



AAN Human Rights

Date/Time: Feb 84, 22 / 1- 3pm

Location: Zoom

Chairs: Mezaun Lakha-Evin, Sean Crump

In Attendance:

Mezaun Lakha-Evin (AAN)
 Gilary Guzman (Canadian Equality)
 Keri McEachern (Self-Advocacy Fed.)
 Ermira Kusari (AAN)
 Dan Pederson (Community Advocate)
 Sam Mason (VAD)
 Cam Stewart (AHRC)
 Eva Jones (AAN)
 Cal Schuler (CASS)

Tony Flores (Community Advocate)
 Sean Crump (Included by Design)
 Margot Brunner (VAD)
 Christopher Gordon (CNIB)
 Leslie Jerry (City of Medicine Hat)
 Shino Nakane (PCSPD)
 Myrna Tuttle (ACLRC)
 Greg McMeekin (OAPDA)
 Stacey Stilling (Accessible Housing)

Meeting Minutes

Land Acknowledgement
Welcome and Introductions

Review/Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Topics of Discussion:

Update from communications subcommittee

- Finalized the letter to be made available to the public that they can personalize and send to their MLAs: <https://www.barrierfreeab.ca/support>
- Working on adding a Facebook group as well as blogs
- Look at the Chambers of Commers and hoping to identify members within the Chambers to present to; as well as post-secondary institutions.
- Letters to all new municipalities have been sent as well as to all Alberta Ministers
- Looking at boosting the website listing on Google searches. Sam will look into a potential quote for an SEO specialist. The organic way to do is for everyone to search for the Barrier-free Alberta website more frequently.

National AccessAbility Awareness Week:

- The tables that have already met for the month of February have pointed towards a collective social media campaign in partnership with other organizations, focusing on moving the agenda for the Barrier-free Alberta initiative.
- In 2021, AAN Transportation table in partnership with City of Calgary ACA Committee and Bike Calgary, hosted a webinar on shared and accessible pathways at the height of the wrap up of the 2-year e-scooter pilot.
- Looking into tying a challenge to the campaign to raise awareness about the challenges that persons with disabilities face on a daily basis. It might now showcase all the challenges that persons with various disabilities may face: e.g. visiting everyday locations without opening doors yourself, using stairs, etc. There is a misstep punishment attached to it and you may add and subtraction points depending on how you complete or not the task.

Discussion:

- take a community member out along a person with a disability and explain to them why certain areas or things are inaccessible and what is inaccessible for them and document it via Zoom (love) or a video and get their impressions and learnings.
- “Don’t be a prick” campaign by Self-Advocacy Federation – closed a street and took 100 parking stalls in public to speak to the importance of accessible parking. It was an important visual to see and a teaching experience.
- Sam spoke to National Accessibility Awareness Week, its history and what provinces and agencies across Canada have done in the past and what we can take away from those. (Presentation attached to the email with the minutes).
- Training programs have been in place for a while for commissioners and white hatters at the airport, and now the police officers, including cognitive, sensory, seniors all the way to more general awareness on various disabilities.
- We need to push a collectively to get the elected officials to support the initiative.
- With provincial elections coming around in 2023, we need to look at ways in which we can connect with those running for office and look at how their agendas plan to address issues facing persons with disabilities. Despite improvements, there are still barriers to voting in Alberta for persons with disabilities. There are agencies that usually do a lot of work around elections

top provide plain language platforms of various parties to better inform the community. In terms of percentage to people with disabilities, we do not have statistics. Elections are tough because there is a lot of staff that work for the one day only and there might be cases where people might not be offered in or made aware of accessibility features that might be available, including the AutoMARK ballot marking devices (designed to provide privacy and accessibility to voters who are blind, vision-impaired, or have a disability or condition that would make it difficult or impossible to mark a ballot. In addition, it provides language assistance to voters who are more comfortable speaking an alternative language or who have reading difficulties.)

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

- https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WWvuds05xaRgsvebex_5qaWBHukMH34c?usp=sharing

Wrap-Up/Adjournment

Next meeting:

Date: March 28, 2022

Time: 1 – 3pm

Location: Zoom