



AAN Human Rights

Date/Time: Jan 24, 22 / 1-3pm

Location: Zoom

Chairs: Mezaun Lakha-Evin, Sean Crump

In Attendance:

Eryn Dewald (Children’s Link)
Gilary Guzman (Canadian Equality)
Ermira Kusari (AAN)
Dan Pederson (Community Advocate)
Sam Mason (VAD)
Cam Stewart (AHRC)
Eva Jones (AAN)

Deborah Mebude (AHRC)
Alison Stutz (Deaf and Hear Alberta)
Mezaun Lakha-Evin (AAN)
Tony Flores (Community Advocate)
Sean Crumps (Included by Design)
Rebecca Neels (Community Advocate)
Margot Brunner (VAD)
Christopher Gordon (CNIB)
Leslie Jerry (City of Medicine Hat)
Diane Kreuger (ILRCC)

Meeting Minutes

Land Acknowledgement
Welcome and Introductions

Review/Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Topics of Discussion:

Update from communications subcommittee

- Communications strategy:

SHORT-TERM GOALS:

1. Build grassroots support
2. Establish a media engagement strategy, including a social media plan
3. Create timeline and metrics for the above

Goal Statement (Short-term): From Dec 2021 to May 2022, the Alberta Ability Network Communications Subcommittee aims to build grassroots support (consumer-driven approach, build buy-in, sign on to the initiative, share key messages on social media, generate buzz and public interest, especially from those outside of our circles/networks) for the Barrier-free Alberta initiative through the establishment of a media engagement and social media plan.

LONG-TERM GOALS:

1. Create framework for Alberta Accessibility Legislation Act
 1. Consult with the general public and key stakeholders
 2. Liaise with GoA contacts for buy in + policy formulation
 1. Push for provincial political parties to add accessibility legislation to election platforms

The subcommittee is currently working on a number of items as outlines in the communications strategy including: Audiences (exhaustive list), key messages, Limitations/Considerations, Key Questions, tools to consider.

- Social media: 155 Instagram followers; 30 followers on Twitter; 48 likes on Facebook; 66 sign ups in support of the initiative (351 unique page visits).

- Sent letters to all Alberta Ministers to introduce Barrier-free Alberta and request a meeting to present to them. Received a significant number of responses many of which indicated that they had forwarded the letter to Minister Luan (CSS Ministry) however we have replied and noted that such an act would impact all Ministries.

- A letter has been drafted, pending finalization, which will be made available on the Barrier-free AB website for community members to download and send to their MLAs. In addition, a quick form to find out who your MLA is through your postal code is available on the BFA website.

Summary of the “Meet the New Advocate for Persons with Disabilities in Alberta” event

- It was a good opportunity to meet the Advocate and the event was well-organized

- There were a number of questions that were submitted to from attendees during the registration process that the Advocate was not able to fully answer because he has not been in the office long enough to address them.

- There were a number of questions that were asked in the chat during the event which have been compiled and will be sent off to the Advocate's office.

Report back from the meeting Mayor Gondek's chief of staff

- They were interested in learning how City of Calgary as a municipality can support the engagement

- Went through some of the areas where they might be more intersectional value that relate to the municipality mostly on the provincial versus municipal costs relating to the legislation.
- Requested more information to set up other meetings with Councilors and the Mayor.
- Advised on a few action items and directed us to some associations that can help up get many municipalities engage rather than one municipality at a time.
- Was interested in exploring options to utilize National Accessibility Week to promote the initiative: conference of municipalities, City of Calgary ACA to present it internally; will be looking it at ways to presenting it to ...

Report back from the meeting with Minister Wilson

- The Minister notes that he has some insight knowledge on getting around in a wheelchair following an accident and challenges that some of his family members deal with as persons with lived experience.
- The ask from the Minister was more information on other provinces and what they are working on and those that have implemented an Act.
- The Minister noted that he is in support of the initiative and has an interest in it. The Minister has already followed up with a letter of support for Barrier-free Alberta where he noted that he will work with his colleagues at the Legislature in the effort to create a Barrier-free Alberta.

Suggestions to explore venues of support for BFA: the role of the new Advocate for Persons with Disabilities in facilitating connections with Alberta officials; Premier's Council on Persons with Disabilities.

- It was suggested that the Strategic Plan that was prepared in 2021 be reviewed to ensure that it is up to date and also reflect the goals of the committee as elections are

National AccessAbility Week: Sunday, May 29 to Saturday, June 4, 2022.

- In 2021, Bike Calgary, AAN Transportation table and the City of Calgary ACA Committee hosted an event during National AccessAbility Week on "Shared and Accessible Pathways" where we discussed with panelists on ways in which we can safely share the pathways and considerations that all users must have when using them. Bike Calgary is working on an educational campaign that they will be reaching out to their members to raise awareness about pathways and how to stay safe on them while ensuring the safety of others. The

collaborative was awarded the City of Calgary Transportation Opportunities Awards for 2021 for this initiative.

Ideas for National AccessAbility Week 2022:

- Augmentative communication and its importance
- Run a one-week campaign of event each focusing on a particular topic as it pertains to accessibility.
- Partner with City of Calgary to raise awareness about Barrier-free Alberta.

Link to the AAN Transportation table folder on the Shared Google Drive:

- <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IJPDpH9IXeWoinn2KlIGKc9iP1isatse?usp=sharing>

Action items:

- Communications subcommittee to finalize the letter for the community members to send to their MLAs
- All table member to brainstorm ideas for National Accessibility Week

Wrap-Up/Adjournment

Next meeting:

Date: February 28, 2022

Time: 1 – 3pm

Location: Zoom