

Voices Without Barriers: Making Music Accessible for Everyone

This September, the Voice of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD) is proud to present Voices Without Barriers—Alberta's first fully accessible indoor music festival. More than just a concert, this ground breaking event is a celebration of accessibility, inclusion, community, and the incredible talents of artists with disabilities.

Taking place on Saturday, September 26, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at The Westin Edmonton Downtown, the festival has been designed from the ground up with accessibility at its core. Every aspect of the event has been carefully planned to ensure that people of all abilities can enjoy a safe, welcoming, and unforgettable live music experience.

Attendees can look forward to an exciting day featuring:

- Live performances by talented artists, including Indigenous artists with disabilities.
- A sensory-friendly space for those needing a quieter environment.
- Live captioning and tactile accessibility features.
- Inclusive arts experiences and interactive activities.
- A silent market showcasing local vendors and creators.
- An accessible venue conveniently located near public transit.

For many people with disabilities, attending concerts or festivals can present significant barriers. Voices Without Barriers is changing that by demonstrating what truly inclusive events can look like. It is about more than entertainment—it is about belonging, equal opportunity, and ensuring everyone can fully participate in Alberta's vibrant arts and cultural community.

This inaugural festival is also creating meaningful opportunities for performers with disabilities by providing paid performance opportunities while showcasing the richness and diversity of Alberta's disability community. VAD hopes this event will inspire other organizations and event organizers to make accessibility a priority in future festi-

vals and public events.

Whether you're a music lover, community supporter, family member, volunteer, or accessibility advocate, Voices Without Barriers offers something for everyone. Join us as we celebrate music without limits and help build a future where accessibility is not an afterthought—but the standard.

We invite our members, partners, sponsors, and the entire community to be part of this historic event. Together, we can create a festival where every voice is heard, every person belongs, and every barrier is removed.

For tickets, sponsorship opportunities, or to learn more, visit VAD's Voices Without Barriers event page or contact our office. We look forward to celebrating with you this September!

www.vadsociety.ca/events

Upcoming DEAM Event

DEAM - Disability Employment Awareness Month

Every October, Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM) shines a spotlight on the importance of creating inclusive workplaces where people with disabilities have equal opportunities to succeed. It is a time to celebrate the valuable contributions that employees with disabilities make to our communities while encouraging employers to remove barriers to employment.

Despite the skills, education, and experience that many people with disabilities bring to the workforce, barriers to employment continue to exist. These barriers may include inaccessible workplaces, misconceptions about disability, limited accommodations, or hiring practices that unintentionally exclude qualified candidates.



The good news is that accessibility benefits everyone. When employers embrace inclusive hiring practices, they gain access to a larger talent pool, improve workplace culture, increase innovation, and build stronger,

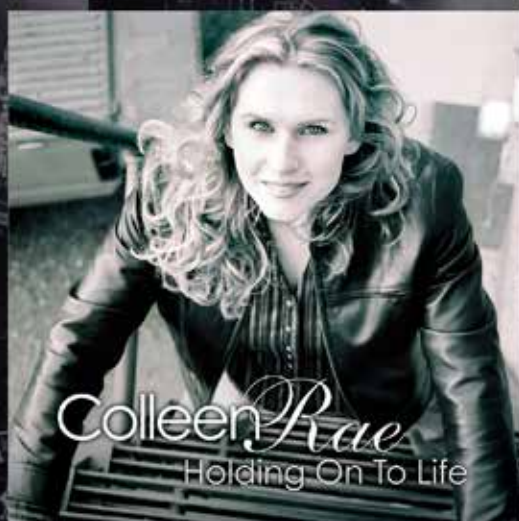
VOICE OF ALBERTANS WITH DISABILITIES SOCIETY
PROUDLY PRESENTS

VOICES WITHOUT BARRIERS 2026

ALBERTA'S ACCESSIBLE INDOOR MUSIC FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026 FROM 12 NOON TO 8PM

Headlining Performance by:



Additional Performances by:



Lilith Faerie

Zoey Cubias

Empathy's
Curse

LAURA ULMER

- Live Music
- Silent Market
- Sensory Space
- Community Resource Info Booths
- Tactile features
- ASL, and more!



Hosted by
Terry Evans

Early Bird Tickets: \$25.00 +GST
After September 15: \$30.00 +GST

THE WESTIN
EDMONTON

10135 100 STREET
EDMONTON, AB



<https://vadsociety.ca/events/>

more diverse teams. Many workplace accommodations are simple, low-cost, or even free to implement, yet they can make a significant difference in an employee's ability to thrive.

At the Voice of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD), we believe that employment is about more than earning a paycheck—it is about independence, dignity, purpose, and full participation in community life. We continue to work alongside employers, community organizations, and government partners to promote accessibility, disability awareness, and inclusive employment practices across Alberta.

Join Us for Accessibility in Action

As part of Disability Employment Awareness Month, VAD and EmployAbilities are proud to host the Accessibility in Action Resource Fair and Reverse Job Fair on Thursday, October 15, 2026.

This innovative event brings together employers, service providers, and job seekers with disabilities in a welcoming and accessible environment.

Unlike a traditional job fair, the Reverse Job Fair allows job seekers to remain at their own tables while employers rotate through the room, creating a more comfortable and empowering networking experience.



Connecting People. Creating Opportunities.

Join EmployAbilities and Voices of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD) Society for a community event celebrating Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM). AccessAbility in Action brings together job seekers, employers, and service providers through a Resource Fair and an innovative Reverse Job Fair, creating opportunities to connect, collaborate, and build inclusive employment.

Who Should Attend

Employers

- Meet talented candidates in a new and engaging way
- Learn about inclusive hiring
- Build your future workforce

Job Seekers

- Showcase your skills and strengths
- Connect directly with inclusive employers
- Build your professional network

Service Providers

- Share your programs and resources
- Connect with job seekers and employers
- Strengthen community partnerships

Scan to Register and to learn more about how the reverse job fair works!



October 15th, 2026
12:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Kingsway Mall

Presented in
Partnership by:



Supported by:



Attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Connect with inclusive employers.
- Learn about employment supports and community resources.
- Explore education and training opportunities
- Discover workplace accommodation solutions.
- Build meaningful professional connections.

Whether you are an employer looking to strengthen your workforce, a job seeker exploring new opportunities, or a community member passionate about accessibility, we invite you to join us.

Together, we can create workplaces where everyone has the opportunity to contribute, succeed, and belong. For more information about the event, sponsorship opportunities, or how your organization can participate, please contact VAD at vad@vadsociety.ca.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/accessibility-in-action-reverse-job-and-resource-fair-tickets-1997853546739?aff=oddtcreator>

ADAW - November 8-14

At Voice of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD), we believe in showing appreciation for drivers who provide accessible transportation and we help raise awareness in our communities. Increased awareness about the importance of accessible transportation strengthens our advocacy for better driver training and improved services for everyone. Join us in celebrating the incredible Community Drivers who assist with accessibility services and make a difference every day!

Send us your photos, stories, testimonials, and signs of appreciation—we'll feature them on the VAD Blog to showcase the impact of accessibility champions in our community.

Together, we can show gratitude, spark conversations, and push for positive change in accessible transportation.

IDPD Community Resource Fair 2026

Every year on December 3, communities around the world recognize the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD). This important day promotes awareness of disability issues, celebrates the contributions and achievements of persons with disabilities, and encourages everyone to help build communities where accessibility, inclusion, and full participation are part of everyday life.

ADAW 2026

ACCESSIBLE DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK

November 8th to 14th, 2026

Purpose

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www.vadsociety.ca; vad@vadsociety.ca
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: @VADisabilities

At Voice of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD), IDPD reflects the heart of the work we do throughout the year. It is an opportunity to celebrate progress, connect people with valuable supports and services, and continue conversations about removing barriers for persons with disabilities.

Join Us for VAD's 2026 IDPD Commu- nity Resource Fair!

To celebrate IDPD, VAD is once again bringing community members, service providers, organizations, advocates, and people with disabilities together for our IDPD Community Resource Fair.

Thursday, December 3, 2026
Mill Woods Town Centre
2331 66 Street NW,
Edmonton
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

The Resource Fair provides an opportunity to discover programs, services, resources, and supports available throughout Edmonton and Alberta. Visitors can meet directly with community organizations, ask questions, learn about available services, and make valuable connections—all in one welcoming space.

Whether you are a person with a disability, family member, caregiver, service

provider, employer, advocate, or simply want to learn more about accessibility and inclusion, everyone is welcome to attend.

Calling All Community Organizations & Service Providers! VAD is currently inviting organizations,



VOICE OF ALBERTANS
WITH DISABILITIES

**2026
IDPD**

**SAVE THE
DATE**

**Resource
Fair**

DECEMBER 3, 2026

**IDPD - International Day of
Persons with Disabilities**



*Take Charge.
Get Informed.
Get Connected.*

**IDPD Resource Fair
Millwoods Mall**

VAD Contact:

780-488-9088

vad@vadsociety.ca

www.vadsociety.ca

**Voice of Albertans
with Disabilities**

Support. Inclusion. Community.

agencies, service providers,
and community partners to
participate as exhibitors.

This is a great opportunity to showcase your programs and services, connect directly with community members, network with other organizations, and help people learn more about the supports available to them.

Exhibitor Table Fees:
\$75 when registered before November 15
\$100 after November 15

Final Registration Deadline: November 28, 2026

Exhibitor set-up begins at 11:00 AM, with teardown beginning at 3:00 PM.

Together, we can make IDPD more than a day of recognition. We can use it as an opportunity to strengthen connections, share resources, amplify the voices of persons with disabilities, and continue building a more accessible, equitable, and inclusive Alberta.

Save the date—December 3, 2026—and join VAD in celebrating inclusion, connection, and community!

Voice of Albertans with
Disabilities Society (VAD)

2026 VOICE CONNECT

COMING
SOON



Join VAD as we create a weekly social zoom meeting to engage individuals with disabilities to meet and interact with other individuals.

Social Isolation is a real problem in the disabled community. This group is to encourage individuals to meet new friends and discuss ongoing issues, concerns, solutions and daily life with other participants. There will be social activities including ice breakers, themed discussion topics, fun activities and conversations about life and community.

Interested in more information,
please contact
VAD@VADSOCIETY.CA.

780-488-9088

