



The VOICE of Albertans with Disabilities

JUNE 1, 2020 NAAW Edition

National AccessAbility Week – May 31 to June 6, 2020



NAAW

Together, let's take action to build an inclusive and accessible Canada. National AccessAbility Week (NAAW) is an opportunity:

- to celebrate the valuable contributions of Canadians with disabilities.
- to recognize the efforts of individuals, communities and workplaces that are actively working to remove barriers to accessibility and inclusion.

We all benefit from a society and an economy without barriers to inclusion. When persons with disabilities can participate in all aspects of society, including accessing employment, resources and services, it enriches Canada's economy.

In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Government is helping Canadians with disabilities maintain their health, safety and dignity. To this effect, this year's celebration activities for NAAW will be virtual, to reflect public health instructions.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/campaigns/national-accessability-week.html>

Get involved

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, activities to mark NAAW will be virtual. We encourage everyone to promote NAAW on social media, throughout the week.

You can follow and share posts from @AccessibleGC on Twitter and from Accessible Canada on Facebook. Use the hashtags #AccessibleCanada and #AccessAbility when referencing the week in social media posts!

Let's dedicate this week to accessibility and inclusion in Canada. Find out more: [Canada.ca/accessability-week](https://www.canada.ca/accessability-week) #AccessibleCanda #TogetherApart

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/campaigns/national-accessability-week/toolkit.html>

Accessibility in Canada is about creating communities, workplaces and services that enable everyone to participate fully in society without barriers.

According to the 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability, more than 6 million Canadians aged 15 and over (22% of the population) identify as having a disability, and it is expected actual numbers are likely higher. Only 59% of Canadians with disabilities aged 25 to 64 are employed compared to 80% of Canadians without disabilities. Persons with disabilities earn less than Canadians without disabilities (12% less for those with milder disabilities and 51% less for those with more severe disabilities) and are more likely to live in poverty.

The advocacy of disability stakeholders and organizations in Canada has been critical to promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. The Government of Canada is building on this legacy to improve accessibility and promote inclusion for everyone in Canada.

The Accessible Canada Act

With the adoption of An Act to Ensure a Barrier-free Canada (Accessible Canada Act), the Government of



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Canada is fulfilling its mandate promise to introduce new accessibility legislation. The Government of Canada will continue to work with persons with disabilities and the disability community, as well as with provinces and territories, towards the realization of an accessible Canada.



This legislation will benefit everyone in Canada, especially persons with disabilities, by helping to create a barrier-free Canada through the proactive identification, removal and prevention of barriers to accessibility wherever Canadians interact with areas under federal jurisdiction. The Accessible Canada Act provides for the development of accessibility standards and gives the Government of Canada the authority to work with stakeholders and persons with disabilities to create new accessibility regulations that will apply to sectors within the federal jurisdiction, such as banking, telecommunications, transportation industries and the Government of Canada itself. These new regulations will set out requirements for organizations to follow in order to identify, remove and prevent barriers to accessibility. The Accessible Canada Act will also put in place compliance and enforcement measures, as well as an accessibility complaints mechanism.

To support the development of the Accessible Canada Act, the Government of Canada consulted with Canadians, from July 2016 to February 2017, to find out what an accessible Canada means to them. The report, "Creating new national accessibility legislation: What we learned from Canadians," released in May 2017, shares the key findings of these consultations.



During the consultations, Canadians identified the following key areas where the Government of Canada should focus its efforts under the legislation: programs and service delivery, employment, the built environment, information and communications technology, procurement and transportation. During the parliamentary process, the disability

community identified communications as another key priority area and it was added to the list.

The Accessible Canada Act will help to change the way that the Government of Canada and organizations within federal jurisdiction address disability and accessibility and interact with Canadians.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/accessible-people-disabilities.html>

Registered Disability Savings Plan

A registered disability savings plan (RDSP) is a savings plan that is intended to help parents and others save for the long term financial security of a person who is eligible for the disability tax credit (DTC).

Contributions to an RDSP are not tax deductible and can be made until the end of the year in which the beneficiary turns 59. Contributions that are withdrawn are not included as income to the beneficiary when they are paid out of an RDSP. However, the Canada disability savings grant (grant), the Canada disability savings bond (bond), investment income earned in the plan, and the proceeds from rollovers are included in the beneficiary's income for tax purposes when they are paid out of the RDSP.



CMOH order 23-2020 for Long-Term Care and Supportive Living Group/recreational activities

Meaningful interactions must continue to be supported while respecting physical distancing requirements and visitor restrictions. (Chief Medical Officer of Health - CM)H)

Recreational and group activities for non-isolated residents are permitted and encouraged while meeting these expectations:

- Both indoor and outdoor group sizes may be increased to no more than fifteen (15) people, including residents, staff members (and any per-



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mitted others e.g., designated essential visitor), while ensuring the space is able to accommodate all physical distancing requirements.

- It is ideal to keep group sizes as small as possible.
- For clarity, outdoor visits as per Order 14-2020 are not considered group/recreational activities and those standards are not impacted by this group size increase.
- Meet all existing physical distancing requirements at all times.

It is recommended that previously cancelled activities are reintroduced incrementally (based on needs of the residents and operator), following all guidance and expectations to maintain safe and supported interaction.

o Low risk activities should be introduced first (e.g. activities that do not use shared equipment and are suitable to physical distancing requirements).

- Higher risk activities (such as group singing, preparing food, etc.) should be avoided.

All resident group recreational/special events are to be cancelled/ postponed if a site is in a confirmed COVID-19 outbreak or if they cannot occur while meeting the above standards.

o At the discretion of the operator, a site under investigation may have to cancel activities based on the extent of affected residents, interruption of daily operations, type of symptoms, etc.

Moveable recreational supplies (e.g. books, art supplies, fitness equipment, etc.) may be reintroduced (rather than locked up in an area that only staff can access) as long as the operator is able to ensure cleaning and disinfection before and after each use.

- Otherwise, continue to remove or secure (lock up or put in an area that only staff can access) any moveable recreational supplies. If you use any of these (e.g., for one-to-one or small group activities that meet existing physical distancing and other group/recreational expectations), ensure they are cleaned and disinfected before and after any use and re-secure.

Follow expectations when using facility-operated vehicles for group activities (e.g., sight-seeing)

- Ensure vehicle has been cleaned and disinfected prior to residents entering, with a focus on high touch surfaces (e.g. handles, steering wheel, window controls, armrests, seat belts, etc.)
- The driver and passengers must be masked (residents, staff, driver)

- Sit as far apart as possible, minimizing the number of passengers in the vehicle
- Frequently use hand sanitizer and especially after having contact with high touch surfaces (e.g. armrests, vehicle doors and handles, etc.)

Students

- Student placements should continue where safe and feasible to enable graduation and entry into the workforce.
- As with all staff in designated supportive living and long-term care facilities and any other site under this order with confirmed outbreak, students in these settings can only work at one facility for the duration of their student placement.

Mental Wellness Moment — Dealing with Worries about Relaunch

Alberta has started the first stage of relaunch, which means some people are returning to work, others are staying home. In the latest Mental Wellness Moment, Dr. Nicholas Mitchell offers advice to those who might be worried about the relaunch. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVRWmi7cKE>

How will you be thinking differently to engage in meaningful and pleasurable summer vacations and leisure?

1. See <https://www.folio.ca/how-to-save-your-summer-vacation-from-covid-19/>
2. Check out COVID-19 Resources for Allied Health <https://extranet.ahsnet.ca/teams/HPSP/AHPPE/Manage/covid-19/SitePages/Home.aspx>
3. Click on Discussion Board

See <https://sites.google.com/arpaonline.ca/jrpmconnect> for webinars and weekly activities.

Taken from Provincial Recreation Therapy Professional Practice Council Contact: jane.papenhuyzen@ahs.ca

Tamarack Upcoming Webinars

Theatre for Change: Using Theatre as a Tool for Community Change

Date: May 26, 2020

Speakers: David Diamond & Megan Wanless

Living the Future, Today

Date: May 28, 2020

Speakers: Glenda Eoyang and Liz Weaver



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Tenacity, Humility, and Collaborative Leadership
 Date: June 2, 2020
 Speakers: Tom Klaus and Liz Weaver



Creating a Culture of Equity and Reconciliation
 Date: June 9, 2020
 Speakers: Suzanne Methot and Pamela Teitelbaum

At Home with Uncertainty: Practical Outcome Mapping Concepts and Tools
 Date: June 18, 2020
 Speakers: Heidi Schaeffer and Pamela Teitelbaum

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<http://deepeningcommunity.ca/?fbclid=IwAR1YMZHHctSMNAdCj0tleCTYOp8eZLcuR4x85g1BjrJXSihFV1aXvJHDTbs>
<https://www.facebook.com/TamarackInstitute>

Education for Life Bursary

To mark the occasion of our 25th anniversary in 1998, Voice of Albertans with Disabilities initiated the Education for Life Bursary program. With this program, we support students who have a disability to achieve their post-secondary goals. Submit a completed application form to VAD by July 15. Information available at: <https://vadsociety.ca/support/bursaries>

VAD Virtual AMG

June 11, 2020, 7 to 9 pm

Please Email VAD for Zoom Number and Access Code

vad@vadsociety.ca

Information available on our Website!



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

VAD NAAW Contest Winners

VAD would like to thank the various individuals and organizations that submitted videos for the NAAW Video Contest last week. We were pleased to have over 280 individual votes through Survey Monkey response. The top 3 videos that were chosen were:
CONGRATULATIONS!

The winner in first place: Olds Association for Community Living with their video STRONGER TOGETHER. Charity chosen is: Special Olympics Olds & District.

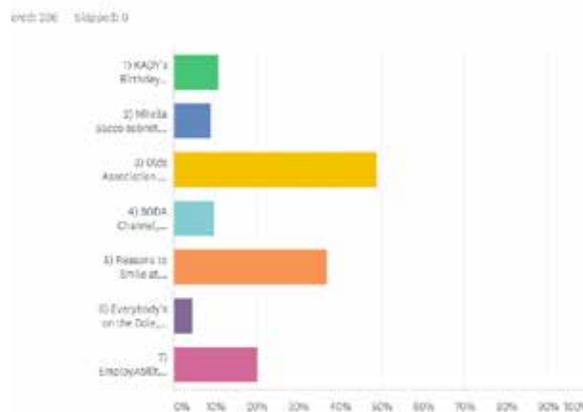
Second place: Reasons to Smile at Winnifred Stewart Association, submitted by Winnifred Stewart Association. Charity chosen is: Winnifred Stewart Foundation

Third place: EmployAbilities is here to help!, submitted by EmployAbilities. Charity chosen is: EmployAbilities

Thank you to everyone that submitted a video, we are pleased with the virtual interaction that these videos brought for National Accessibility Awareness Week. Each of the winning videos will receive \$1000 towards the charity of their choice as listed.

Thanks again for taking the time and energy to create some great videos. VAD is pleased to support the disability community in its goal to become accessible in all ways.

Like Your Top three Favourite Videos



NEWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
1) KADY's Birthday Scavenger Hunt - submitted by Randi Creighton	10.84% 31
2) Mirella Socco submitted a video slideshow	9.09% 26
3) Olds Association for Community Living has submitted the video.	48.85% 140
4) SODA Channel, submitted by SODA members.	9.79% 28
5) Reasons to Smile at Winnifred Stewart Association, submitted by the Winnifred Stewart Association	37.09% 106
6) Everybody's on the Dole, submitted by Senayal Iyer	4.55% 13
7) EmployAbilities is here to help!, submitted by EmployAbilities	23.18% 68
Total Respondents: 286	



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