



The VOICE of Albertans with Disabilities

Second Quarter 2019

Meet the New VAD Board

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Staff Retention Through Innovation Project

Attracting and retaining staff to the disability sector has often been a struggle for organizations and the Staff Retention Through Innovation committee is working with NAIT to produce a video on the sector. The video is designed to promote the sector to potential employees and encourage them to consider it as a viable career option. The project is partially funded through PLAN Edmonton and will begin this fall.

Spring Forum - March 21, 2019

The 2019 Spring Forum took place on March 21 at the Chateau Nova Yellowhead. The event was attended by 52 registered attendees, 13 were paid non-members. Highlights included an update on committee work, election readiness and Bill C-81.

Bill C-81 - Accessible Canada Act

The Accessible Canada Act, Bill C-81, has passed the reading of the House on May 30th, during Accessibility Week. It will go to Royal Assent in the next step. VAD has a government relations page on our website with more information about the Accessibility Act: <https://vadsociety.ca/social-action/bill-c-81-draft-accessible-canada-act>

RDSP and CRA

The Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) is a long-term savings plan for individuals with disabilities was introduced by the federal government in 2008. It was the first plan of its kind in the world.

The power of RDSP, is the pending ability of purchase power put into the hands of a younger generation with disabilities. Parents of a young child with a disability today can set up an RDSP and when the child is 40 to 50 years old, they have the ability to purchase their own home, pay for support services or travel. The home will be in their name, not owned by a landlord. Support services will be accountable to the individual, not a funder. There are no current restrictions on what they can purchase with their savings. This is the power of a savings plan for individuals who have no other options.



Helping people with disabilities
PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Eligibility

One of the most crucial eligibility criteria today for the RDSP is the Disability Tax Credit (DTC). The information available regarding the DTC form, the adjudication of the application and the appeal process from Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has created a climate of frustration and controversy. Due to this climate, many organizations and lawyers have stepped up to assist with the process, charging a fee for their services.

Allowable Fees

The CRA feels that some of the fees are excessive and have reduced allowable fees to \$100.00 per application in the legislative regulations.



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“Persons with disabilities and their supporting family members have been paying what are considered excessive fees to certain promoters for their assistance in making a DTC request. It is estimated that promoters collected between \$9.5 million and \$25.4 million for their services in respect of approximately 36 000 DTC requests for the 2018 calendar year” (CRA).

Promoters feel this will reduce their ability to provide assistance, most notable in the appeal cases which can drag on and be very time consuming and thus expensive. We will continue to watch this controversy unfold and be proactive to ensure our funding continues to assist individuals with disabilities. Voice of Albertans with Disabilities currently provides this service free of charge.

VAD is Moving

Exciting times around the VAD office as we get ready to move to our new home for August 1. We will be moving to the HYS Centre in central Edmonton. The new address is 406, 11010 - 101 street. Our contact information will remain the same just our location will change.

vad@vadsociety.ca
vadsociety.ca

VAD has many sale items

In order to downsize, VAD has many items to sale. Checkout the photos and give us an email or phone call to talk about what you might like to purchase!

We have desks, limited edition art prints, christmas decor, clocks, silk plants, chairs, and much more for sale! Make us an offer!



Together, We Hold the Power!

Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity

Board Bio

Each quarter the Voice newsletter will feature a board member, allowing you to learn more about the Board of Directors.

Betty, Doerkse, President, La Crete

Betty became a member of the board in 2015. Living in Northern Alberta with a person with a disability, Betty has encountered barriers. She desires to make a difference in helping to create a barrier free society. Betty is also a member of her local FCSS board and has served on other community boards.



Betty and her husband own and manage their own company. She encourages those with a disability to keep going in life.

Fall Forum

Leading the Change
Oct. 24, 2019
Chateau Nova, 13920
Yellowhead Trail, Edmonton
Mark your calendars!



With a theme of **Leading the Change**, the day will be full of opportunities to engage and stimulate your thinking. Keep an eye open for more details, coming soon.