



# The **VOICE** of Albertans with Disabilities

June 1, 2025

## NOTICE OF **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** VIRTUAL



Saturday, June 21 - 11 am -1 pm

**VAD members are invited to join Voice of  
Albertans with Disabilities for the  
AGM on June 21, 2025.**

Members can register for the **ZOOM** link or request  
a PROXY Vote by emailing: **[vad@vadsociety.ca](mailto:vad@vadsociety.ca)**

**You must be a VAD member in  
good standing to attend.**

**Join VAD Society today to vote at our AGM.  
<https://vadsociety.ca/login-signup/>**

**[WWW.VADSOCIETY.CA](http://WWW.VADSOCIETY.CA)**

105, 10106 111 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB T5G 0B4  
780-488-9088 [www.vadsociety.ca](http://www.vadsociety.ca)



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## The **Annual General Meeting** of Voice of Albertans with Disabilities Society

will be held **Saturday, June 21, 2025**  
from **11:00 am to 1:00 pm** by Zoom

Attendees must register for the meeting at 780-488-9088 or [vad@vadsociety.ca](mailto:vad@vadsociety.ca)

### Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is a meeting conducted annually where the members of VAD gather to discuss and vote on key issues. This year the key issues will include:

1. Approval of financial audited report
2. Approval of new and returning board members
3. Business of the Society
  - a. Strategic Plan
  - b. Bylaws

Included with the notice of the AGM, is a proxy voting form for those that cannot attend in person to be able to vote on matters of the Society. Members must be in good standing and can choose a proxy vote, a member by name that is in good standing with the organization, to vote on their behalf.

We look forward to your attendance at this year's Virtual Annual General Meeting on June 21, 2025, from 11 am to 1 pm. You can register by calling 780-488-9088 or emailing [vad@vadsociety.ca](mailto:vad@vadsociety.ca) to be on the list of attendees or on the list of proxy votes. Please call and let VAD know if you are interested in attending and VAD will send you the link to the AGM on Friday, June 20, 2025.

VAD uses Roberts Rules of Order, here is a quick reference for your review. Official notice of the AGM was given on May 29th to the Membership

Quick Reference					
	Must Be Seconded	Open for Discussion	Can be Amended	Vote Count Required to Pass	May Be Reconsidered or Rescinded
Main Motion	√	√	√	Majority	√
Amend Motion	√	√		Majority	√
Kill a Motion	√			Majority	√
Limit Debate	√		√	2/3 <sup>ds</sup>	√
Close Discussion	√			2/3 <sup>ds</sup>	√
Recess	√		√	Majority	
Adjourn (End meeting)	√			Majority	
Refer to Committee	√	√	√	Majority	√
Postpone to a later time	√	√	√	Majority	√
Table	√			Majority	
Postpone Indefinitely	√	√	√	Majority	√

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# Proxy Voting Form

## 2025 Annual General Meeting

The undersigned member of Voice of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD Society) hereby appoints a VAD member in good standing, as nominee to attend, act and vote on behalf of the undersigned at the Annual General Meeting of the members of VAD to be held **June 21, 2025, at 11 am.**

**Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone/Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization Name** (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proxy:** ☐ VAD President **or** ☐ Proxy Members' Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Completed Proxy Forms must be received in the VAD office no later than **June 13, 2025, at 4 pm.** Send your proxy form by email to [execdirector@vadsociety.ca](mailto:execdirector@vadsociety.ca) or by mail to:

**Leslie Lambert**  
Executive Director  
Voice of Albertans with Disabilities  
105 Royal Alex Place, 10106 111 Ave NW  
Edmonton, AB., T5G 0B4

**You must be a VAD member to vote .** <https://vadsociety.ca/login-signup/>

## Canada Disability Benefit

To apply for the Canada Disability Benefit (CDB), individuals need to first ensure they have been approved for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC). The CDB is a new monthly benefit for low-income Canadians with disabilities. Applications will be accepted starting in June 2025, with payments beginning in July 2025. The Disability Tax Credit Certificate (Form T2201) is required for both the DTC and the CDB.

Here's a detailed breakdown of the application process:

### 1. Disability Tax Credit (DTC) Application:

Form T2201: Complete the T2201 Disability Tax Credit Certificate.

**Medical Practitioner:** A medical practitioner must fill out and sign the sections of the form related to your disability.



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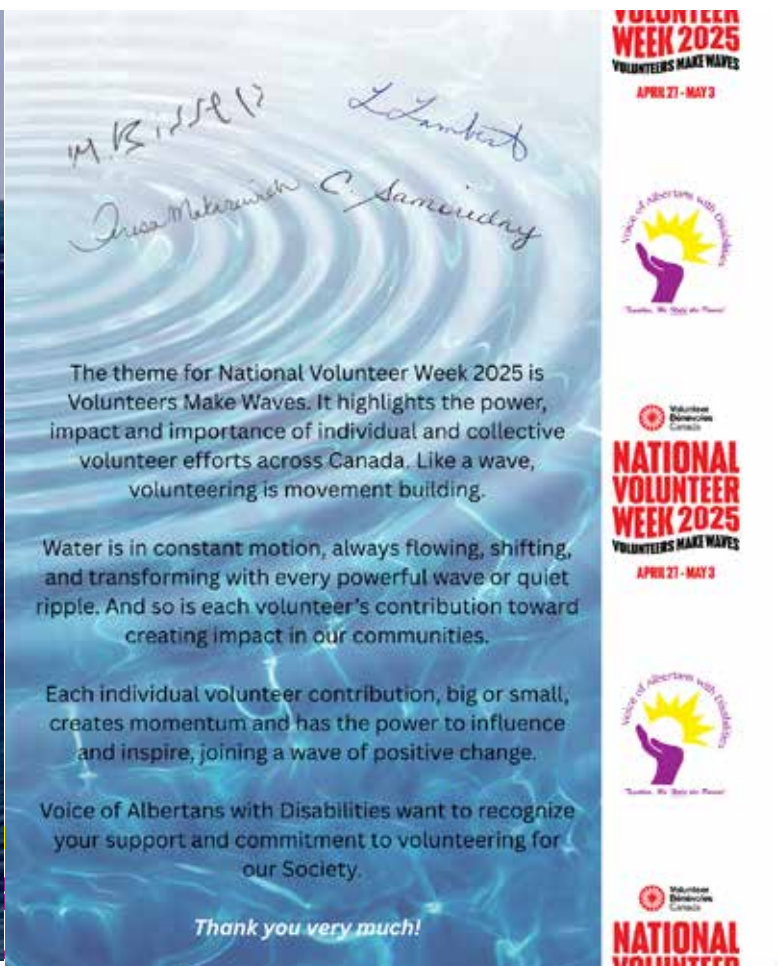
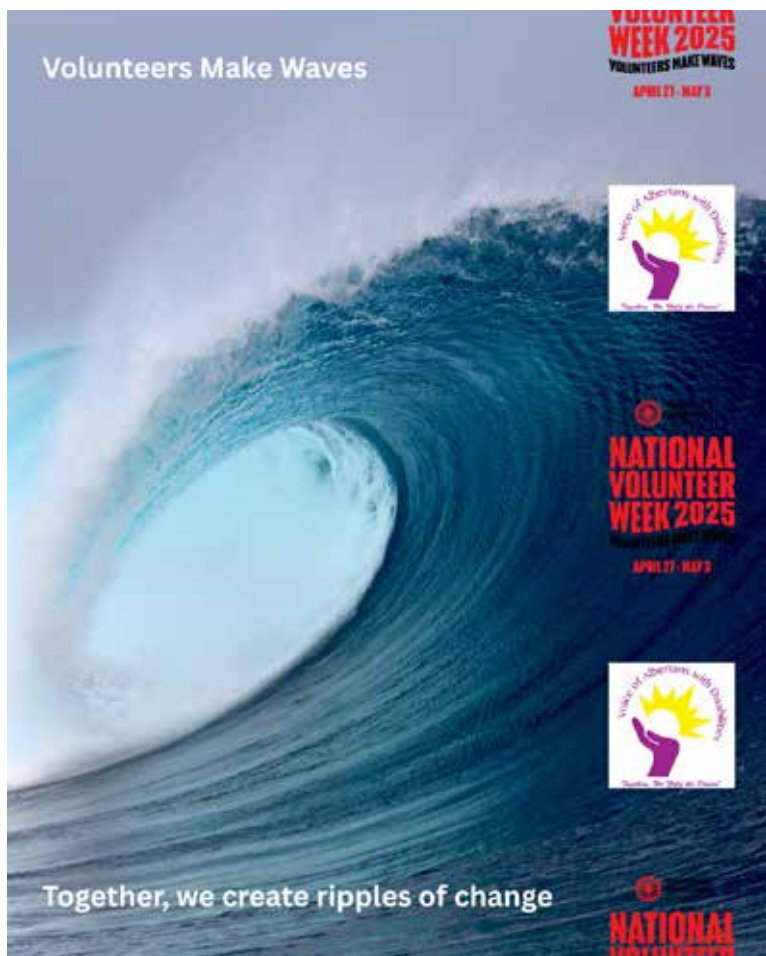




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## Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon - May 3, 2025



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**Submit to CRA:** Submit the completed form to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

## **2. Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) Application: Eligibility:**

To be eligible for the CDB, you must be aged 18 to 64 and have been approved for the DTC.

### **Application Process:**

The CDB application process will be announced closer to June 2025, but it's expected to involve applying through the new My Service Canada Account (MSCA).

**Income Thresholds:** Payments are based on income thresholds, with those below the threshold receiving the maximum benefit.

## **3. Key Considerations:**

**Documentation:** Ensure you have all necessary documentation, including proof of your Social Insurance Number (SIN).

**Spouse/Partner:** If you are married or in a common-law relationship, your spouse or partner may also need to file an income tax return.

**Waiting Period:** Be aware that there may be a waiting period for both the DTC and the CDB.

## **4. Where to Find More Information:**

**Canada.ca** (Canada Disability Benefit website): This website provides a central hub for information about the CDB, including application details and eligibility criteria.

**Canada.ca (CRA website):** For information about the DTC, including how to apply and submit your form.

# **Canada Disability Benefit in Alberta: The facts and how to take action** by Inclusion Alberta

<https://inclusionalbarta.org/canada-disability-benefit-in-alberta-the-facts-and-how-to-take-action/>

The Alberta government recently announced that the new Canada Disability Benefit, payment of which is set to begin this summer, will be considered 'non-exempt' income for AISH recipients. Individuals and families are increasingly reaching out to Inclusion Alberta expressing disappointment, fear and confusion over this decision and what it means for them.

The Canada Disability Benefit will be a monthly payment for working-age persons with disabilities who have low income. The benefit was intended to lift people with disabilities out of poverty, but the maximum benefit of \$200 a month is too low to accomplish this goal. Applications open in June 2025 and payments will begin in July.

### **Who qualifies for the CDB?**

You must:

- be currently approved for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC),
- be between the ages of 18 and 64,
- have filed an income tax return for the last tax year,
- be a resident of Canada

### **How much is the CDB?**

The maximum benefit amount is \$2,400 a year, or \$200 a month. The amount received is based on both your income and the income of your spouse or common-law partner in the previous tax year.

The benefit amount will be reduced if your income is above a certain threshold. People who earn more than a specified income limit are not eligible to receive the CDB. How much income you can earned before CDB is reduced depends on whether your earnings are employment income or from another source, and whether you are single or have a spouse or common-law partner and whether that partner also receives CDB.

### **Can I receive CDB and other government benefits?**

The federal government has exempted CDB as income in calculations of other federal benefits, which means the CDB is a



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benefit you receive in addition to other benefits. Receiving CDB will not reduce Canada Child Benefit, Employment Insurance, or other benefits you receive from the Government of Canada. Because the Government of Canada requires recipients to report the CDB as income on your tax return, provinces and territories each can decide on how it interacts with their own programs and benefits, like AISH. Among provinces and territories, only Alberta has decided that receiving CDB will reduce the amount of provincial benefits.



### **How will the Government of Alberta's CDB clawbacks affect me?**

If you receive AISH or Income Support from the Government of Alberta, every dollar of CDB you receive from the federal government will lead to an equal reduction in the provincial assistance you receive through AISH or Income Support. Even though you technically will receive the CDB, you will in fact have no more income than before you qualified for CDB because your AISH or Income Support has been reduced.

If you do not receive AISH or Income Support, receiving CDB could still change whether you are eligible for the other provincial benefits and the amounts you receive. Unless Alberta exempts CDB from being counted as income in eligibility and benefit calculations, it could lead to reductions in benefits from the following programs: Alberta Child Health Benefit, Medical benefits from Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD), Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL), Residential Access Modification Program (RAMP), Alberta Student Aid, Alberta Child and Family Benefit, and Affordable Housing including Rental Assistance Benefit (RAB), Temporary Rental Assistance Benefit (TRAB), Community Housing, and Special Needs Housing. Eligibility for municipal government low-income transit passes may also be affected because the CBD must be reported, impacting the tax documents that cities use to determine eligibility.

### **Should I bother applying for CDB since I am on AISH and it will be clawed back?**

The Government of Alberta has sent a letter to everyone who receives AISH notifying them that they are required to apply for DTC and CDB. Applying provides little benefit to you if you receive AISH—the provincial government seems to be motivated by wanting to reduce the amount it spends on AISH payments for individuals who receive CDB. Applying for the CDB will be very challenging for some because it requires that you first apply successfully for a DTC certificate and ensure you have filed an income tax return. We advise you to try to comply by applying since we do not know yet what the implications would be of ignoring this direction from the Alberta government. For some individuals who receive AISH, applying for DTC has advantages because it allows them to qualify for other federal benefits.

### **How do I get a DTC certificate so that I will be eligible for CDB?**

The DTC application has two parts:

- Part A – completed by the person with a disability or their legal representative.
- Part B – completed a medical practitioner.

Doctors and nurse practitioners can fill out all sections of Part B, and other health professionals can help their patients certify specific categories of disabilities. Finding a healthcare provider willing to complete DTC forms can be challenging, especially for the over 650,000 Albertans in need of a family doctor. Cost is also a barrier as healthcare providers charge fees as high as \$300 to complete the forms.

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Only one quarter of persons with disabilities likely to be eligible for the DTC have submitted a complete DTC application according to the Government of Canada's 2024 Disability Advisory Committee report. The report highlights the time-consuming and complex application process as a barrier to qualifying for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC). The report notes that only 24% of online applications that are begun are completed and concludes that "more support and accessibility in the process is needed for applicants to successfully complete the process".

Funding from the Government of Alberta to community partners to support individuals with DTC applications ended in 2024, and the Government of Canada has promised but not yet delivered funding for organizations to assist individuals with DTC applications.

### **How can I advocate for the Government of Alberta to reverse its decision to claw back CDB?**

We are asking you to request a meeting with your MLA, with the Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services, and with the Minister of Finances. We urgently need to join in opposing this claw back, otherwise government will assume that people with disabilities are resigned to accepting this unjust policy.

**Voice of Albertans with Disabilities can assist individuals with the DTC forms at no cost. Call our office today to make an appointment - 780-488-9088 or email [vad@vadsociety.ca](mailto:vad@vadsociety.ca).**

## **Key Features and Tips for Using the VAD Website**

The Voice of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD) website—[vadsociety.ca](http://vadsociety.ca)—is a valuable resource for individuals with disabilities, their families, and advocates across Alberta. It offers a wide range of tools, tips, and services designed to promote accessibility, inclusion, and empowerment.

### **1. Support**

VAD provides guidance on navigating Alberta's Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) program. They also offer resources related to the Disability Tax Credit (DTC), Canadian Pension Plan Disability (CPPD), Old Age Security (OAS) and low-income taxes.

### **2. Accessibility Tools**

To enhance website usability, VAD integrates accessibility tools like UserWay, allowing users to adjust text size, contrast, and navigation features for a more inclusive browsing experience. [vadsociety.ca](http://vadsociety.ca)

### **3. Educational Workshops & Awareness**

VAD offers customized educational workshops and "Lunch & Learn" sessions aimed at fostering disability awareness in various settings. These sessions cover topics such as understanding disabilities, appropriate language use, and addressing societal barriers.

### **4. Resource Directory**

The website hosts a comprehensive resource directory, connecting users to services across Alberta, including housing, employment, transportation, and recreation tailored for individuals with disabilities.

### **5. Community Engagement**

VAD actively promotes community involvement through events, volunteer opportunities, and advocacy initiatives, encouraging users to participate and support the disability community.



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## 6. Accessibility Tips for Online Events

For organizations hosting virtual events, VAD provides an Accessible Events Checklist, offering guidelines to ensure online platforms are inclusive and accessible to all participants.

## 7. Contact and Support

Users can easily reach out to VAD through their contact page for personalized assistance or to inquire about specific programs and services.

Located in Edmonton, VAD is well-positioned to address the unique needs of all Albertans with disabilities, offering localized support and resources by in-person or phone appointments.

If you're interested in specific programs, services, or need assistance navigating the VAD website, feel free to ask for more detailed information.

[vad@vadsociety.ca](mailto:vad@vadsociety.ca)  
780-488-9088

## Response to Concerns about AISH, ADAP, and the Canada Disability Benefit by Jason Nixon

A letter was sent to Jason Nixon and this is a summary of his responses.

**ADAP Introduction:** The Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP) is being developed to support people with disabilities who can and want to work, offering both financial and health benefits along with access to employment services and skill-building.

**Why ADAP?:** AISH was not designed for people who can work part-time or intermittently. ADAP fills this gap by allowing clients to earn income while keeping their benefits.

**Transition Plan:** When ADAP launches in July 2026, current AISH clients will be assessed and placed in either AISH or ADAP, depending on their needs. Severe disability cases will be prioritized and reviewed by an AISH medical panel.

**AISH Remains Intact:** AISH will continue for Albertans with permanent, severe disabilities. It's a statutory, fully funded program with no changes to its core benefit amount (\$1,901/month in 2025).

**Canada Disability Benefit (CDB):** The CDB will be counted as non-exempt income for AISH recipients, meaning it won't increase their total monthly income—but Alberta is already meeting and exceeding the federal benchmark of \$1,814/month.

**Pride in Alberta's Support:** Alberta claims the highest

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disability benefit rate in Canada, with AISH paying more than comparable programs in other provinces.

Contact Information Provided: The letter closes with contacts for the AISH office for further questions at 780-415-6300.

## VAD Annual Report

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities will be publishing our Annual Report in June 2025. This report showcases the various activities and projects that VAD participates in.

You can find out about VAD's:

- Mission and Vision
- Guiding Principles
- Core Values
- Objectives and Aims of the Society
- A president and Executive Director's message
- VAD Staff and Board members
- Volunteer shout outs
- Areas of support for individuals and Partner-ships
- VAD Membership
- Education and Awareness information
- Presentations
- Information Services
- Website
- Bursaries
- Podcast Information
- A cumulative Annual Report
- Sponsor & Donor Thank You







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## National AccessAbility Week (NAAW) BBQ - May 31, 2025

### Thank You to Our Food & Refreshment Sponsors!

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities Society would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our generous sponsors who provided the delicious food and refreshments for our National Accessibility Awareness Week BBQ.

Your support helped us bring together community members in celebration of inclusion, accessibility, and connection. Thanks to you, our guests enjoyed a welcoming afternoon filled with great food, fun activities, and meaningful conversations.

We are truly grateful for your commitment to making a difference and helping us create a more inclusive Alberta—one plate at a time!

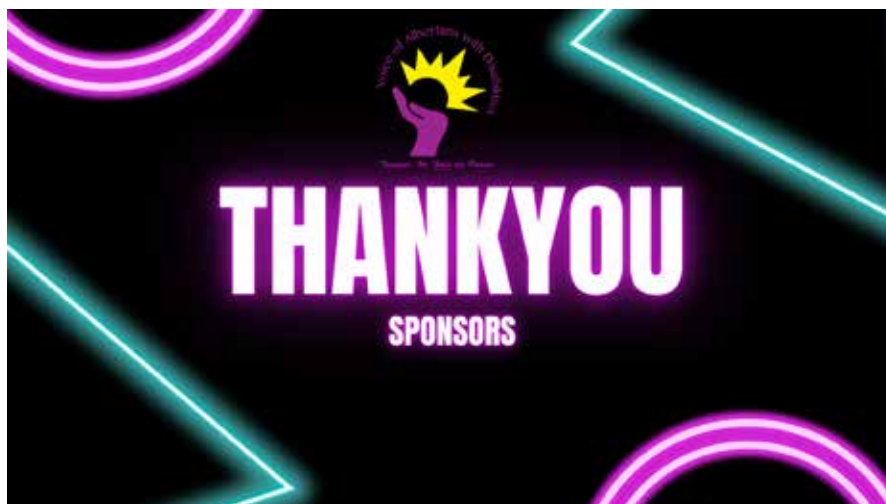
Thank you to all the guests who joined us for our National Accessibility Awareness Week BBQ! Your presence helped make the day meaningful, inclusive, and full of community spirit. We're grateful for your support and commitment to accessibility for all.

Thank You from VAD Staff



**RED PLAID**  
DEVELOPMENTS

**saveonfoods**



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## Cumulative Annual Report

April 1, 2024-March 31, 2025

### Reporting Requirements

		Non-Indigenous	Indigenous On Reserve/ Settlement	Indigenous Off Reserve/ Settlement	Total
Total # of received referrals	Accepted	2273	2	88	2363
	Not accepted	0	0	0	0
	Total # of received referrals:				2363
	Number of referred clients with a <b>developmental</b> condition/impairment:				33
	Number of referred clients with a <b>mental</b> condition/impairment:				174
	Number of referred clients with a <b>neurological</b> condition/impairment:				86
	Number of referred clients with a <b>physical</b> condition/impairment:				222
	Number of referred clients with a <b>sensory</b> condition/impairment:				1
Total # of unique clients served	Male	1012	0	23	1035
	Female	1247	0	26	1273
	Other	55	0	0	55
	Total # of clients served:				2363
Total # of new files opened for this reporting period:		1913	0	76	1989
Total # of closed files for this reporting period:		1324	0	64	1388
Waitlist # of clients waiting to receive service after meeting the eligibility requirements	Less than one month	1492	0	76	1568
	1 - 3 months	51	0	0	51
	4 - 6 months	0	0	0	0
	7 - 12 months	0	0	0	0
	12+ months	0	0	0	0
	Total # of clients on waitlist:				1619

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