



AAN Poverty Reduction

Date/Time: Jan 18, 22 / 1:30-3:30pm

Location: Zoom

Chairs: Allyson Dann, Ben Patmore

In Attendance:

Allyson Dann (CFAN)

Greg McMeekin (ODAA)

Patti Desjardine (U of C)

Shiri Dirisina (U of C/AAN)

Ben Patmore (CCIS)

Brad Robertson (Action Hall)

Ermira Kusari (AAN)

Diane Kreuger (ILRCC)

Andrea van Vught (Disability without Poverty)

Darryl Janzen (CPAA)

Colleen Houston (Action Hall)

Meeting Minutes

Land Acknowledgement

Virtual Meeting Considerations

Welcome and Introductions

Review/Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Topics of Discussion:

Recap of the meeting with the new Advocate for Persons with Disabilities in Alberta

- This was the largest event that AAN has hosted to date with more than 160 people in attendance at the height of the event. Those who registered through the Eventbrite platform had the opportunity to submit questions that they would like to ask the new Advocate and 13 questions were selected from the pool. The Advocate, Greg McMeekin, provided responses to the questions that he could speak to as he is settling into the new role and noted that as he becomes familiar and further settles into the new position he will be connecting with the community to hear about the issues that people are dealing with and working towards identifying solutions and ways to address them.
- There were a lot of questions that were out of the scope of the role of the Advocate however Greg was able to address them accordingly.
- The event was recorded and AAN is currently working on figuring out the logistics of merging the captioning with the video and will make it available on the AAN website once that is completed.

Food security and its role in the lives of persons with disabilities living in poverty

- The increase in prices has deepened the concerns and the affordability of food for people living in poverty, particularly those who identify with a disability.
- As more medications are not being covered, that is eating away from their funds to purchase food.
- Accessing emergency food hampers is becoming more difficult and the wait times are longer.
- Disability Action Hall is submitting a letter to the Government requesting the Indexing of social assistance.
- Poverty Snapshot in Calgary 2021 by Vibrant Communities Calgary:
https://prismic-io.s3.amazonaws.com/enoughforall/2378c6b9-1816-4d06-9dea-27805ecafd20_PovertySnapshot2021_FINAL.pdf
- Suggested that we build a factsheet of income and expenses that we can refer to when engaging in discussions regarding the issue of poverty.
- Depending on the disability, support and assistance vary therefore it would be helpful to portray various scenarios as they tie to the living allowance and other policies. A breakdown such as:
 - 1) rising cost of living,
 - 2) untapped resources,
 - 3) misconceptions of AISH and other resources,
 - 4) disability/employment,
 - 5) seniors losing their supports
 - 6) Accessible housing
 - 7) Red tape barriers to secure full time employment such as your postal address and clawbacks from federal and provincial government.

<https://calgaryunitedway.org/access-help/>

<https://benefitsfinder.services.gc.ca/r/d40bd1a7-0503-4d43-9d79-bb05dbfa5e4b?GoCTemplateCulture=en-CA&rt=928ba>

Some of those stores are also out there, I really like the one about \$7,000 shoes on CBC. I really like this "Crip Tax" that speaks to the additional costs of living.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/crip-tax-opinion-1.5856848>

Shiri is working on creating a resource list of agencies across Albert that focus on Poverty, particularly as it pertains to persons with disabilities.

Allyson, Colleen, Diane and Ermira will work on creating a survey that we can circulate to identify persons with disabilities in Alberta that live with a specific disability and the expenses associated.

Recruitment for the table

- Table members are encouraged to connect their contacts that can contribute to the table or can benefit from the table, with Ermira.
- Will also be utilizing the resource list that Shiri is working on to eventually reach out to agencies.

Link to the AAN Poverty Reduction table folder on the Shared Google Drive:

- https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15MrWVgGF_6cMvw2WKFa0PgJd_hCKqjTJ?usp=sharing

Action items:

- All table members to review the 211 resources so we can identify what other services and supports can be added:
<https://calgaryunitedway.org/access-help/>
- A subcommittee with Allyson, Colleen, Diane and Ermira will work on creating a survey that we can circulate to identify persons with disabilities in Alberta that live with a specific disability and the expenses associated with it.
- Ermira to coordinate a meeting for the subcommittee.

Wrap-Up/Adjournment

Next meeting:

Date: February 15, 2022

Time: 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Location: Zoom