



# The VOICE of Albertans with Disabilities

July - September 2018

## Together, We HOLD the Power!

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities is hosting its first Accessibility Conference and Forum! The conference and forum are a two day dialogue and information exchange, featuring an evening reception with a keynote speaker, daytime workshops, information tables and presentations. The audience will go on a journey of topics that pertain to the theme **"Together, We Hold the Power!"** The purpose of the conference and forum will be to showcase where and how the community is moving forward toward inclusion and accessibility in Canadian society. A focus will be on action, strategies and tools that you can use.

**October 18 & 19**

**Radisson Hotel - 4520 76 Avenue, Edmonton**

- **ADF & iVAD Members Cost: \$225**
- **Non Members Cost: \$250**
- **One Day Cost: \$150**
- **One Day Student Special: \$75**

Register online at EventBrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/together-we-hold-the-power-accessibility-conference-tickets-47081495019> (Additional fees apply)

Registration Package - Download and email or mail it to VAD <https://vadsociety.ca/pdf/registration-form-conference-2018-1536091592.pdf>

## Agenda

**Thursday October 18**

### ADF FORUM

- **12:30 pm** Registration  
Closed Captioning available during the forum
- **1:00 pm** Forum Starts  
Patricia Pasemko - On Site Placement
- **2:00 pm** Coffee Break  
Bill C-81 Accessible Canada Act
- **4:00 pm** Forum Ends

### VAD RECEPTION

- **5:00 pm** Registration - Cash Bar  
Closed Captioning available during the reception
- **5:30 pm** Opening Remarks and Appetizers
- **6:00 pm** Exploring the Collective Impact Opportunity  
Tamarack Institute - Sylvia Cheuy
- **7:30 pm** Starry Night  
Schizophrenia Society of Alberta

**Friday, October 19, 2018**

- **Conference Room A** will have ALS interpreters & Closed Captioning available
- **Conference Room B** will have a Loop System in place
- **8:00 am** Registration  
Conference Room A
- **8:30 am** Opening Remarks
- **8:45 am** Collective Impact: Moving from Theory to Action  
Tamarack Institute - Sylvia Cheuy
- **11:00 am Conference Room A**  
Universal Design: Creating an Accessible and Age-friendly Edmonton  
Zachary Weeks & Crystal Jones - AAC
- **Conference Room B**  
Built Environment & Accessibility  
Ron Wickman - Architect
- **12:20 pm** Taking Action: What We Learned at Our Self-Advocacy Summit
- **12:40 pm** Update about iVAD  
iVAD Representative
- **1:15 pm Conference Room A**  
Alberta Parks: Making Alberta Parks More Inclusive for Persons with a Disability  
Leah Arnason - Alberta Parks
- **Conference Room B**  
Online Care Provider Training - an asset for those on "Self-Managed or Family Managed Care"  
Teren Clarke - Spinal Cord Injury Alberta
- **2:30 pm Conference Room A**  
Bill C-81 Accessible Canada Act Panel  
A selection of panelists:  
Hon. Randy Boissonnault, LIB, MP  
Hon. Mike Lake, PC, MP  
John Humphreys Centre  
CCD Representative
- **Conference Room B**  
Human Rights - Duty to Accommodate  
Sushila Samy
- **3:45 pm** Wrap up Speaker, Evaluations & Prize Give-away - MUST be in attendance to win



**Book your  
hotel room  
today  
780-468-5400!**

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Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: @VADisabilities

Share this information on twitter: [#VADConference2018](https://twitter.com/VADConference2018)

Watch our Conference Advertisement <https://youtu.be/Cvu8057Sqjo>

## Bill C-81 Accessible Canada Act

VAD has listed the links to Bill C-81 on our website:  
<https://vadsociety.ca/social-action/bill-c-81-draft-accessible-canada-act>

Summary of the Act <https://vadsociety.ca/pdf/proposed-accessible-canada-act---summary-of-the-bill.pdf>

## Accessibility Assessments

There have been some internal changes at the VAD office. We have been lucky enough to fill the accessibility position with two wonderful part time staff.

**Kirsti Van Dornick** - Accessibility Assessment Coordinator  
Kirsti graduated from the University of Alberta in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology degree. She has just completed her Master of Arts program with the University of Alberta which focused on the classification experiences of para-swimmers. Before joining VAD as the Accessibility Assessment Project Coordinator, Kirsti worked as the Athlete Development Coordinator at the Steadward Centre for Personal & Physical Achievement from 2007-2016, and coordinated an Accessibility Assessment Project with the University of Alberta Libraries from 2017-2018. Outside of work, Kirsti enjoys spending time with her family, participating in various exercise classes, and listening to live music.

**Sam Mason** - Accessibility Assessment Representative  
Sam graduated from MacEwan University with a Bachelor of Commerce degree in 2015. She has always wanted to work in the non-profit sector to be able to spend her professional career improving the lives of all humans and animals. Her new role as Accessibility Assessment Representative has Sam marketing the Accessibility Assessment program to businesses, with the goal of creating a more inclusive Alberta. She spends her free time cuddling her pets, playing in a band and being active in various communities within Edmonton.

## iVAD Meeting - Oct. 4

Join us for the next iVAD meeting to learn what the Next Steps are to take as a group. The meeting will be held at Capilano Library in Edmonton, 1-3pm. Call VAD for more information: 780-488-9088

## Driver Appreciation Day - Nov. 14

### Instructions for Driver Appreciation Day

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD) is inviting

*Together, We Hold the Power!*

**Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity**



your organization to join us in celebrating November 14, 2018, as Accessible Driver Appreciation Day (the second Wednesday of the month). How to recognize this day is totally up to you. Coffee...donuts...thank you cards....newspaper articles...emails...social media...selfies with drivers or dispatch! Use the Hashtag: **#DrivingCommunity** to share your event through social media. "The hope is that in showing appreciation towards our drivers, and making noise surrounding accessible transportation, we will be able to increase awareness. Increased awareness about the need for and appreciation of accessible transportation will help us move towards advocating for increases in funding, driver training, and an overall improved service." We will be sending a poster and stickers out to the transportation services recognized on the poster. If we are missing any accessible transportation groups please let us know. Hope you can join in! If you get a chance to celebrate this day, let us know. Watch for Posters and Stickers to celebrate this event!

### Public Write up for Driver Appreciation Day

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD) is pleased to partner with the Calgary Ability Network (CAN) to launch the 2nd annual Accessible Driver Appreciation Day on November 14, 2018. Please let the ladies and men who drive and schedule accessible transportation know that they are appreciated by your organization. It is through their daily work that many people get to live, work and play in our communities. 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.

## Giving Tuesday - Nov. 27

You have heard of Black Friday, and Cyber Monday, but have you heard of Giving Tuesday? A great way to give back to the community through donations online. Join VAD in promoting Giving Tuesday as a way to support the great work VAD does throughout the year:

<http://givingtuesday.ca/partners/voice-of-albertans-with-disabilities>

VAD will be hosting a pop up candle sale at Commerce Place in Edmonton, from 10 am - 2 pm; join us to purchase some great holiday gifts.

Handrolled Beeswax Candles are \$20 per set, and are available in purple, red and natural colours.

