



# ALBERTA ABILITY NETWORK RECREATION TABLE

**Date/Time:**

September 15, 2022 / 9:30am – 11:30am

**Location:** Zoom

**Chairs:** Karen Dommert, Kim Presser

**In Attendance:**

Mezaun Lakha-Evin (Alberta Ability Network)  
 Cydney Yaremko (BLOOM)  
 Katie Bakken (Friends of Fish Creek)  
 Scott Godfrey (Autism Aspergers Friendship Society of Calgary)  
 Janice Schneider (STAR - Youth Singers)  
 Autumn M. (Paralympic Sports Association)  
 Michael Heuchert (Decathlon)

Meri Topchieva (Alberta Ability Network)  
 Karen Dommert (Calgary Adaptive Hub)  
 Andrew French (Winder Inclusive Communities Service)  
 Lindsey Gilmore (Association of the Rehabilitation of Brian Injured)  
 Melissa V (Independent Living Resource Centre of Calgary)  
 Elizabeth Kaleta (Cerebral Palsy Alberta)  
 Ryan MacIntyre (We Did It)

## Meeting Minutes

Land Acknowledgement  
 Welcome and Introductions

**Topics of Discussion:****Spotlight Series:****Autism Asperger's Friendship Society**

- Collaborating with Calgary Adaptive Hub.
- Starting Wheelchair Lacrosse on September 17<sup>th</sup>. This is the first time in decades the program has come back and will be sustainable.
- Resuming dance, boxing, and adaptive lacrosse programs

**Decathlon**

- Is a worldwide brand that has many locations all across Europe and recently came to Canada.
- This sporting goods store is an affordable and accessible alternative to popular brand-named stores where you pay extra for the brand name.

**Advocacy letter update**

- An advocacy letter regarding the large discrepancy between funding between different zones and regions was considered at the May-June meeting.
- During the advocacy letter meeting with Mezaun, Meri, and Katie, who spearheaded this initiative, the decision was made to withhold from writing a letter to government officials as the ask was not clear.



- This initiative be re-addressed as we call back the person/people urging for advocacy to be done in regard to funding.

### **Update on the invitation to Minister Orr**

- In July we sent an invitation to minister Orr for this meeting to see what the plans for accessible recreation are. There has been no response.
- With the leadership race and the provincial election coming up, there will be a delay in government officials responding to public inquiries.

### **ISR Collective Fall Reconnect**

- Event is in Red Deer on September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10 AM – 2 PM.
- Some of the topics will be:
  - o Sport participation pathways from grassroots to high performance,
  - o Safe sport and what that looks like in disability sport,
  - o National funding programs within the Sport for All initiative,
  - o Reflections on our practices as APA professionals
- If interested, please register here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/isr-collective-fall-reconnect-tickets-411294371537> .

### **ARPA Conference**

- First year back in person after COVID-19.
- Mezaun will not be able to attend the conference this fall, Karen will be the main speaker and introduce the AAN tables, and Recreation specifically, at the conference.
- ARPA's registration is still open, however, registration is relatively expensive, and Jasper has limited accommodation.

### **Recreation Re-Naming**

- Throughout our recruitment for all AAN tables, we discovered that "Recreation" might not be the most inclusive term for the services offered.
- If anyone has any recommendations on how we can make the name more inclusive and representative of what we do, please let the table know and we will discuss it as a collaborative.

Wrap-Up/Adjournment

### **Next meeting:**

**Date:** October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Time:** 9:30am – 11:30am

**Location:** Zoom