



VAD has a new Logo and Mission, Vision and Values!

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities is proud to unveil our new logo, along with refreshed Mission, Vision, and Values statements!



This new look reflects our continued commitment to accessibility, self-advocacy, and community across Alberta. Watch for our new logo in upcoming promotional materials, events, and social media posts as we move forward with renewed energy and purpose.

Mission Statement:

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD) empowers individuals with disabilities across Alberta by providing practical support, education, and community connections, while amplifying their voices to drive meaningful inclusion and systemic change.

Vision Statement:

An Alberta where every person with a disability has equitable access, their experiences are valued, and their voices are heard, respected, and celebrated in every community.

Values:

1. Inclusion – We create spaces, programs, and opportunities where all voices are welcomed, respected, and celebrated.

2. Advocacy – We champion the rights and needs of people with disabilities, amplifying their voices to drive systemic change.

3. Empowerment – We equip individuals with knowledge, tools, and support to navigate systems,

access services, and share their stories.

4. Collaboration – We work hand-in-hand with communities, organizations, and stakeholders to build meaningful partnerships that strengthen impact.

5. Integrity – We act with transparency and accountability in everything we do, earning the trust of those we serve.

5 Everyday Barriers People with Disabilities Still Face

Inaccessible Buildings & Entrances

Steps without ramps, heavy doors, broken elevators, or “accessible” entrances tucked around the back still limit independence and dignity. Accessibility shouldn’t require special instructions or extra help.

Transportation Barriers

Limited accessible transit, unreliable booking systems, long wait times, and service gaps—especially in rural communities—make getting to work, school, or appointments far more difficult than it should be.

Digital & Information Barriers

Websites without screen-reader compatibility, videos without captions, small fonts, poor colour contrast, and complicated online forms exclude many people from essential information and services.

Attitudinal Barriers

Misunderstanding, stigma, and assumptions—such as believing someone “doesn’t look disabled”—can be just as limiting as physical barriers. These attitudes affect employment, housing, and everyday interactions.

Complex Systems & Paperwork

Navigating disability benefits, tax credits, housing supports, and healthcare often means overwhelming forms, unclear instructions, and long delays—placing extra stress on people who already face barriers.

Why this matters:

Removing barriers doesn't just help people with disabilities—it creates stronger, more inclusive communities for everyone. That's why Voice of Albertans with Disabilities works every day to advocate, educate, and support individuals across Alberta.



Accessibility Isn't Special Treatment — It's Equal Access

Accessibility is often misunderstood as extra or special. In reality, accessibility is about removing barriers so everyone has the same opportunity to participate.

What Accessibility Really Means

- A ramp isn't an advantage — it's how someone enters a building
- Captions aren't a bonus — they're how someone accesses information
- Accessible transit isn't a luxury — it's how people get to work, school, and appointments
- Accessibility simply levels the playing field.

Who Benefits from Accessibility?

- People with disabilities
- Seniors and people with temporary injuries



- Parents with strollers
- Newcomers and people learning English
- Anyone who benefits from clear information and thoughtful design
- When environments are accessible, everyone benefits.

The Cost of Inaccessibility

Inaccessibility limits employment, education, healthcare access, and community participation. These barriers can lead to isolation, financial strain, and poorer health outcomes — not because of disability, but because of preventable obstacles.

The Bottom Line

Accessibility isn't about giving someone more. It's about making sure no one is left out.

That's why Voice of Albertans with Disabilities works to raise awareness, support individuals, and advocate for inclusive communities across Alberta.

Want to help?

Start by asking: "Is this accessible to everyone?" Small changes make a big difference.

Quick Accessibility Tips for Businesses, Landlords & Community Spaces

For Businesses

- Ensure entrances are step-free or have a sturdy, well-maintained ramp
- Keep aisles clear and wide enough for mobility devices
- Offer multiple ways to communicate (in-person, phone, email)
- Use clear signage, large print, good lighting, and strong colour contrast
- Train staff to ask "How can I help?" instead of making assumptions

For Landlords

- Allow reasonable accessibility modifications

(grab bars, door handles, ramps)

- Maintain elevators, automatic doors, and accessible parking spaces
- Provide clear, plain-language notices in accessible formats
- Respond promptly to accessibility-related repair requests
- Remember: accessibility is a human rights requirement, not a favour.



For Community Spaces & Events

- Choose venues with accessible entrances, washrooms, and seating options
- Offer quiet or low-sensory areas when possible
- Provide microphones and ensure speakers use them
- Include accessibility details in event promotions
- Welcome service animals without question

A Simple Rule of Thumb

- If someone needs to ask for accessibility, it's probably missing.
- Accessibility doesn't have to be complicated or expensive — it starts with awareness, respect, and a willingness to remove barriers.

That's why Voice of Albertans with Disabilities supports businesses, landlords, and community groups in creating more inclusive spaces across Alberta.

Why People with Disabilities Are Over-Represented in Poverty

People with disabilities are far more likely to live in poverty — not because of disability itself, but because of systemic barriers that limit opportunity, income, and stability.

Barriers to Employment

Many people with disabilities face:

- Workplace discrimination and stigma
- Inaccessible job sites or technology
- Limited accommodations or inflexible schedules
- Underemployment despite skills and experience

This results in lower wages, fewer job opportunities, and unstable income.

The High Cost of Living with a Disability

Disability often comes with extra, unavoidable expenses, including:

- Mobility devices and assistive technology
- Medical supplies and prescriptions
- Specialized transportation
- Accessibility modifications to housing

These costs are rarely fully covered by benefits or insurance.

Inadequate Income Supports

Disability benefits are often below the poverty line and may:

- Penalize people for working or saving
- Be slow, complex, and difficult to navigate
- Require repeated proof of disability

This traps many people in cycles of poverty rather than supporting independence.

Housing Inaccessibility

Accessible housing is limited and expensive. Many people with disabilities are forced to choose between:

- Unsafe or inaccessible housing





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 Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: @VADisabilities

- Paying more for suitable accommodations
- Living far from services, work, and community supports

Attitudinal & Systemic Barriers

Negative assumptions about disability affect hiring, housing, education, and services. These attitudes create exclusion that compounds over time, leading to long-term financial insecurity.

The Truth

Disability does not cause poverty. Barriers, exclusion, and inadequate supports do. That’s why Voice of Albertans with Disabilities works to:

- Help individuals navigate complex systems
- Educate communities and employers
- Promote accessibility and inclusion across Alberta
- Advocate for fair income supports

Reducing poverty for people with disabilities requires removing barriers — not lowering expectations.

Indigenous & Multicultural Outreach Update

Over the past months, Voice of Albertans with Disabilities has reached out to Indigenous and multicultural organizations across Alberta to offer disability awareness presentations, benefit navigation support, and one-on-one assistance. These connections help ensure people with disabilities are not left behind due to geography, culture, or language barriers.

To better serve diverse communities, VAD provides information and support using:

- Plain-language English
- Translated materials and interpretation support when available
- Culturally appropriate communication styles that respect community norms
- Language access helps individuals fully understand their rights, options, and available supports.

Why Culturally Responsive Disability Support Matters

Disability is experienced differently across cultures. Factors such as historical trauma, systemic racism, immigration status, and differing views of disability can affect how and when people seek help.

FREE TAXES



What to bring:

- Government ID
- Social Insurance Number
- Tax Slips
- Charitable Donation Receipts
- Medical/Dental Receipts
- DTC Approval letter

Call for appointment

 105 Royal Alex Place
 10106 111 Ave, Edmonton
 Door at back of building

 780-488-9088

 vad@vadsociety.ca

Are you Eligible?

1 person	\$40,000
2 persons	\$55,000
3 persons	\$60,000
4 persons	\$65,000
5 persons	\$70,000



Voice of Albertans with Disabilities



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Voice of Albertans with Disabilities

Sign Up Today Membership

Due March 31, 2026



VAD Membership

Join VAD to add your voice, access support, and help build a more inclusive and accessible Alberta for everyone.

SIGN UP

www.vadsociety.ca 789-488-9088

Culturally responsive support:

- Builds trust
- Reduces stigma
- Improves access to services
- Creates safer, more welcoming spaces

Why Disability Services Aren't One-Size-Fits-All

A single approach doesn't work for everyone. People's experiences are shaped by culture, language, family roles, location, and access to resources. Effective disability support must be flexible, respectful, and responsive to individual and community needs — especially for Indigenous and multicultural populations. Inclusion means meeting people where they are.

Disability Prevalence in Alberta

In 2022, over 900,000 Albertans reported having a disability — representing about 28 % of the province's population. This is slightly higher than the national average.

In Calgary specifically, about 24 % of residents reported a disability in 2022.

National Context

Across Canada, 27 % of people aged 15 and older had at least one disability that limited daily activities in 2022, up from 22 % in 2017.

Barriers to Accessibility

59 % of Albertans with disabilities reported facing barriers to accessibility in public spaces — higher than the national average.

Did you know?

VAD helps fill out application forms for FREE

www.vadsociety.ca
780-488-9088

AISH

CPPD

DTC

CDB

OAS/GIS

Taxes

low income only



Economic Gaps

People with disabilities in Alberta earn, on average, about two-thirds of the income of people without disabilities, highlighting economic inequities tied to exclusion from full participation in work and community life.

These statistics show that disability in Alberta is not rare — it affects roughly 1 in 4 people, and many face real barriers in daily life, community access, and economic participation. Including local statistics helps personalize the issue for your readers and highlights

why advocacy and inclusion work matters right here in Alberta.

Ask VAD / FAQ Section

Can VAD help me fill out forms?

Yes.

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities provides one-on-one assistance with disability-related forms and applications, including benefit navigation and referrals. If paperwork feels overwhelming, you don't have to do it alone.

VOICE OF ALBERTANS WITH DISABILITIES

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Interested in joining us?

Call us at 780-488-9088 or
email vad@vadsociety.ca
Looking forward to your help!

WWW.VADSOCIETY.CA

WE NEED HELP WITH:

- Fort Road Bingos
- Castledowns Bingos



Voice of Albertans
with **Disabilities**
Support. Inclusion. Community.



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Do I need to disclose my disability?

No — disclosure is your choice.

In most situations, you are not required to disclose your disability unless you are requesting an accommodation. You can ask for accommodations without sharing personal medical details.

VAD can help you understand your rights and how to advocate for yourself.

How do I become a member?

Becoming a VAD member is easy:

- Visit our website
- Choose an individual or organizational membership
- Complete the membership form
- Membership gives you access to resources, updates, advocacy, and a stronger collective voice for disability rights in Alberta.

Still have questions?

Contact VAD — we're here to support, inform, and advocate.

Did you know?

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities Society helps with the following:

- AISH - Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped
- CPPD - Canada Pension Plan Disability
- DTC - Disability Tax Credit
- CDB - Canadian Disability Benefit
- OAS - Old Age Security & GIS - Guaranteed Income Supplement
- Self Advocacy
- Low income Tax Filing
- Disability awareness presentations
- VAD, AISH & ADAP presentations
- Leisue Access Pass (Edmonton Only)

Book an appointment today!

780-488-9088

www.vadsociety.ca

vad@vadsociety.ca

It's Membership Renewal Time!

Your Voice of Albertans with Disabilities membership is more than a contribution — it's a commitment to accessibility, advocacy, and community across Alberta.

Why Renew Your Membership?

Because your support helps VAD:

- Provide one-on-one assistance with forms and benefit navigation
- Deliver disability awareness presentations to schools, workplaces, and community groups
- Advocate for accessible services, housing, and transportation
- Support Indigenous and multicultural communities with culturally responsive outreach
- Be a strong, independent voice for people with disabilities in Alberta

What Membership Means

- A trusted place to turn for information and support
- A collective voice that strengthens disability advocacy
- Connection to resources, updates, and community events
- Supporting change that benefits current and future generation

Don't Let Your Membership Lapse

Renewing is quick and helps ensure VAD can continue offering programs and advocacy throughout the year.

Renew your membership today: <https://vadsociety.ca/login-signup/>





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Tune in to VAD’s monthly podcast!

Each month, we chat with local organizations and community partners who provide services and support to people with disabilities.

Join VAD on our monthly podcast, featuring conversations with local community resources that provide services, supports, and programs for individuals with disabilities. Learn what’s available, how to access supports, and what’s happening in your community.

<https://vadsociety.ca/vad-podcasts/>

Recent Podcasts:

- The Voice - DATs
- The Voice – Meet VAD’s Staff
- The Voice – Don Slater Advocate
- The Voice – Red Plaid Developments



National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week (April 19–25, 2026) is a nationwide celebration, led by Volunteer Canada, every April that recognizes, celebrates, and promotes volunteerism across the country

This year’s theme is Ignite Volunteerism: A year-long, nation-building celebration International Volunteer Year is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to celebrate the power of civic participation and renew Canada’s culture of volunteering.

Ignite Volunteerism is a year-long effort to elevate the role of civic participation, rebuild volunteer infrastructure, and celebrate volunteer stories.

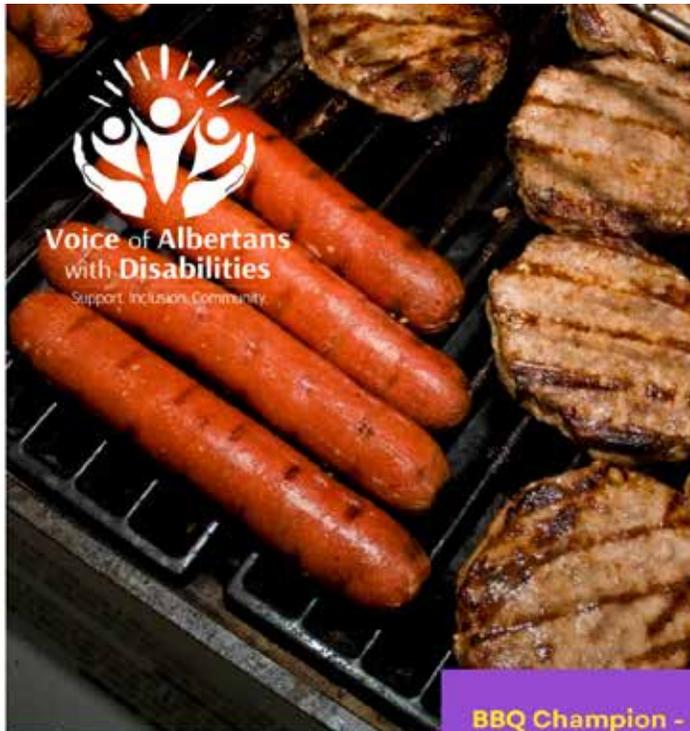
This National Volunteer Week (April 19-25, 2026) we will celebrate the ways in which people in Canada have ignited volunteerism in their communities, aligning NVW 2026 with Ignite Volunteerism, deepening our collective impact



Sponsors and Silent Auction items needed!

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities is looking for sponsors and silent auction items for National AccessAbility Week (NAAW). Sponsorship ranges from \$1000, \$500 and \$100 packages.

Funds raised for the BBQ will offset operational fees and rental costs for the event. The Annual NAAW BBQ will take place June 6, 2026 at noon.



NAAW

National AccessAbility Week Sponsorship

Burger Boss Sponsor - \$500

- Logo on promotional materials, social media and website
- Recognition at event
- Table Display at event
- Post event media



BBQ Champion - \$1000

- Presenting Sponsor
- Logo on all promotional materials, social media, newsletters and website
- Recognition at event
- Table & Signage display at event
- Post event media



Hot Diggity Dog Sponsor - \$100

- Logo on promotional materials and website
- Recognition at event
- Post event media



Voice of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD) will host the annual Community BBQ and Silent Auction to celebrate National AccessAbility Week (May 31–June 6, 2026) NAAW. This inclusive, family-friendly event will bring together people with disabilities, families, community organizations, service providers, volunteers, and partners to celebrate disability pride, increase awareness, and strengthen community connections.

National AccessAbility Week (NAAW) is a Canada-wide initiative that:

- Raises awareness of accessibility and inclusion
- Recognizes the contributions of people with disabilities
- Encourages communities and organizations to remove barriers

NAAW provides an opportunity to celebrate achievements while continuing important conversations about equity, accessibility, and belonging.

Borden Park Site 1, Edmonton
June 6, 2026
12 pm to 3 pm

Get in Touch

 780-488-9088

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