



# The VOICE of Albertans with Disabilities

Third Quarter 2019

## VAD has moved!

New address, same contact numbers!

406 Hys Centre,  
11010 101 Street  
Edmonton, AB, T5H 4B9

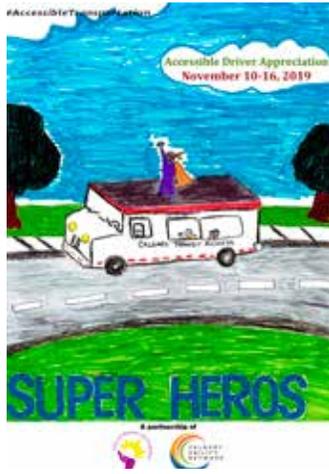
## Fall Forum - Save the Date

VAD is hosting the fall forum October 24, 2019 at the Chateau Nova Yellowhead in Edmonton. VAD is pleased to announce CHRIS KOCH as keynote speaker in the morning. **Watch for your Constant Contact email with the registration link coming out this week!** VAD will be providing Captioning and LOOP services for this event!



**SAVE the DATE**

## Driver Appreciation Week



Voice of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD) and Calgary Ability Network (CAN) invite your organizations to join us in celebrating Accessible Driver Appreciation Week from Nov. 10-16, 2019.

“The hope is that in showing appreciation towards our drivers, and making noise surrounding accessible transportation, that we will be able to increase awareness. Increased awareness about the need for appreciation of accessible

transportation will help us move towards advocating for increases in funding, driver training, and an overall improved service.”

If you are interested in this opportunity, please let us know and we will send your organization an Accessible Driver Appreciation toolkit. Toolkits include stickers, poster, a template proclamation to send your municipal council, a sample news release and a write up of suggestions to do for event ideas.

## Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday, often stylized as #GivingTuesday for the purposes of hashtag activism, refers to the Tuesday after Black Friday and Cyber Monday. It is a



movement to create an international day of charitable giving at the beginning of the Christmas and holiday season. GivingTuesday is **“the opening day of the giving season”**.

VAD will be at Edmonton City Centre with our handmade Beeswax Candle fund raiser on December 3, 2019. Come by our table and pick up your pre-holiday season gifts while supporting VAD in it’s fund raising efforts.

## IDPD Day

There will be an IDPD day event held at West Edmonton Mall HMV stage on December 3, 2019. It will include an information fair and a journey maze for people to engage in.



## Not sure if your business achieves the barrier free code?

Book an accessibility assessment with VAD and identify opportunities to improve inclusion within your business. **Who should get an assessment:** Any business open to the public.

**What is an assessment:** An audit of your property that evaluates all areas of accessibility. **Why get an assessment done:** The assessment highlights areas that are currently accessible, outlines areas of opportunity and offers best practice recommendations

**How do I get an assessment:** Contact Sam, 780-488-9088 or e-mail [accessibility@vadsociety.ca](mailto:accessibility@vadsociety.ca).



## DISABILITY AWARENESS

VAD has expanded our educational awareness campaigns to include elementary, middle, high schools, university, college classes and businesses open to the public. These presentations involve etiquette, appropriate language, behavior and awareness tips.

Presentations are free for schools and businesses that want general information about disability awareness. Workshops are a fee for service activity where the workshop is customized to your specific needs. To book an awareness presentation or workshop, contact Michelle, 780-488-9088 or e-mail [presentations@vadsociety.ca](mailto:presentations@vadsociety.ca).





[www.vadsociety.ca](http://www.vadsociety.ca); [vad@vadsociety.ca](mailto:vad@vadsociety.ca)  
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: @VADisabilities



# **Chris Koch is coming!**

**Renowned Motivational Speaker**

Chris Koch doesn't let limitations or obstacles stand in his way. Despite being born without arms and legs, Koch grew up like any other small-town kid — playing road hockey, causing mischief at school, and helping out on his family farm. Neither he or his family treated his disability like a tragedy, and instead used it to fuel his dreams. Today, Koch is a motivational speaker who inspires his audiences to continually challenge themselves and build the life they dream of.

Born in Lethbridge, Alberta, Koch was raised in the small farming and ranching community of Nanton, Alberta. Early on, he learned that he would not be raised with pity or sympathy. Sure, he had to do things a little differently and some tasks took him a little longer to complete than others, but he was determined to be just like the rest and was always treated just like the rest. After all, he still had a good head on his shoulders and with that, anything is possible.

Koch loves sharing his story and spreading his message of, "If I Can..." An avid traveler, marathoner, and farmer, his presentation reflects his full life. Simply put, Koch says, if I can do what I've done so far in my life, what's stopping others from doing the same?

***VAD organizational members get 2 FREE attendees!***

***iVAD members attend for FREE!***

***Non members are \$25 each.***

***Tickets available on EventBrite: VAD Fall Forum***



***Together, We Hold the Power!***

***Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity***