals.

Advocacy:
-public support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy.

Self-Advocacy Federation



The Self-Advocacy Federation is an organization comprised of people with disabilities and their allies who get together to discuss the issues facing people with disabilities. We are the leaders of today and tomorrow. We are proud to be who we are. We

are an organization that helps people understand their rights and show them how to stand up for themselves.

We speak up for others and support each other, and solve problems. We also get together to talk and learn from each other, as well as from PDD or guest speakers. We help out in our communities by volunteering and working at jobs. We partner with other groups in the community as well. We choose our own allies. We take any chance we can to educate people about people with Disabilities.

We have three pillars of work: *Personal Development, Public Education and Advocacy.*

- **Personal Development** is about the benefit we experience personally from the advocacy work we do.
- **Public Education** is very important to us. We want to educate the public about the gifts and talents we as People with Disabilities can bring to society. We want the public to understand that our disabilities don't define us, it just a part of who we are. We want to educate people about the Eugenics Movement, Being Independent, Making our own Choices, Freedom and about who we are as people.
- **Advocacy** is about the Self-Advocacy Federation having a voice and giving a voice to others who don't

have a voice. We will be equals! Our rights are the same rights as everyone else and we will advocate for those rights. Our rights are the rights granted to all citizens.

300, 11456 Jasper Ave, Edmonton, AB, T5K 0M1
(780) 424-1238, www.selfadvocacyfederation.ca

Albertans Advocating for Change Together

Albertans Advocating for Change Together (AACT) is an Alberta self-advocacy network of people with developmental disabilities and their allies. The idea for the group came from the 2009 Self-Advocacy Summit. We are a united Alberta network that learns about issues and advocates passionately for positive change in society.



The group has met to talk about what we will do and how we will work together. We will use this website to keep people up-to-date about the network. Here is our logo. It shows one hand for each region all working together. AACT's vision is a better world in which every one is accepted.

Who can be part of AACT?

Self-advocates and self-advocacy groups can be part of AACT. It costs \$15/year to get everything in the mail (Paper member) or only \$5/year to get everything by email (Email member). Members get a membership card, newsletters and personal invitations to AACT events, such as the Self-Advocacy Summits and annual general meetings.

Who runs AACT?

We have a Council made up of two self-advocate representatives from each region. Each region decides how it picks its representatives. At least six representatives and three regions must be at a meeting for decisions to be



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made. Anyone can come to Council meetings, but only the representatives can vote. The representatives must talk to groups and self-advocates in their region to find out what is happening and what they think. They must be prepared for meetings.

AACT may have committees work on activities like communication and workshops. Sometimes members volunteer to work on an action together. We also use our meetings to take action.

3420 Underwood Place NW, Calgary, AB T2N 4G7
alberta.act@gmail.com, www.albertaact.com

Advocate for Persons with Disabilities



The Office of the Advocate for Persons with Disabilities represents the rights, interests and well-being of Albertans with disabilities. The Advocate builds relationships with community members to understand the issues and concerns they face every day.

The Office helps children, youth and adults with disabilities find and get access to the supports and services available to them. By building relationships with people and stakeholders in the disability community, the Advocate can learn about and bring key issues and concerns to the government with recommendations.

The Advocate for Persons with Disabilities can help:

- Resolve concerns
- Guiding people to find available disability supports and services.
- Helping to find resolutions to challenges.
- Educate
- Promoting the rights, interests and well-being of people with disabilities through awareness and education.
- Bringing awareness of programs and services available to the community.
- Inform
- Engaging with the community and building partnerships to understand issues.
- Identifying gaps in programs and services and deliv-

ering expert advice to senior leadership.

- Collaborating with other provincial advocates and advisories.

Toll free: 1-800-272-8841, Phone: 780-422-1095
 Fax: 780-415-0097, Email: advocate.disability@gov.ab.ca
 Suite 1110, 10055 106 Street, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2Y2
www.alberta.ca/advocate-persons-disabilities.aspx

Skills Society

Skills Society is a not-for-profit organization that provides support services to children and adults with developmental disabilities, survivors of brain injuries, and their families.



For some, this may involve a few hours of outreach support each week. For others, it involves 24/7 supported community living. No matter the need, our work is rooted in providing people with disabilities with the same opportunities and choices, the same ability to share their gifts and talents, and the same sense of belonging that we all enjoy.

Vision

A community where all individuals are valued citizens deserving respect, dignity and rights.

Mission

We support individuals with disabilities and their families in their right to learn and grow in the community. Our services strengthen belonging and encourage and support individual choice and opportunity.

Suite 203, 124 Street Business Park East
 10408 – 124 Street, Edmonton, T5N 1R5
 Phone: (780) 496-9686, Fax: (780) 482-6395
 Email: admin@skillsociety.ca, www.skillsociety.ca

John Humphrey Centre - Stride Advocates

The Stride Advocacy Project works to strengthen community based advocacy that relates and navigates systems and institutions while creat-

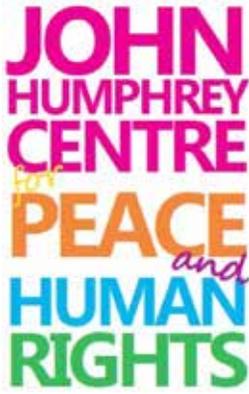


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ing “access without fear” spaces for marginalized and low income Albertans.

Since 2017, we have been training and building a network of community advocates in Alberta. We have delivered training in Lethbridge, Edmonton, Calgary, Slave Lake, St. Paul, Red Deer, Lac La Biche and Standoff. These advocates support

grassroots agencies and provide important support in the community by supporting self advocacy and education.

What is a Stride Advocate?

A Stride Advocate is someone who takes the time and has the compassion to support people in the community through creating and holding space for dialogue and sharing without judgement or fear.

111 - 4635 199 street, Edmonton, AB, T6M 0V1
 (780) 453-2638, www.jhcentre.org/stride-selfadvocacy

Alberta Disability Workers Association

ADWA's Mission

ADWA's mission is to advocate for, represent and support a professional workforce in the disability services sector.



ADWA's Vision

ADWA envisions an Alberta where people with disabilities are supported by a valued, skilled and certified workforce.

ADWA's Guiding Principles

We believe in:

- Member Ownership - ADWA should be funded and driven by its membership.
- Recognition - A sustainable, professional workforce with recognized skills and competencies will realize greater educational choices and opportunities for advancement.
- Professionalism - Assessment and certification of the

professional standards of ethical and skilled behaviour in our workforce leads to a higher standard of services and supports citizens with disabilities to lead lives of their choosing.

- Collaboration - ADWA works with community partners to have a strong voice and provide leadership within the sector on behalf of disability workers.

info@adwa.ca, <https://www.adwa.ca/>
 PO Box 83029 Canyon Meadows, Calgary, AB, T2W 6G8

Central Alberta Advocacy Network - Horizon Centre



CAAN consists of adults with disabilities in Self Advocate groups from across the central

region of Alberta.

Objectives:

Global

- Develop a promotional plan including the CAAN Facebook page, updating brochures, and creating business cards.

Regional

- Create a stronger network for self-advocates in the central region
- Research other self-advocate groups
- Provide opportunity for presentations about CAAN

Personal

- Continue moving towards greater independence
- Developing self-confidence through mentoring
- Practising Self-Advocacy skills at the quarterly meetings

Phone: (780) 352-6096, Fax: (780) 352-3054,
 Email: caan@horizonscentre.com, horizonscentre.com

Edmonton Community Legal Centre

The Edmonton Community Legal Centre provides free legal information and advice to



Edmonton Community Legal Centre



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low to moderate income people in the Edmonton area. The Edmonton Community Legal Centre is one of the seven legal clinics in Alberta that are available to provide legal help. We can help with appeals for these income benefit programs and many more:

- Support for Independence (SFI)
- Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)
- Employment Insurance (EI)

Telus House, South Tower, Second floor
 10020 – 100 Street, Edmonton, AB T5J 0N3
 Phone: 780-702-1725, Fax: 780-702-1726
 E-mail: intake@eclc.ca, <https://www.eclc.ca/>

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD)



Voice of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD) is dedicated to supporting individuals, organizations, government representatives, schools, business personnel and employers to reduce the barriers and find solutions that prevent full participation.

Our Mission

The Voice of Albertans with Disabilities actively promotes full participation in society and provides a voice for Albertans with disabilities.

Guiding Principles

The work of Voice of Albertans with Disabilities is guided by the principles of full participation, accessibility and equality.

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

- AISH Application forms
- AISH Appeal forms
- CPPD forms
- Leisure Access Pass forms
- Personal Taxes (for Low Income Individuals during tax season 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

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 780-488-9088, vad@vadsociety.ca, www.vadsociety.ca

Disability Action Hall

We are a group of people with disabilities and allies! We have been around Calgary, Alberta, Canada since 1998.

Disability Action Hall
 Tell Stories! Take Action! Change Lives!



What we do

We work towards a better Alberta for everyone. We do this by telling our stories, taking action and changing lives! Anyone can be a member at the Hall. The Hall is run by a group of self-advocates and allies. We have weekly meetings. We also have smaller groups to work on things that are important to us.

When do we meet?

We meet weekly. And we also have working groups. Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. You do not have to have a disability. Everyone is welcome. If it is your first meeting, feel free to bring support such as a family member or worker.

219, 18 Street SE, Calgary, AB, T2E 6J5
 Phone: 403-717-7630, www.actionhall.ca



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