



# AAN HUMAN RIGHTS

**Date/Time:**  
September 26, 2022 / 1:00PM – 3:00PM

**Location:** Zoom

**Chairs:** Mezaun Lakha-Evin, Sean Crump

### In Attendance:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Alison Stutz (Deaf & Hear Alberta)                              | Leslie Jerry (City of Medicine Hat)                         |
| Angie Goredema (Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo)          | Lindsay Pierre (PLAN Calgary)                               |
| Brittany Rogers (PLAN Calgary)                                  | Linnie Tse (Municipal Affairs Alberta)                      |
| Byanca Nimijean (Action Coalition on Human Trafficking Alberta) | Margot Brunner (Voice of Albertans with Disabilities)       |
| Cal Schuler (Calgary Alternative Support Services)              | Meri Topchieva (Alberta Ability Network)                    |
| Cam Stewart (Alberta Human Rights Commission)                   | Mezaun Lakha-Evin (Alberta Ability Network)                 |
| Christopher Gordon (Community Advocate)                         | Philip Ney (Inclusion Alberta)                              |
| Deborah Mebude (Alberta Human Rights Commission)                | Rachelle Norris (YWCA Edmonton)                             |
| Ermira Kusari (Community Advocate)                              | Sam Mason (Voice of Albertans with Disabilities)            |
| Haley Weiss (Selections Career Support Services)                | Shaun Dyer (Spinal Cord Injury Alberta)                     |
| Greg McMeekin (Advocate for Persons with Disabilities)          | Stacey Perlin (Perlin Foundation for Wellbeing)             |
| Katherine Such (Easter Seals Alberta)                           | Stella Varvis (Provincial Parent Advisory Committee)        |
| Keri McEachern (Self-Advocacy Federation)                       | Suzanne McEachern (YWCA Edmonton)                           |
|   | Teneille Bradley (Accessible Housing)                       |
|   | Tonia LaRiviere (Accessibility Advisory Committee Edmonton) |
|   | Valeria Palladino (Edmonton Epilepsy Association)           |

## Meeting Minutes

Land Acknowledgement  
Welcome and Introductions  
Showed Minister Qualtrough's message

### Topics of Discussion:

#### Recruitment update

#### **Bill 22 the Canada Disability Benefit Act**

- During the first reading, representatives wanted more information such as who's receiving this, will there be controversy, etc.
- No new information was presented during the second reading.
- There was discussion that it might take 3 years before the enactment of the bill, which is unacceptable.
- Advocating to Members of Parliament (MPs) to pass Bill 22.

#### **Linnie Tsu**

- Accessibility Standards Canada just held their public forum, all presentations are available online.
- ASC is attempting to create memorandums understanding each of the provinces and territories
- It will require a lot of advocacy to convince the provinces to sign a memorandum with the federal government.

## **Disability Advocate Working group update**

- In June, a working group was formed to inform the disability advocate about engagement and research regarding accessible legislation.
- Currently in the middle of contracting a consulting agency to conduct the community engagement portion.

## **Communications subcommittee update**

- Questions were sent to all candidates requesting a video response to 3 questions. There were no responses from any of the candidates.

Questions were:

- o What are your thoughts about why Alberta is one of the last two provinces to propose or enact an Accessibility Act?
- o Understanding that this issue is non-partisan and affects all Albertans, what steps would you take to bring this forward as a priority for all ministries?
- o How supportive are you of striking a dedicated legislative committee to ensure accessibility legislation gets passed?
- There were candidates who knew of our initiative and no response is a response in itself.
- Made some changes to the Barrier-Free Alberta (BFA) presentation based on feedback.

## **Community engagement process**

- The table has done a couple of letter-writing campaigns and many presentations about Barrier-Free Alberta to municipalities and government officials.
- Our goal is to utilize this table as a collective voice of organizations to push the government to pass legislation that helps improve the lives of people with disabilities.
- By bringing in the work that organizations do and aligning it to a common goal, our goal gets more achievable as there is power in numbers.
- We identified some target groups to engage with through BFA such as non-profits, municipalities, and post-secondary. It isn't just the disability sector that approves of having Bill 22 but the community at large as well.
- We need more people to help us with engagement.

## **Action items:**

- Meri will create a subcommittee to help the Human Rights table with engagement. If interested, please email [mtopchieva@cpalberta.com](mailto:mtopchieva@cpalberta.com)

Wrap-Up/Adjournment

## **Next meeting:**

**Date:** October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Time:** 1:00PM – 3:00PM

**Location:** Zoom