



ALBERTA ABILITY NETWORK RECREATION TABLE

Date/Time:
May 19th, 2022 / 9:30am – 11:30am

Location: Zoom

Chairs: Karen Dommert, Kim Presser

In Attendance:

Mezaun Lakha-Evin (AAN)
Cydney Yaremko (BLOOM)
Kim Presser (Between Friends)
Susan Cortes (Children’s Link)
Katie Bakken (Friends of Fish Creek)
Heather Craig (City of Edmonton)

Meri Topchieva (AAN)
Leonard O’Keefe (DDRC)
Margot Brunner (VAD)
Karen Dommert (Calgary Adaptive Hub)
Alyson Thompson (Recreation Respite)

Meeting Minutes

Land Acknowledgement
Welcome and Introductions

Review/Approval of previous meeting’s minutes

Topics of Discussion:

Seasonal employment/hiring

- Children’s Link website has a job posting page where they can share other organizations’ job posts and offer to share job postings on their social media as well. If you are interested, please contact Susan at susan.cortes@childrenslink.ca.

Grants/funding (share resources/challenges/successes):

Canada Summer jobs grant:

- Canada Summer jobs funding has been inconsistent as of late with their grant distribution. Organizations that have been getting this grant for 30 years straight haven’t been receiving it or receiving a significantly smaller amount compared to previous years.
- Applicants have increased this year due to the pandemic’s hit in the oil and gas sector. With many non-profits applying for the same grant, the amount of funding has significantly decreased.

- The amount of funding organizations get comes from the federal riding their office or services are in. Members of Parliament (MPs) determine the amount of funding each agency receives. Grant representatives have recommended to agencies that they could move their services to a different riding to get more funding.
- Each riding is provided the same funding regardless of how many applications they have.
- A letter of support can be provided for grants.

Opportunity: ARPA Conference presentation application (align with ISR)

- May 29, 2022, is the extended deadline for presenters to submit their proposals for the ARPA Conference.
- Karen and Mezaun plan to attend the conference. They will provide a presentation about the advocacy work that AAN and the Recreation table does.
- Karen will invite Inclusive Sport and Recreation collective (ISR) to co-present.

New Business

- Sport Calgary is providing two free weekends of free sports activities for teens and children on June 17-19 and August 19-21.
- Applications opened to organizations last week, it hasn't been distributed to the community yet.

Round Table Updates:

Friends of Fish Creek

- After a two-year hiatus during the pandemic, the Accessibility Show & Share minibus tour starts on Friday, June 3rd. Public and private tours are available.
- The minibus provided is accessible by having a ramp where people with physical disabilities can easily come on and off.
- Will be providing walking, wheeling, and cycling tours throughout the summer.
- Individuals who need accessibility features are invited to participate in the following survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AccessFishCreek>

Children's link

- Children's Link is hosting an event for their 25th-anniversary event on May 25th, 2022. Tickets are still available.
- If anyone wants to promote their upcoming events, the children's link has a large social media following and they are offering to share/repost events. Please contact Susan at: susan.cortes@childrenslink.ca.

DDRC

- Moving from virtual to in-person events and programs.
- Hired 5 new staff members.

Recreation Respite

- Lots of different programs from recreation to workshops.
- Virtual events are still in high demand.

BLOOM

- In-person and virtual programs are continuing.
- Funded enough through the sock fundraiser to get 10 students through a semester of programming.

VAD

- William Watson Lodge is opening this weekend. They have invested a large amount in upgrades for the building and are booking clients for the upcoming long weekend.
- LG Barns camp had their funding cut and they will not be doing camp this year.
- Camp He Ho Ha will not be running its overnight camps due to COVID-19 health restrictions.

Between friends

- Getting the summer programs ready such as the Resol program and summer camp.
- AGM is coming up.
- The City of Calgary changed the FCSS funding, where the funding usually automatically renews each year, this year agencies must re-apply. As Between Friends is an FCSS-funded agency, they will be re-applying for the funding.

Cerebral Palsy Alberta

- Just started the gardening program in Calgary which has been very popular.
- Offering in-person and virtual programs.

City of Edmonton

- Launched a one-year pilot at the end of April for accessible communications in registered recreation programs. Registrants can get up to \$1500 per person to use towards accessible communications such as ASL or CART.



Calgary Adapted Hub

- Research and Community Engagement seminar on May 26th at 4 pm with Dr. Amy Latimer presenting "A Blueprint for Building Quality Participation in Sport for Children, Youth, and Adults with a Disability".
- Repsol sports center has been re-named to MNP community and sports center now.
- Adaptive swimming lessons have been in high demand and most agencies have been offering them

Alberta Ability Network

- Planning National AccessAbility week webinar by Ron Wickman "Keys to Accessible Housing".

Upcoming Spotlight Series

- Please email Meri if you want your organization to present in the Spotlight Series.
- Our June meeting will consist of presentations from Children's Link, AAFS, and MNP Community and Sport Centre.

Action Items:

- Karen, Katie, and Kim will draft an awareness letter to government officials regarding how the cut in funding has affected the sector.
- Invite Minister Ron Orr to the September table meeting.

Wrap-Up/Adjournment

Next meeting:

Date: June 16th, 2022

Time: 9:30am – 11:30am

Location: Zoom

(Please note that there will be no table meetings in July and August. Have a great summer!)