



## Alberta Urgently Needs Accessibility Legislation

Alberta is one of the last provinces in Canada that DOES NOT have an Accessibility Act

Send a clear message to our provincial leaders: Alberta needs strong and effective accessibility legislation. The Government of Alberta must pass accessibility legislation to make our province more accessible and improve quality of life for people with disabilities.



Other provinces across Canada have shown that implementing accessibility legislation is essential to ensure all citizens, regardless of ability, can fully participate in every facet of life.

The time to act is now. We hope the government will take meaningful steps to ensure Alberta's commitment to accessibility is reflected in enforceable legislation. Here is a sample letter to send.

***Dear recipient's full name goes here,  
I am writing to urge you to take immediate action to implement Accessibility Legislation in Alberta. On September 28, 2024, rallies were held in Edmonton and Calgary, where people with disabilities, advocates, and allies came together with one clear message: Alberta must prioritize accessibility as a fundamental right. From those who spoke and attended, it is evident that legislation is not only overdue but sorely needed to dismantle the barriers that continue to prevent full participation in society for thousands of Albertans.***

***Alberta remains one of only two provinces in Canada without accessibility legislation—a reality that places us at a critical disadvantage compared to provinces that***

***have taken proactive steps to ensure equal opportunities and access for all. This gap has significant, tangible impacts: individuals with disabilities in Alberta face daily obstacles that restrict access to essential services, fair housing, and even basic physical spaces. Consider the struggles of navigating buildings that lack ramps or elevators, the inaccessibility of health care and legal services without ASL (American Sign Language) interpreters, or the limited availability of affordable, accessible housing that upholds people's rights to live independently and with dignity.***

***This is not simply a matter of convenience; it is a question of equity and justice. Other provinces have proven that comprehensive accessibility standards—paired with clear timelines and enforcement measures—can yield profound improvements in people's quality of life. Alberta's lack of similar legislation sends a disheartening message to its residents with disabilities: that their rights, safety, and well-being are secondary. This must change.***

***The momentum generated by the recent rallies is a call to action that cannot be ignored. People across Alberta are asking for your leadership in turning this call into concrete legislative action. I implore you to advocate for Accessibility Legislation that ensures universal design, fair housing, accessible communication, and equitable access to services for all Albertans.***

***Please be the change that so many in our province need, and lead Alberta forward to become a place that values inclusion, equity, and the dignity of every resident. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter, and I look forward to your support in advancing Accessibility Legislation for Alberta.***

***Sincerely,***

***supporter's full name goes here  
supporter's email goes here, supporter's location goes here***



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As you probably already know, the Canada Disability Benefit falls short of lifting people out of poverty.

The Canada Disability Benefit payments need to be increased. Watch this video to understand more about what we expect of the Canada Disability Benefit. This link will take you to the video: [https://youtu.be/4GW08\\_xGOgY](https://youtu.be/4GW08_xGOgY) Write your MP and let them know you want real support for people with disabilities living in poverty. This link will take you to the letter: <https://www.fundthebenefit.ca/take-action>

Thanks for continuing to work towards an accessible Canada.

## The gift of investment literacy

The gift of investment literacy: Inspire meaningful investment habits this holiday season.

Why not give a gift that goes beyond the ordinary this holiday season? As we gather to celebrate the season, inspire your loved ones with tools and resources that can help them build a strong financial future. According to a CIBC's Financial Literacy and Preparedness Report, 60% of Canadians expressed a desire to boost their financial knowledge. During the holidays, it's the perfect time to spark conversations and empower those around you to take meaningful steps toward lasting financial independence. Here are a few ways to encourage your loved ones to take charge of their financial future:

1. Introduce loved ones to the basics of investing  
Investing can seem intimidating, especially for beginners. Start by discussing their dreams and plans for the coming year. Whether it's saving to buy a home, pursuing personal passions, or maybe even planning for retirement, these conversations can lead to investing for the future.

Part of that discussion could be the importance of risk tolerance. Encourage them to assess their comfort with market ups and downs by learning through the ASC's various resources and tools, including a CheckFirst risk tolerance quiz. This quiz provides insights that can help someone select investments that align with their personal financial preferences and goals.



For short-term objectives, like saving for a house, options such as a First Home Savings Account (FHSA) or an RRSP Home Buyers' Plan are designed to help achieve this efficiently.



Help friends and family see the value in tools like goal-tracking apps or financial planners to help keep them on track. These can help them stay accountable, monitor progress, and adjust plans as needed, making the journey toward achieving their goals both manageable and motivating.

2. Give the gift of compound interest  
Explain the concept of compound interest, which allows investments to grow exponentially over time. Interest is calculated on the initial principal and the previously accumulated interest. Showing examples of how small contributions today can lead to significant growth in the future can make investing feel achievable and exciting.

Introduce them to CheckFirst's compound interest calculator, an excellent tool for everyone to understand where they are and what they need to do to build a financially successful future. The website also offers free tools, articles, and in-person and virtual programming to build and strengthen investment literacy throughout the year.

3. Start a conversation about future goals  
With the new year just around the corner, the holiday season is also a great opportunity to reflect on the past year and plan for the future. Talk with your loved ones about their specific financial goals. Identifying whether their goals are short-term or long-term is an essential step, as this determines the type of investment accounts, funds, and strategies they'll need.

*Together, We Hold the Power!*

**Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity**



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On the other hand, long-term goals like retirement savings may benefit from accounts such as a Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) or a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP). Here, investments with the potential for higher returns, such as exchange-traded funds (ETFs), mutual funds, or stocks, could offer more growth over time.

Investing in the financial literacy of your loved ones can help them take control of their finances and start achieving their dreams. But, if you're unsure about providing advice, you can also consider gifting a small contribution to a registered investment account like a TFSA or RESP. It's a thoughtful and practical way to help loved ones take their first step toward their financial goals.

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 Alberta Securities Commission  
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## Get In The Hearing Loop

Dear Community Stakeholder,  
 Did you know that over four million Canadians have hearing loss and many face barriers to communication due to lack of technology and support at customer service areas and in public spaces.

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA) is excited to share with you the launch of our 'Get In The Hearing Loop' Campaign, a national project to increase public awareness of communication barriers and promote Hearing Loops as one of the solutions to accessibility and inclusion for people with hearing loss.

Hearing loops are a seamless way to deliver speech/sound straight from a small microphone to the user's hearing aid or cochlear implant by simply switching on their 'telecoil' receiver, available in most modern hearing devices. They are cost-effective, easy to install and use, and can be utilized in both one-to-one

situations such as customer or patient service counters, workplace meeting rooms and larger community spaces.

It's simply about removing barriers to communication and making your services accessible and environments inclusive for people with hearing loss!

We have already started adding more loops in your community! Working with major businesses such as Loblaws, Superstore, Independent Grocers, Zehers and Dominion to name a few, we have recently installed several hearing loops in your city. Specifically, in Edmonton you can visit:  
 Real Canadian Superstore Edmonton - Kingsway  
 11541 Kingsway Avenue, 780-733-1400

But we need your help to increase awareness of these loops and to ensure your customers and pa-

WE INVITE YOU TO HOST A



# VIRTUAL LUNCH N' LEARN

BOOK TODAY

## LEARN ABOUT VAD SERVICES



Voice of Albertans with Disabilities offers many services. Learn about the great work we do and how we can collaborate with your organization today.

**FREE EVENT**  
[www.vadsociety.ca](http://www.vadsociety.ca)

VAD Services include:

- Disability Awareness Presentations
- Accessibility Assessments & Training
- One-to-One Support & Referrals for AISH, CPPD, DTC, LAP, and more.

**BOOK TODAY!** ↓

**MORE INFORMATION:**  
 780-488-9088 OR [VAD@VADSOCIETY.CA](mailto:vad@vadsociety.ca)

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tients know they are available. Please share the information above with your consumers and clients and please see the attached resources for further information to share with you networks and colleagues.

We would also encourage you to reach out to learn how you can make your service and community space more accessible and inclusive. We are also available to support you with advocating for technology and supports for hard of hearing people in your community. Join us... and "Get In The Hearing Loop"!

Sincerely,  
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Suite 901, 75 Albert Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5E7  
Email: [loops@chha.ca](mailto:loops@chha.ca)



### What is a Hearing Loop?

A hearing loop transmits an audio signal directly into hearing devices through a magnetic field, reducing background noise. Since the sound is being delivered directly to the hearing aid or cochlear implant, the sound is customized to each individual's hearing loss.

### How Does it Work?

The loop system contains a microphone to pick up spoken words. Then an amplifier processes the signal and sends it through the final piece: the induction loop, a wire placed around the perimeter of a room to act as an antenna that radiates a magnetic signal to the hearing aid.

### The Telecoil

Telecoils provide access to people with hearing loss. They are the essential gateway to hearing aid compatible listening for people with hearing aids and cochlear implants. Telecoils receive the magnetic sound signal inside loop venues.

When buying a hearing aid, consumers should always ask that a telecoil be included and activated. This can be done at no extra cost to the consumer.

### Where Else Can Hearing Loops Be Used?

- Information Counters
- Ticket Booths
- Checkouts
- Auditoriums
- Stadiums
- Coffee Shops

### Be the Change in Your Community!

Advocate for hearing loops at your favourite venues using the resources on our website.

[www.getinthehearingloop.ca](http://www.getinthehearingloop.ca)

Contact us at [loops@chha.ca](mailto:loops@chha.ca) for more information!



# YOU ARE IN THE LOOP!



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Get in the **Hearing Loop**  
Bienvenue à la **boucle auditive**

## ABOUT

A national movement to promote communication access and support a barrier-free Canada, one loop at a time.

## OUR GOALS

1. Educating the public on communication barriers.
2. Promoting solutions by installing Hearing Loops.
3. Improving access for over 4 million Canadians with hearing loss.

## THE PROBLEM

**1 in 10** Canadians experience hearing loss.

Over **4 million** Canadians face a hearing-related communication barrier.

Hearing loss is one of the fastest growing disabilities across all age demographics, including **1 to 5 Youth**.

## THE SOLUTION

Hearing Loops transmit an audio signal directly into hearing devices via a magnetic field, reducing background noise. This is beneficial for anyone with a T-coil in their hearing device.



### 1-TO-1 HEARING LOOPS FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE COUNTERS

These loops are used in a two person conversation. A microphone is installed for staff to speak into and is connected to a hearing loop that transmits a signal to the customer's hearing device.

These are ideal for small environments, such as information counters, checkouts, and private offices.

### HEARING LOOPS FOR GROUP EVENTS

Audio from a sound source, such as a microphone, is connected to a hearing loop driver. The driver sends the signal through a hearing loop wire that surrounds the entire area. This signal is picked up by anyone within the area using a hearing device with a telecoil, converting it into clear audio directly from the sound source.

These are effective in venues such as auditoriums, galleries, and conference rooms.

## HOW WE CAN HELP

CHHA can help you "Get Looped" by offering:

- Accessibility Assessment of Space
- Product Selection
- Installation
- Staff Training
- Continued Service Support
- Recognition and Promotion of Your Accessible Service

Reduce communication barriers and become more competitive by improving customer service and satisfaction.

**"IMMEDIATELY, IT WAS A SUCCESS," HE SAYS. "IT HAS HELPED PEOPLE'S COMMUNICATION IMMENSELY."**

- PAUL ANTHRAPER  
DISTRICT MANAGER OF MARKET  
FRANCHISE IN NORTHERN ONTARIO,  
AFTER INSTALLING HEARING LOOPS

## CONTACT US

1-800-263-8068, Ext 102

[loops@chha.ca](mailto:loops@chha.ca)

[www.getinthehearingloop.ca](http://www.getinthehearingloop.ca)

## VAD Services free to Public

One-on-One Support & Assistance:

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

AISH Application forms

- CPPD forms
- Edmonton Leisure Access Pass forms
- Personal Taxes (for Low Income Individuals)
- Disability Tax Credit Application forms
- Old Age Security forms
- Alberta Adult Health Benefit forms
- Referrals for RDSPs

VAD offers the following areas of program support, and referral. One-on-One Support Individuals arrange an appointment with VAD and work together to fill our government application forms.

Organizational Supports: Our provincial services embrace an organizational focus collaborating with other organizations, local government and the community. Education Awareness Presentations and workshop opportunities for businesses, schools (K-12), and Post Secondary Schools are available throughout the year.

We have had over 210 appointments this year and over 990 telephone calls requesting information or referrals to other organizations. Many of these people become repeat users of our services and promote us to others in need. VAD has seen an increase in our service usage by social organizations, including:

- E4C
- City Police Help Team
- Bissell Centre
- Hope Mission

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- Catholic Social Services
- The Mustard Seed
- Boyle Street
- YWCA/YMCA
- As well as an increase in social workers, AISH workers and other government officials contacting us for client support.

VAD does not work directly with Children/Youth, Seniors and PDD recipients, however we can refer to supporting organizations.

## Wine Survivor Raffle 2025

Wine Survivor is your chance to make a difference in the disability community. Your support for this event will make it possible for Voice of Albertans with Disabilities to sustain the many services they provide to individuals with disabilities, and their families. It's also an enriching opportunity for your company, employees, clients and colleagues to participate in a fun community-building event.

Wine Survivor is an online elimination draw where you have a chance to win copious amounts of wine! The game's fun is for participants to gather their friends/family/coworkers virtually and watch their fate for the big winnings unfold. All of the joy of the survivor game while raising vital funds for Voice of Albertans with Disabilities.

### RULES OF PLAY:

Participants must be 18 years of age and older to play. There is no limit to the number of paid entries per person. This is an elimination draw. Names will be drawn until only three names are left in the competition and declared the winners. Draws start January 22 and go until someone is crowned the ultimate survivor in February 12, 2025 - just in time for Valentine's day! No refunds will be issued, payment by credit card.

**\$40 per entry – Enter as many times as you like**

**\$30 fee for three “immunity idols” – maximum of 1 per person (max. 1 to be used per week)**

**Raffle date February 12, 2025.**

**Survivors would begin to be “eliminated” starting January 22, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. MST**

**January 22, 2025 @ 2:00 MST – 25% of tickets will be eliminated**

**January 29, 2025 @ 2:00 MST – 25% of tickets will be eliminated**

**February 5, 2025 @ 2:00 MST – 25% of tickets will be eliminated**

**February 12, 2025 @ 2:00 MST – Last 3 Winners of Wine Survivor declared**

For example, if there are 200 “survivor tickets purchased”, 50 will be eliminated in the first draw; 50 will be eliminated in the second draw; 50 will be eliminated in the third draw; and 47 of the remaining survivors will be eliminated in the last draw. The 3 names left will be drawn to determine 3rd, 2nd, and 1st place. If “immunity idol” has been purchased by player and their number is drawn, they would not be eliminated in that week's draw and they will be “safe” for another week. Immunity idols can only be used on the first three draws.

**Wine given to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place:**

**1st place receives 50% of wine**

**2nd place receives 30% of wine**

**3rd place receives 20% of wine**

Raffle license #719153

Total ticket value \$14000.00

<https://vadsociety.ca/2025-vad-wine-survivor-raffle/>



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# WINE SURVIVOR RAFFLE



Looking for a great  
Valentine's gift!



\$40 per entry – Enter as many times as you like  
\$30 fee for three “immunity idols”  
Raffle date February 12, 2025.

More information:

<https://vadsociety.ca/the-voice-january-2025-wine-survivor-january-2025/>

780-488-9088

GREAT FOR VALENTINES DAY

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## VAD Bursaries

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities would like to thank the 41 applicants that applied for the 2024 Education for Life Bursaries. We are pleased to announce that 11 people have received bursaries ranging from \$400 to \$1000.

The programs that the post-secondary students are enrolled in are:

- Health Sciences Certificate - Pre-nursing
- Business Administration
- Bachelor of Arts
- Railway Conductor
- Bachelor of Kinesiology
- Open Studies
- Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies
- Business Administration Finance Diploma
- Education After Degree
- Bachelor of Fine Arts
- Bachelor of Arts - Psych

Scan here for the Wine Survivor Website Blog!



**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A PODCAST**

CONTACT TERESA  
[VAD@VADSOCIETY.CA](mailto:VAD@VADSOCIETY.CA)  
780-488-9088

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