



AAN POVERTY REDUCTION

Date/Time:

April 19th, 2022 / 1:30pm – 3:30pm

Location: Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/811762804>

19

Chairs: Allyson Dann

In Attendance:

Mezaun Lakha-Evin (AAN)

Darryl Janzen (Cerebral Palsy Alberta)

Patti DesJardine (U of C)

Brad Robertson (Disability Action Hall)

Levi Nilson (Cerebral Palsy Alberta)

Meri Topchieva (AAN)

Sam Mason (VAD)

Andrea Van Vugt (Disability Without Poverty)

Meeting Minutes

Land Acknowledgement
Welcome and Introductions

Review/Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Topics of Discussion:

Introduction Of RDSP (Registered Disability Savings Plan) Initiative

- Levi Nilson is working on the RDSP initiative at Cerebral Palsy Alberta. The project will increase the uptake of the program over the next year as many people with disabilities are either 1) Not aware of the RDSP program 2) Are intimidated by the process, or 3) Not all bank locations are informed of this program.
- Levi will create an environmental scan to find out which agencies are working on RDSP programs.
- The RDSP program matches three times the amount of deposits.
- Patti will introduce stakeholders to Levi.

Cost Of Living Campaign

- Due to the rise in the cost of living, people living on income support are finding it difficult to pay their bills. A survey has been created to gather data that will address the issues.
- Survey will be sent to the community targeting front-line workers who will share with their clients.
- Results will be collected by the end of June.
- Disability Without Poverty currently has 100 stories identifying the barriers and challenges to the current increase in the cost of living.

Poverty Environmental Scan

- A provincial poverty environmental scan has been created
- Recruitment letters have been sent out to the 60 plus agencies on the environmental scan.

Agency Updates:

- On April 28 VAD is hosting an online event/ Canada disability benefit and why it's important. The event will be in ALS, ESQ, French, and English; they currently have 30 registered participants. To register, click here: <https://bit.ly/cdbwebinar>
- Table meetings for poverty reduction will not be held during the months of July and August.

Action Items:

- Survey will be re-defined to find qualitative results.

Wrap-Up/Adjournment

Next meeting:

Date: March 28, 2022

Time: 1 – 3pm

Location: Zoom