



Alberta Ability Network Human Rights

Date/Time:
October 24th, 2022 / 1:00PM – 3:00PM

Location: Zoom

Chairs: Mezaun Lakha-Evin, Sean Crump

In Attendance:

Angie Goredema (Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo)
 Ben Bruce (Centre For Sexuality)
 Brandy Gassner (ATB)
 Brittany Rogers (PLAN Calgary)
 Cal Schuler (Calgary Alternative Support Services)
 Cam Stewart (Alberta Human Rights Commission)
 Christopher Gordon (Community Advocate)
 Deborah Mebude (Alberta Human Rights Commission)
 Haley Weiss (Selections Career Support Services)
 Katherine Such (Easter Seals Alberta)

Margot Brunner (Voice of Albertans with Disabilities)
 Meri Topchieva (Alberta Ability Network)
 Mezaun Lakha-Evin (Alberta Ability Network)
 Philip Ney (Inclusion Alberta)
 Rachelle Norris (YWCA Edmonton)
 Sam Mason (Voice of Albertans with Disabilities)
 Sean Crump
 Teneille Bradley (Accessible Housing)
 Tessa Turner (ACT Alberta)
 Tonia LaRiviere (Accessibility Advisory Committee Edmonton)
 Valeria Palladino (Edmonton Epilepsy Association)
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Meeting Minutes

Land Acknowledgement
 Welcome and Introductions
 Breakout Rooms

Topics of Discussion:

Barrier-free presentation to United Way Social Policy Committee

- Mezaun presented the Barrier-Free Alberta presentation to United Way's Social Policy committee. Most participants were outside of the disability sector which will help us engage a different demographic.
- Lots of people were interested in helping us further our cause and she will be reaching out to them within the next couple of weeks.

Dignity Forum

- Mezaun attended the Dignity Forum Panel on October 22nd where 5 provincial Human Rights Commissioners attended as panelists to discuss what the role of the Human Rights Commission is and if they're meeting it.
- One of the presenters was MLA Leela Ameer, who was not aware of the ask for accessibility legislation but was adamant about sitting at this table and helping us as an advisor.

- The Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg talked about the Witness Blanket, where they collect stories from indigenous peoples with lived experience about life in Canada. This is a great way to provide history for future generations. They are accepting submissions from people with disabilities as well, this might be a good way to track our history.

Disability Advocate Working group update

- Greg couldn't attend today, however, there have been no changes to the working group, and he will give us an update on the consultation company they're hiring at our next meeting.

Communications subcommittee update

- We created a list of priority groups to reach out to. Some of these groups include post-secondary institutions, municipalities, and non-profit organizations outside of the disability sector.
- We have been reaching out to many municipalities and their feedback has been ongoing.
- As Cabinet has recently shuffled, we have a lot of opportunity to advocate to the new Ministers. We will be sending out letters congratulating them on their new positions and ask them for further involvement in Barrier-Free Alberta.

Community engagement process

- Need to get a singular message out to the public about the importance of disability and inclusion through a social media campaign.
- Want to get community support from the Province of Alberta. The disability sector already knows the importance of disability inclusion, but we need to get larger community support.
- Our campaign has to engage and be relevant to people outside of the disability sector.
- We previously had town halls and events where we received lots of support and engagement from the general public. We have also had events with minimal attendance.
- The HR table has been working on advocating for Barrier-Free legislation, however, there are other human rights-related advocacy we can do on this table. Some conversation needs to be had around how we can break off and advocate towards other interesting areas.
- The Human Rights Commission gets many calls from post-secondary and K-12 students about accessibility issues, which could be a potential advocacy point.
- The Alberta Hate Crime Committee also had a conversation about partnering with AAN which is currently in progress.
- Need to start formulating a key message to put out on our social media campaigns. It should be something that's used consistently.

Key Messages for the Human Rights Table

- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ed7yXz5h0kORq8WdYf5Yq13S9ldjdrV6DVEYNbWtKLQ/edit>



Election planning strategy

- If either party includes accessibility legislation into their platform they will most likely attend. However, if they don't include it in their platform they wouldn't show up due to optics.
- Planning a candidate's forum for the upcoming provincial election is a good idea. We could do a voter education forum and invite the candidates to speak about their platforms. Alternatively, we can see who's dedicated to passing accessibility legislation in Alberta and ask them questions to keep them accountable for their election promises.
- Some candidates might feel intimidated speaking about a subject that's unfamiliar to them, we can structure it in a way that helps the candidates understand our concerns which will increase attendance.

Action items:

- Capture what the table will be doing over the next 6 months through a questionnaire which will be sent to all table members.
- Please contact Sam or Meri to be a part of a candidate's forum subcommittee.

Wrap-Up/Adjournment

Next meeting:

Date: November 28th, 2022

Time: 1:00PM – 3:00PM

Location: Zoom