



AAN HUMAN RIGHTS

Date/Time:

June 27th, 2022 / 1:00PM – 3:00PM

Location: Zoom

Chairs: Mezaun Lakha-Evin, Sean Crump

In Attendance:

Dan Pederson (Community Advocate)
 Rebecca Stevens (City of Medicine Hat)
 Christopher Gordon (Community Advocate)
 Sean Crump (Universal Access)
 Ryan Popplestone (Advocate's Office)
 Stacey Perlin (Perlin Foundation for Wellbeing)
 Teneille Bradley (Affordable Housing)

Meri Topchieva (AAN)
 Sam Mason (VAD)
 Stella Varvis (Alberta Law Reform Commission)
 Cal Schuler (CASS)
 Alison Stutz (Deaf and Hear Alberta)
 Brittany Rogers (PLAN Calgary)
 Greg McMeekin (Advocate's Office)
 Keri McEachern (Self Advocacy Federation)
 Leslie Jerry (City of Medicine Hat)

Meeting Minutes

Land Acknowledgement
Welcome and Introductions

Review/Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Topics of Discussion:**Linnie Tsu**

- There is funding for research, projects, and improving accessibility codes and considerations.

Alberta Disability Advocate – Greg McMeekin

- On June 16, the Office of the Advocate for Persons with Disabilities shared its strategic plan for 2022-2025. One of the main priorities is to champion and mobilize stakeholder outreach toward potential accessibility legislation.
- The Minister has asked Greg to conduct research for the potential legislation.
- The Office is working on organizing a working group with members of the disability community including The Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities, PPAC, VAD, Inclusion Alberta, members of rural municipalities, and business agencies. The Office has also contacted the Chambers of Commerce.
- The sole purpose of the working group is to advise the Office on their efforts to move accessibility legislation forward.
- The Office is focusing on 1) Research 2) Engagement 3) Reporting (Advising the Government)
- Building off the work that Barrier-Free Alberta has done.

Minister Luan Update

- Minister Luan responded to our letter.
- The Jobs Now program makes it more affordable for employers to hire and train new employees, offering additional funding for hiring people with disabilities.

- With the working group that the Advocate's Office has created, and the work being done by Minister Luan, hopefully, we get to see positive changes to accessibility legislation over the summer.

Subcommittee presentation

- There have been many engaging questions throughout our presentations which led us to make some changes.
- One of the most reoccurring questions we received is "What do you define as a "Disability"
- We have taken the definition of "Disability" from the Accessible Canada Act and re-formatted the definition inclusive of plain language.
- Barrier-Free Alberta is presenting to the Town of Glendon at 7:30 PM today.
- We have added key messages in the speaker's notes of each slide to make it easier for new members to present and to stay on task.

Community engagement group

- If you are interested in joining the Barrier-Free Alberta subcommittee, please email either Sean at sean@universalaccess.me or Mezaun at mezaun@cpalberta.com.

Agency updates/events

The Perlin Foundation for Wellbeing

- Calgary Folk Music Festival has offered accessibility training to their volunteers this year.
- Regarding assisting people with sight loss, the training stated the need for better signage on maps and having color differentiation in washrooms.
- For people with very limited visibility or no visibility at all, there weren't many effective tools mentioned during the training as it is still being developed.
- Stacey will reach out to CNIB and see if they have licensed mobility training. If they do, she will add it to her training toolkit.
- Has been recommended many agencies to consult for events to highlight a barrier-free design.
- Currently designing a street festival for August 2023 where the proposal is building a walkway around the sidewalks of East Village Calgary. This will give people a desensitization aspect and increase accessibility, as people with wheelchairs are freely able to move around and see the dance performances in the middle of the street.
- Level Playing Field has been advising agencies on how to conduct their events in an accessible manner. If anyone is interested in getting an accessibility consultation, please visit <https://www.levelplayingfield.ca/>.
- If any organizations are doing arts and culture events in Calgary, please contact Stacey to participate in the Open-Minded Chats they host at the library.
- Stacey's email is stacey@perlinfoundation.com.

Wrap-Up/Adjournment

Next meeting:

Date: September 26, 2022

Time: 1:00PM – 3:00PM

Location: Zoom

There will be no table meetings in July and August. Have a great summer!!!!!!