



# ALBERTA ABILITY NETWORK RECREATION TABLE

**Date/Time:**

October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 / 9:30am – 11:30am

**Location:** Zoom

**Chairs:** Karen Dommert, Kim Presser

**In Attendance:**

Amanda Gramiak (Parkdale Community Association)  
 Andrew French (Winder Inclusive Communities Service)  
 Brett Frostad  
 Mezaun Lakha-Evin (Alberta Ability Network)  
 Catherine (Glenmore Gymnastics)  
 Cydney Yaremko (BLOOM)  
 Janice Schneider (STAR - Youth Singers)  
 Karen Dommert (Calgary Adaptive Hub)  
 Kevin Kwasny (City of Calgary)

Laura Rocker (CP Kids and Families)  
 Leonard O’Keffe (Developmental Disabilities Resource Centre)  
 Lindsey Gilmore (Association of the Rehabilitation of Brian Injured)  
 Meri Topchieva (Alberta Ability Network)  
 Michael Heuchert (Decathlon)  
 Sam Mason (Voices of Albertans with Disabilities)  
 Scott Godfrey (Autism Aspergers Friendship Society of Calgary)  
 Tracy Oh (CP Kids and Families)

## Meeting Minutes

Land Acknowledgement  
 Welcome and Introductions  
 Breakout Rooms

**Spotlight Series:****Glenmore Gymnastics Centre**

- Has been in Calgary for over 40 years. Recently relocated from the Southland Leisure Center next to the Blackfoot hotel.
- Currently looking for ways to expand programming, one of the new programs would be adaptive gymnastics.
- All their coaches go through NCCP (National Coaching Certification Program) gymnastics and trampoline certification along with First Aid/ CPR and police checks. Coaches are also required to take further certifications to be able to adapt their training for participants with disabilities.
- Looking for feedback from the community as to which programs are missing in the sphere of adapted sports.
- There is an open house on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> for program coordinators where they will provide guided tours. Another open house is scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup> for community members to view and use the space as well.
- Public adapted classes will start in January where classes will be split based on ability and accommodations.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please email Catherine at [Catherine.buttvallieres@gmail.com](mailto:Catherine.buttvallieres@gmail.com) .

## **Parkdale Community Association**

- Established in 1953 where their primary focus is on delivering programs and services to residents of Parkdale and surrounding communities
- On January 29, 2022, Parkdale opened Alberta's first accessible outdoor rink.
- This was a 5-year project where their goal was to replace their existing outdoor rink and set a new standard for Calgary by designing an accessible outdoor rink for everyone to enjoy.
- Currently looking for ways to utilize the rink. Currently partnering with Calgary Sledge Hockey Association where they can use The Hub and Rink every Thursday at no cost. This allows the organization to minimize costs and use more of its budget toward needed equipment.
- Their model has reduced rates for grassroots organizations.
- Currently looking to build or rent an equipment bank where organizations can use them at either no or minimal cost.
- For more information, please go to [www.parkdaleeyc.com/rink/](http://www.parkdaleeyc.com/rink/) or email Amanda Gramiak at [programs@parkdaleeyc.com](mailto:programs@parkdaleeyc.com)

## **Topics of Discussion:**

### **Environmental Scan 2022**

- Please add your organization's information on the environmental scan below. This was previously created by our internship student.
- [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1D-5dmQyvmlKweuAtDcAkTav7hu\\_mcT29/edit?usp=sharing&oid=106545916891638668650&rtfpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1D-5dmQyvmlKweuAtDcAkTav7hu_mcT29/edit?usp=sharing&oid=106545916891638668650&rtfpof=true&sd=true)

### **What is working well now and what are you doing differently post-pandemic? (Jam board)**

- Lots of organizations stated that partnerships, collaboration, and the return of in-person activities have been working well for them.
- For post-pandemic, many representatives stated that some in-person programs haven't had a lot of consistency and they're experiencing the higher cost of programs due to low funding.
- For CPAA, our funding during the pandemic was high due to new grants for virtual programs, but recently grants have been decreasing making it hard for the organization.

### **What are your biggest challenges (Jam Board)**

- Many representatives agreed that funding has been more challenging to get.
- Operational costs are also hard to cover as most grant funding is specific to programs and not paying the salaries of the people who provide them.
- Many people are also doing 2-3 people's jobs because their organization is understaffed.

## **Agency Updates**

### **AAFS**

- Currently growing staffing and hiring. Lots of turnover during September as a lot of employees are going back to university and interns are returning to their studies.
- Lots of participants in current programming, they are trying to keep up with demand.



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## **Sport for all**

- Currently working with Scott to potentially start an all-abilities fair.

## **BLOOM**

- Recently has been having a hard time finding volunteers which is very unexpected as it has never happened before.

## **ARBI**

- Volunteers have been harder to get as well, previously had a waitlist for volunteers and now fewer people are applying.

## **CP Kids and Families**

- Have similar problems to the other agencies.
- Less attendance in-person rather than before the pandemic.

## **Youth Singers of Calgary (STAR program)**

- Programs are currently full, trying to see where to go next
- Similar programs with finding funding.

## **Calgary Adapted Hub**

- Connecting with Alberta children's hospital and getting a lot of interest from the physicians about the importance of physical activity and recreational programs.
- Lots of programs have returned to Mount Royal University and the University of Calgary.
- WIN Sport will be launching their adaptive multi-sport para sports sessions which are free to drop in for families. Starting January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.

## **Action Items:**

- Utilize what we heard from JamBoard to communicate what Recreation means through a disability lens.
- Create an advocacy campaign regarding the barriers and challenges to recreation through the disability lens.
- Advocate to the Government of Alberta for a recreation day/week.

Wrap-Up/Adjournment

## **Next meeting:**

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

**Time:** 9:30am – 11:30am

**Location:** Zoom