

ADAP Has Arrived: What You Need to Know

The Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP) is now in effect, bringing significant changes to income support for many Albertans with disabilities. As the transition continues, Voice of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD) has been hearing from individuals across the province who have questions, concerns, and uncertainty about what these changes mean for them.

What is ADAP?

ADAP is Alberta's new disability income support program designed for individuals with disabilities who may be able to participate in employment now or in the future with appropriate supports. The program is intended to provide financial assistance while encouraging workforce participation where possible.

Many current and prospective disability support recipients are trying to understand how ADAP differs from existing programs and how it may impact their financial security and future planning.

Key Differences Between ADAP and AISH

While both programs provide support to Albertans with disabilities, there are several notable differences:

- ADAP provides a monthly benefit that is lower than the current AISH benefit amount.
- ADAP includes earned-income provisions designed to encourage employment participation.
- Individuals may continue to receive health benefits even if their monthly income support payment is reduced or suspended due to earnings.
- ADAP includes an appeal process for decisions made under the program.
- AISH remains available for individuals whose disabilities prevent them from working and who meet the program's eligibility requirements.

Because every person's circumstances are different, understanding which program applies and how benefits may be affected can be complex.

How VAD Can Help

VAD continues to provide free one-to-one support to Albertans with disabilities throughout this transition.

Our Community Support Workers can assist with:

- Understanding ADAP eligibility and requirements
- Reviewing letters and notices received from the government
- Completing disability-related applications and

forms

- Exploring other benefits and supports that may be available
- Providing information and referrals to additional resources
- Understanding appeal options and processes

If you are unsure about a letter you have received or have questions about how ADAP may affect you, we encourage you to contact our office.

What We Are Hearing From Members

Since ADAP was announced, VAD has received a growing number of inquiries from members and community members across Alberta. Common questions include:

Will I remain eligible for support?

How will employment income affect my benefits?
What happens if my health condition changes?
Will my health benefits continue if I start working?
What should I do if I disagree with a decision?

Many individuals have expressed concerns about affordability, housing costs, food prices, and the impact that any reduction in monthly income could have on their quality of life. Others are looking for clear information so they can make informed decisions about employment, education, and long-term planning.

VAD is committed to listening to the experiences of Albertans with disabilities and sharing community feedback with decision-makers whenever opportunities arise.

We Are Here to Help

Change can be challenging, especially when it affects financial stability and essential supports. Whether you are navigating ADAP, AISH, CPP-D, the Disability Tax Credit, the Canada Disability Benefit, or other programs, VAD is here to help.

National AccessAbility Week BBQ a Great Success!

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD) would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, sponsored, donated, and supported our National AccessAbility Week (NAAW)



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BBQ on June 6, 2026.

The event brought together members, community partners, families, volunteers, and supporters for an afternoon of connection, celebration, and community spirit. Guests enjoyed a delicious BBQ lunch, participated in our silent auction, painted rocks, learned about VAD services, and connected with others who share a commitment to accessibility, equity, and full participation for persons with disabilities.

Event Highlights

Delicious burgers, hot dogs, snacks, and refreshments were enjoyed by attendees.

Community members gathered to celebrate National AccessAbility Week in an accessible and welcoming environment.

The silent auction featured a variety of generously donated items from local businesses and supporters.

Families and children participated in the popular rock-painting activity.

Members had the opportunity to reconnect with friends and make new connections within the disability community.

Information about VAD programs, services, and upcoming events was shared throughout the day.

We were pleased to host the event in an accessible venue that provided indoor and outdoor gathering space, accessible washrooms, and ample room for activities and socializing.

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Events like this are only possible because of the generosity of our sponsors and supporters.

A special thank you goes to Preferred Client Services, our BBQ Champion Sponsor, for helping make this event possible.

We also extend our gratitude to all businesses, organizations, and individuals who contributed

through sponsorships, donations, silent auction items, and in-kind support.

Your generosity helps VAD continue providing programs, services, advocacy, and community connections for Albertans with disabilities.

Silent Auction Success

Our silent auction was a tremendous success and generated valuable funds to support VAD's ongoing programs and services.

We would like to thank every donor who contributed an item and every participant who placed a bid. Your support not only added excitement to the event but also directly contributes to VAD's ability to provide information, navigation support, disability awareness education, accessibility initiatives, and community engagement opportunities across Alberta.

Looking Ahead

The NAAW BBQ continues to be one of VAD's most anticipated annual events, bringing our community together to celebrate achievements, raise awareness, and strengthen connections.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's event such a memorable success. We look forward to seeing you again at future VAD events!

Meet the VAD Society BOD

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD) Society held its Annual General Meeting on June 12, 2026. During the meeting, members elected the Board of Directors who will help guide the organization in the coming year.

We are pleased to introduce the dedicated individuals who have been entrusted by our membership to provide leadership, governance, and strategic direction as VAD continues its work to promote accessibility, equity, and full participation for persons with disabilities across Alberta.

Together, this Board brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, and passion for advancing the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

2026–2027 Board of Directors

Koryn Dyer - President
Zachary Weeks - Vice President
Vicky Augustin - Treasurer
Shayne Ewasicuk - Secretary
Sunny Singh - Director
Don Slater - Director

Marilyn Arho - Director
Armany Amiri - Director
Mark Makarewich - Director

We thank all members who participated in the AGM and extend our congratulations to our newly elected and returning Board members. We look forward to working together to strengthen our community and continue making a positive impact throughout Alberta.



PRESIDENT

Koryn Dyer

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VICE PRESIDENT

Zachary Weeks

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DIRECTOR

Mark Makarewich

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DIRECTOR

Marilyn Erho

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SECRETARY

Shayne Ewasicuk

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Enjoying an Accessible Alberta Summer

Summer is a wonderful time to get outdoors, explore new places, attend community events, and spend time with family and friends. With a little planning, many activities throughout Alberta can be enjoyed by people of all abilities.

Accessible Summer Activities in Alberta
Alberta offers a variety of accessible attractions, parks, and experiences:

Parks and Nature

Many provincial and national parks offer accessible amenities, including paved pathways, accessible washrooms, picnic areas, and visitor centres. Before visiting, check the park's accessibility information online or contact staff to learn about available accommodations.

Museums and Cultural Attractions

Many museums, galleries, and cultural sites provide accessible entrances, elevators, seating areas, and accessible programming. Some locations also offer sensory-friendly experiences and assistive listening devices.

Community Events and Markets

Farmers' markets, outdoor concerts, and community festivals can be a great way to connect with others. Look for events that provide accessible parking, accessible washrooms, seating areas, and clear pathways.

Recreation and Fitness

Many municipalities offer adaptive recreation programs, accessible swimming pools, and inclusive fitness opportunities. Check with your local recreation centre to see what programs are available.

Tips for Accessible Travel

Whether you're taking a day trip or planning a longer vacation, accessibility planning can help reduce stress and increase enjoyment.

Call ahead to confirm accessibility features rather than relying solely on website descriptions. Ask about accessible parking, entrances, washrooms, and accommodations. Pack any mobility aids, medications, chargers, and medical supplies you may need. Bring copies of important medical information and emergency contacts.

Allow extra travel time to accommodate unexpected delays. Research transportation options before your trip.

Accessible Camping Tips

Camping is a favourite summer activity for many Albertans. Accessible camping opportunities continue to grow throughout the province.

Consider the following when planning your camping trip:

- Reserve campsites early, especially accessible sites.
- Confirm pathway surfaces and distances to washrooms.
- Bring portable seating and shade options if needed.
- Pack extra batteries or charging equipment for mobility devices.
- Prepare for changing weather conditions.
- Consider campgrounds that offer accessible washrooms and shower facilities.

If you are camping in a trailer or RV, create a checklist before each trip to ensure medications, mobility equipment, and personal supports are packed and ready to go.

Making Festivals More Accessible

Festivals and outdoor events can be exciting and enjoyable experiences when accessibility is considered.

Before attending:

- Review the event's accessibility information.
- Identify accessible parking and drop-off locations.
- Locate accessible washrooms and rest areas.
- Bring water, sunscreen, and any comfort items you may need.
- Consider attending during less busy times if crowds are challenging.
- Contact organizers in advance if you require accommodations.

Many event organizers are working hard to improve accessibility, and providing feedback can help make future events even more inclusive.

Remember: Plan Ahead and Enjoy the Experience
Accessibility looks different for everyone. Taking a few extra steps to plan ahead can help ensure a safe, enjoyable, and memorable summer experience.



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If you have questions about accessibility or need help locating community resources, VAD is here to help.

We wish everyone a safe, fun, and accessible summer!

Membership Matters

Be Part of the VAD Community

At Voice of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD), we believe that together we are stronger. Membership is one of the most important ways individuals, families, organizations, and businesses can support our mission of promoting accessibility, equity, and full participation for persons with disabilities across Alberta.

Best of all, membership is free!

Why Become a VAD Member?

As a VAD member, you become part of a growing community that helps shape the future of disability advocacy and support in Alberta.

Membership benefits include:

- Voting privileges at VAD Annual and Special General Meetings
- Opportunities to help guide the direction of the organization
- Updates on disability programs, benefits, and policy changes
- Access to VAD's monthly newsletter, The Voice
- Invitations to VAD events, workshops, presentations, and community activities
- Opportunities to participate in surveys, consultations, and advocacy initiatives
- Connections with individuals, businesses, and organizations that support accessibility and inclusion
- Access to resources, information, and referrals through VAD's network

Every membership strengthens VAD's voice when advocating for the needs of Albertans with disabilities.

The VAD Member Directory

We are excited to continue developing the VAD Member Directory, a resource designed to connect members with businesses, services, and organizations that value accessibility and inclusion.

The directory will help members:

- Discover accessible products and services
- Support fellow VAD members and member businesses
- Build connections within the disability community
- Learn about organizations and professionals committed to accessibility
- Find resources and supports more easily

Members Supporting Members

One of VAD's goals is to encourage a "Members Supporting Members" culture. When looking for products, services, or professional supports, we encourage members to consider fellow VAD members first whenever possible.

By supporting one another, we strengthen our community, build valuable partnerships, and create more opportunities for individuals and businesses that share our commitment to accessibility.

Not a Member Yet?

Joining is simple, free, and open to individuals, organizations, businesses, and community supporters who believe in accessibility, equity, and inclusion.

If you are not yet a member, we invite you to sign up today and become part of a growing movement dedicated to improving the lives of Albertans with disabilities. Together, we can build a more accessible Alberta.

Member Directory Advertising Rates

Businesses and organizations interested in promoting their services in the upcoming Member Directory can reserve advertising space:

- Back Outside Cover – \$500 (7.5" x 10.75")
- Inside Front or Back Cover – \$500 (7.5" x 10.75")
- Full Page Advertisement – \$300 (7.5" x 10.75")



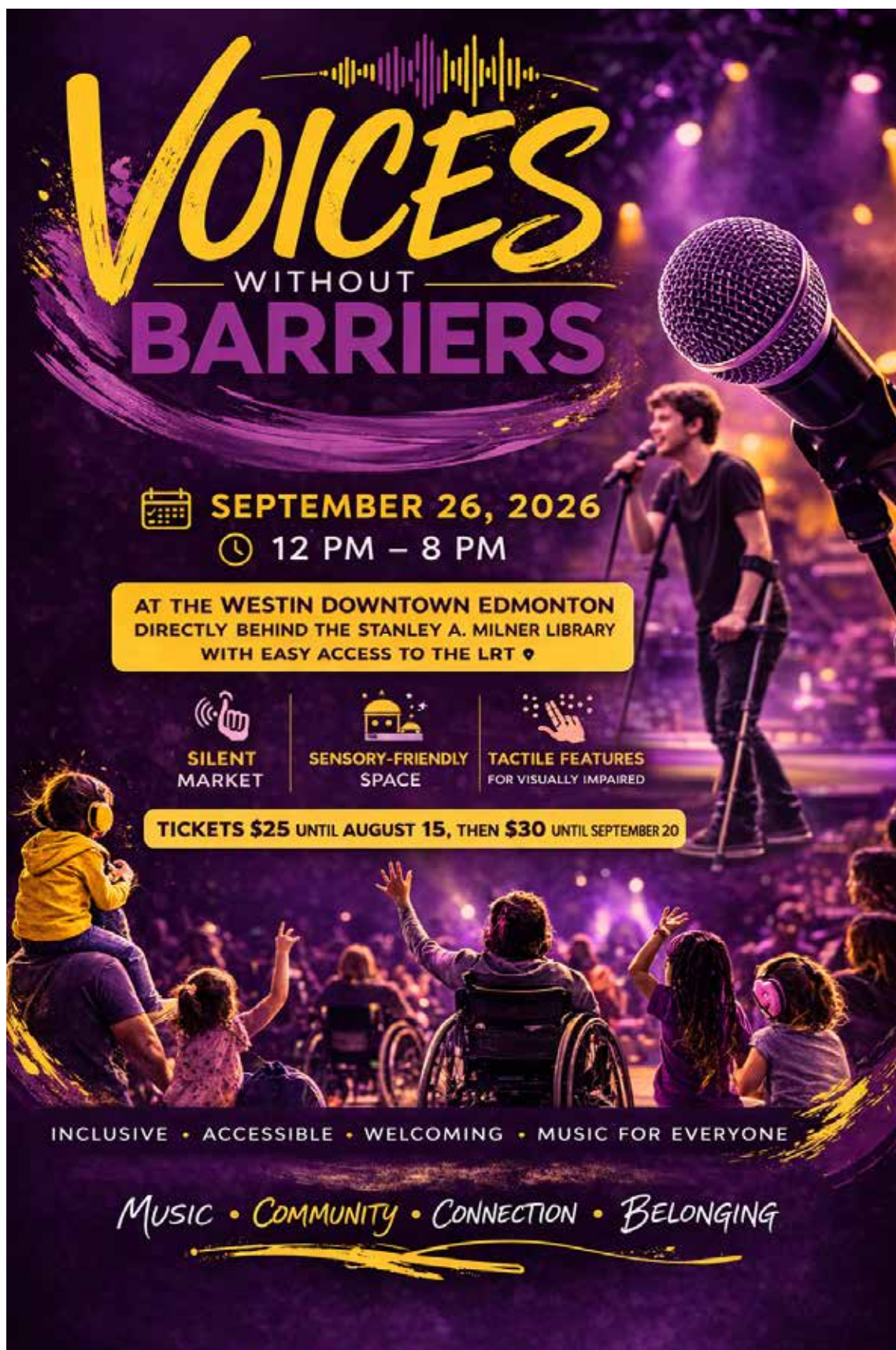
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NAAW EVENT 2026





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