

The VOICE of Albertans with Disabilities

Non-Profit Careers Video

Do you feel the frustration about being no closer to achieving your professional dreams? If you question your ability to experience something new or a sense of achievement, you might need to make a change. Now is the time to take a chance, think outside the box, and try a new path to success. Your choices in life define you. A Career in Non-Profit will take you somewhere you have never been.

Watch the VAD #WorkForNonProfit Video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsyekL5a_ Gs&t=13s



TELUS expands Internet for Good program to support British Columbians and Albertans living with disabilities

These days, having access to reliable internet is essential in today's connected world and we are reaching out to inform you about a subsidized internet offer that we hope can benefit the individuals that your organization supports. The TELUS Internet for Good program strives to bridge the digital divide by providing online access to those in need in Alberta and British Columbia. As of July 07th we are expanding our Internet for Good program to include individuals who receive the BC Persons with Disability (PWD) benefit or the Alberta Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) benefit from the provincial government or the Canada Pension Plan Disability Benefit (CPPD).

What is included:

• Internet connectivity for \$9.95 per month for 24 months

- Speeds of up to 25 megabits per second
- 300 GB of data per month
- Opportunity to purchase a low cost refurbished computer

Who is eligible/how to sign up:

Our Internet for Good program is now available to individuals who receive provincial or federal disability assistance in Alberta and British Columbia. Individuals who meet this criteria and want to sign up can forward a copy of one of the following documents to internetforgood@telus.com:

- BC Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction Confirmation of Assistance Statement
- CRA Statement of Canada Pension Plan Benefit T4A(P)

• Alberta AISH Monthly Assistance Statement If they do meet the eligibility criteria they will be issued a code directly that they can use to call the call center and set up their Internet services. For program management purposes, we record the individuals first name, last name, address and email address but we do not record the amount of assistance they receive or any personal identification numbers.

"At a time when the human connection has never been more important, TELUS remains committed to ensuring all Canadians stay connected to the people and information that matter the most," said Darren Entwistle, TELUS President and CEO. "Throughout the pandemic, our globally leading network has provided the backbone for these truly meaningful connections, enabling Canadians to work and learn remotely, apply for critical government resources, receive medical support, and stay connected to family and friends. By expanding our TELUS Internet for Good program, we are helping people with living disabilities, including those citizens who are unable to connect to the Internet through community centres or libraries that are closed as a result of the global health emergency, to access the vital tools and resources they need to live fulfilling lives, from the comfort of their own home."

Eligibility for the expanded program is based on receiving the B.C. Persons with Disability (PWD) benefit or the Alberta Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) benefit. To apply, eligible individuals can contact TELUS at InternetforGood@telus.com and provide one piece of government-issued documentation that identifies them as a recipient of PWD or AISH. Eligible individuals can also send their paperwork by mail to TELUS. In cases where the individual does not have access to



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e-mail or requires support in contacting TELUS, they can have a friend, family member, or case worker apply on their behalf. Qualified new customers will receive a unique code from TELUS and can then use that code to sign-up for the program and book a TELUS service installation. Existing TELUS customers will have their monthly bill lowered to the \$9.95 program rate. TELUS Internet for Good provides Internet speeds up to 25 Mbps and 300 GB of data per month.

TELUS Internet for Good is part of the TELUS Connecting for Good portfolio of programs, which ensures our world-leading technology can create meaningful change by bridging digital divides and ensuring equal access to technology for Canadians in need. Additional programs include:

TELUS Internet for Good, offering high speed broadband Internet to qualified low-income families, people living with disabilities, and students for only \$9.95 per month;

TELUS Mobility for Good, offering a free smartphone and a fully subsidized 3GB data plan to youth transitioning out of foster care for two years;

TELUS Tech for Good, helping differently abled Canadians facing challenges using smart phones and tablets with customized technology solutions that help them live more independently; and

TELUS Health for Good, enabling TELUS mobile health clinics to bring primary healthcare directly to people in need living on the streets in urban centres across Canada.

TELUS also empowers Canadians of all ages to stay safe in our digital world with online resources and workshops through TELUS Wise², which covers topics including protecting your online security, privacy, and reputation, rising above cyberbullying, and using technology responsibly.

TELUS

Attention: Internet for Good Program 510 West Georgia Street - Floor 23 Vancouver, BC V6B 0M3 Please include your full name, return address, email address (if applicable) and contact phone number so we can contact you about your application. There is a credit check for services. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, TELUS has committed \$150 million to support Canadians with the services and resources they need. For the latest information about TELUS' support during the COVID-19 pandemic, visit telus.com/covid19.

The Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister Innovation, Science and Industry:

"Whether it's telework, accessing on-line medicine or distance learning, we know high-speed internet is a necessity for all Canadians. This is especially true given the current challenges brought on by COVID-19. The Government of Canada applauds TELUS's efforts to ex-

> pand their Internet for Good program to people living with disabilities to help ensure they have access to all the benefits of a reliable home internet connection."

The Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Citizens' Services, Government of British Columbia:

"British Columbians have come together to support each other during this challenging time of physical

distancing. Internet access is an essential service that connects us to the people we care about and the vital programs and services we need. Providing low-cost internet to people with disabilities and vulnerable families is an excellent way to support our neighbours as we navigate these uncertain times."

The Honourable Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Government of British Columbia:

"Social inclusion is an integral part of accessibility in B.C. Right now, low-income people with disabilities are facing increased barriers because of COVID-19 that may prevent them from actively participating in their communities. The TELUS Internet for Good program is breaking barriers for people with disabilities so that they can stay connected to their family, friends and communities, as well as the supports and services they need."

The Honourable Rajan Sawhney, Minister of Community and Social Services, Government of Alberta:

"During these challenging times, it is important for communities and partners to work together to provide accessible services to Albertans with disabilities. The TELUS Internet for Good program

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will make a positive impact in the lives of Albertans receiving AISH. Access to affordable and reliable high speed internet ensures these individuals can stay connected with their families and friends, work remotely and access important programs and services. Thanks TELUS for your continued commitment to supporting Albertans with disabilities."

For more information about TELUS, please visit telus. com, follow us @TELUSNews on Twitter and @Darren_ Entwistle on Instagram.

How inclusive is your community?

A checklist of criteria to increase community accessibility, taken from Creating Inclusive Communities.

- 1. Is your promotional material up to date and written in plain language?
- 2. Does your physical space reflect the present demographic of the community?
- 3. Is promotional material available in another language spoken in your community?
- 4. Is you material readily accessible (i.e. visible)?
- 5. Is your material located outside the organization such as agencies that serve diverse populations?
- Does your mission statement state your commitment to being inclusive?
- 7. Do stakeholders from diverse communities become involved in developing best practices? Are they part of your board, staff, group and volunteer committees?
- 8. Are you programs and services easy to get to by way of public transportation?
- 9. Are your programs and services readily accessible (e.g. wheelchairs, captioning, interpreters)?
- 10. Do your programs and services consider the current economic status of the proposed participants?
- 11. Are your program flexible enough to accommodate the needs of diverse populations?
- 12. Do you consider inclusion of diverse populations in planning for community events?

Things you can easily do.

- Have a plain language document consultation on your printed material The VRRI offers consultations to community groups. Contact Stacey Kowbel at www.vrii.org.
- Choose art, pictures, posters, etc. that reflect diversity. Download photos or clip art or contact a local print shop for photos that reflect diversity.
- Research and use a listing of local interpreters and information on how to access a language bank.
- Ensure all promotional materials is at the entrance and in high traffic areas.
- Check for agencies that serve diverse populations.
- Be sure to include your street address, consider including applicable bus routes to your organization in your promotional material.

Expert panel formed to review affordable housing

An independent Affordable Housing Review Panel will bring a new vision for affordable housing into focus.

Seniors and Housing Minister Josephine Pon welcomed the panel to its first meeting. Panel Chair Mickey Amery, MLA for Calgary-Cross, will lead the 10-member panel that will provide recommendations to transform Alberta's affordable housing system.

Seniors and Housing Minister Josephine Pon has appointed 10 experts to an independent panel, led by MLA Mickey Amery, to conduct a review that will provide recommendations to transform affordable housing. Through this review, the panel will identify ways to make the affordable housing system better serve Albertans in need as well as make more efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

"Our government knows Alberta's affordable housing system must be financially sustainable and able to address growing demand. This review is the foundational piece of our housing transformation work. I thank the panel members for agreeing to spend their valuable time and effort to make housing more affordable and accessible. Their recommendations will help inform a new vision for affordable housing in Alberta." Josephine Pon, Minister of Seniors and Housing



"It is an honour to chair the Affordable Housing Review Panel and have the opportunity to work with this outstanding group of experts. Over the coming months, as we hear from diverse groups and dig into research, we will be challenged to

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think creatively about ways government can better provide housing for Albertans in need. We have much work ahead and I am eager to get started." Mickey Amery, chair, Affordable Housing Review Panel, and MLA for Calgary-Cross

Panel members bring a diverse range of expertise and backgrounds as housing providers, developers and civil society organizations to identify innovative solutions for Albertans in need of housing. The panel will also receive submissions on populations most in need of affordable housing.

Specifically, the panel will consider:

- The role the Government of Alberta plays in providing affordable housing.
- Simplifying or easing regulatory structures that create costs and red tape for housing providers.
- Gaps in the current affordable housing system.
- Innovative approaches that will enable government and its partners to meet increasing demand for affordable housing.

The Affordable Housing Review Panel members are:

- Mickey Amery, chair MLA for Calgary-Cross
- Paul Boskovich president, Genstar Development Company
- Lauren Ingalls chief administrative officer, Westwinds Communities
- Jeffrey Johnson consultant and former Alberta MLA and cabinet minister
- Sam Kolias co-founder, chairman and chief executive officer, Boardwalk REIT
- Javaid (Jerry) Naqvi chairman and founder, Cameron Development Corporation
- Marcia Nelson executive fellow, University of Calgary
- Raymond Swonek chief executive officer, Greater Edmonton Foundation Seniors Housing
- Dr. Sasha Tsenkova professor, University of Calgary
- Rachelle Venne chief executive officer, Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women

To ensure physical distancing, members will rely on virtual technology to facilitate meetings, presentations and engagement, where possible. The panel will hear from groups that are interested in affordable housing. These groups include seniors, Indigenous Peoples, newcomers, people experiencing homelessness, and people with disabilities.

"I feel privileged to help shape the future of the province's affordable housing system in order to sustain this critical resource. In this economic juncture, housing is more important than ever. I applaud the province for taking steps to review a program that has been evolving since 1958 to ensure it supports housing needs of vulnerable families, seniors and individuals with special needs, while supporting growing demands for innovative housing solutions." Lauren Ingalls, chief administrative officer, Westwinds Communities

"Affordable housing is essential for competitive and resilient communities. During the current pandemic, it shelters Albertans from economic shocks, provides a place to work, learn and recover from social stress. The ecosystem of affordable housing providers requires resources, commitment and innovative strategies to address growing housing challenges." Dr. Sasha Tsenkova, professor, University of Calgary

"Affordable housing is critical to building safe, inclusive Alberta communities. Housing has been documented often as a critical component to improving the lives of Indigenous women, most recently in the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. I look forward to participating in the Affordable Housing Review Panel with this view in mind."

Rachelle Venne, chief executive officer, Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women

"On behalf of Cameron Corporation, I am proud to be selected by Minister Pon to be part of the Affordable Housing Review Panel. From our perspective as an immigrant family and an Edmonton-based developer for 40 years, we understand the need to build a community everyone can enjoy, and one in which we all feel accepted. I look forward to working hard alongside my fellow panel members and partner organizations to continue making Alberta accessible for all." Jerry Naqvi, chairman and founder, Cameron Development Corporation

The panel's final report will be submitted to Minister Pon by Sept. 30. Media inquiries: Natalie Tomczak, 587-596-8187 Press Secretary, Seniors and Housing

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