



# AAN POVERTY REDUCTION

**Date/Time:**  
December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 /1:30pm –3:30pm

**Location: Zoom**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87857857181>

**Chairs: Allyson Dann, Margot Brunner**

**In Attendance:**

Allyson Dann (Calgary Fetal Alcohol Network)  
Anna Jordan (Momentum)  
Brad Robertson (Community Advocate)  
Colleen Huston (Disability Action Hall)  
Darryl Janzen (Cerebral Palsy Alberta)  
Dwayne Kraushar  
Jennifer Labelle  
Levi Nilson (Cerebral Palsy Alberta)

Margot Brunner (Voice of Albertans with Disabilities)  
Mezaun Lakha-Evin (Alberta Ability Network)  
Meri Topchieva  
Sam Mason (Voice of Albertans with Disabilities)  
Shane Rempel (Southern Alberta Brain Injury Society)  
Tasha McMullan (Independent Living Resource Centre Of Calgary)

## Meeting Minutes

Land Acknowledgement  
Welcome and Introductions

Discussion items:

**Cost of living survey - sent a letter to Minister and Premier**

- We used the information that we received from the cost-of-living survey to create a position paper with recommendations that was submitted to Minister Jeremy Nixon, Premier Danielle Smith, and Minister Travis Toews.
- We made the following recommendations: equitable support dedicated to persons with disabilities using the wage study, and subsidizing housing to 30% of income.
- We submitted these recommendations via e-mail and hard copy to the legislature.
- We have not heard from the Premier or Minister yet, we will probably hear back from them after the Holiday break in January.

**Community Learning Event**

- The Canada Revenue Agency gave a detailed presentation on how to apply for the Canada Disability Tax Credit.
- It was followed by a presentation from Levi Nilson regarding how to apply for an RDSP and the steps toward it.
- About 25-30 people attended this event and we got some questions regarding RDSPs and their procedures.

## Seniors in Bill C-22

- Some groups are critical of Disability Without Poverty's stance because they are missing some key advocacy points that other organizations have. One example is seniors being included in Bill C-22.
- Seniors' advocacy organizations are advocating for seniors to be included in Bill C-22.
- VAD is connected to the Senior's Committee for Public Interest Alberta, and the Alberta Council on Aging where both of them are aware of the current situation but it is unknown if they are currently working on bringing it up to the government.
- Half of SABIS clients are seniors, and they help to convert them from AISH to CPPP.

## Premier's Council on Status of Disabilities

- The PCSPD wants your input on what the Council's priorities should be for the next three years. Your input will be used to inform the Council's strategic planning efforts - community input is critical to making sure the views of Albertans are represented in the advice we provide to Government. The deadline for responses is **December 16, 2022**.
- Please click the following link to share your thoughts:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdHrIRBvUleQKIHR9VJGO8a2eZnlkaq8ABpDo\\_sWSxj65TIA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdHrIRBvUleQKIHR9VJGO8a2eZnlkaq8ABpDo_sWSxj65TIA/viewform)
- PCSPD has 5 focus areas which are: Housing, Employment, and Income Security, Service and Support for Indigenous Communities, Provincial Accessibility Act, and Response to Emergent Issues.
- Table representatives are encouraging Council to focus on 3 main topics instead of 5 to make more headway on the most important topics such as Housing and Response to Emergent Issues.
- Please find the Strategic Plan here:  
<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/2577141c-df69-45b9-8079-0aca4e785a19/resource/53e4cd4c-94f7-4e81-a15e-6e27d6dc9ba7/download/css-premiers-council-status-persons-with-disabilities-strategic-plan-2020-2023.pdf>
- Last Annual Report: <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/3ca5a6e0-141b-4b01-8784-f80726037b04/resource/2b129f2f-a0c3-4f84-9b6b-f8b878bf1252/download/css-premiers-council-status-persons-disabilities-annual-report-2020-2021.pdf>

## Supporting Indigenous people with disability

- The Alberta Ability Network has reached out to multiple indigenous groups asking them to collaborate in advocacy efforts for people with disabilities. Most have politely rejected us.
- We need to learn how to support indigenous people with disabilities. If anyone knows of an indigenous person providing support to indigenous people with disabilities, please let us know so we can collaborate on advocacy efforts together.
- In the journey toward reconciliation, it is deeply rooted in trust and communication. We need to create relationships and build trust first.



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- We will make every effort to make connections by meeting them where they are at.
- Approach it from a health and wellness perspective and not a disability and poverty perspective as there are a lot of negative connotations associated with the latter.
- If anyone has a connection, please email me their contact information at [mtopchieva@cpalberta.com](mailto:mtopchieva@cpalberta.com).

## Housing and Dental Benefits

- Dental benefit is federal
- Housing benefit applications opened yesterday. There are 2 criteria: 1) you're spending more than 30% of your income on housing and 2) in 2021 your net income was \$20,000 for individuals and \$35,000 for families.
- People on AISH receive \$22,000 a year, VAD is working with the government to change that criteria so 77,000 people in Alberta are eligible for that one-time top-up.
- Alberta is the only province where AISH exceeds \$20,000 a year.

## Indigenous perspectives on poverty

- <https://youtu.be/P3YoVKFBBC0>

## Spotlights for the upcoming year

- If anyone is interested in doing a short 7-10 minute spotlight on what their agency does, please contact [mtopchieva@cpalberta.com](mailto:mtopchieva@cpalberta.com) to schedule you in the new year.

## Action Items:

- Look into Calgary's Homeless Foundation and the Kerby Centre to see if they are doing advocacy regarding seniors being included in Bill C-22.
- Buddie Dixon from Enough For All can support this work. We will contact him and ask if he can join this table.

Wrap-Up/Adjournment

## Next meeting:

**Date:** January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Time:** 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

**Location:** Zoom