

Our Vision . . .

People with developmental disabilities are members of a community in a world without barriers

Our Mission . . .

Recognize and co-ordinate both natural and funded supports that contribute to the independence, well-being and inclusion of adults with developmental disabilities

Message from Board Chair, Paul Renfree



Paul Renfree

We have just completed our annual three-day Board retreat where we reflected on the activities of this past year and

developed an action plan for dealing with the goals in the 07-08 business plan. This action plan is also based on the recommendations coming from the Board evaluation completed in the spring.

This year we have decided to direct our energies to networking with the communities throughout the north in order to encourage the building of community capacity for more inclusion of people with developmental disabilities. We have struck

a committee that will report back to the Board in September and October with suggestions for activities for the current year.

We reviewed a study that was recently completed on self advocacy in our communities and submitted at the August Board meeting. The Board continues to be committed to work with the self advocate groups in the northwest to make sure their voices are heard and our decisions reflect what they tell us. We plan on providing more opportunities for self advocates to get together and we have struck a committee to review the type of representation that self advocates have on our Board.

The last few years have been very challenging for service providers due to the difficulty to attract and retain employees. In the late spring a study was completed and pre-

sented to the Board by Dr. Scott McAlpine and Dr. Connie Korpan of the Grande Prairie Regional College. The Board plans to use the recommendations coming from the report to address the very high turnover rate in the northwest.

We also reviewed the comments given to us regarding the Awards ceremony and we will be reviewing the type of ceremony that we need to effectively recognize the outstanding accomplishments of individuals, organizations employers etc.

The plan that we have for this year is fairly ambitious, but we are committed as a Board to continue to facilitate improvements in the lives of individuals through services and community inclusion.

BOARD MEMBERS

Paul Renfree, Chair
Grande Prairie

Ann Martfeld, Vice-Chair
Valleyview

Al Bromling
Grande Prairie

Corrine Card
Fort Vermilion

Karen Egge
Woking

Kerrie Patrick
High Prairie

Trenton Perrott
Grande Prairie

CEO

Susan McKenzie

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Please Note: Starting in November, Northwest PDD Board Meetings will be held the 2nd Tuesday of each month. For more information, please call (780) 624-6225

October 15, 2007:
Location TBA
Northwest PDD Board Meeting
For more information: (780) 624-6225

November 13, 2007:
Location TBA
Northwest PDD Board Meeting
For more information: (780) 624-6225

November 7-9, 2007:
Calgary
National Supported
Employment Conference
For more information:
visit www.supportedemployment.ca

December 11, 2007:
Location TBA
Northwest PDD Board Meeting
For more information: (780) 624-6225

December 21, 2007:
Deadline for proposals to the
Northwest PDD Board for Building
Community Capacity Initiatives
For more information: (780) 538-5158, or visit
http://www.pdd.org/Northwest/whats_new_commcap.htm

Northwest PDD Board Member Appointments

PDD board members are volunteers who help make plans and provide direction for delivering supports to adults with developmental disabilities. Board members work with communities to improve programs and help adults with developmental disabilities to live, work and participate in their communities. Each board has up to nine members. PDD boards are located in six regions across the province: Northwest, Northeast, Edmonton, Central, Calgary and South. The PDD program assists more than 9,000 adult Albertans who have developmental disabilities, as well as their families and guardians.

One new member has been appointed and two current members have been re-appointed to the Persons with Developmental Disabilities Northwest Alberta Community Board for varying terms by the Minister of Seniors and Community Supports, Greg Melchin.

Corrine Card of Fort Vermilion brings a great deal of experience and enthusiasm to the board. After growing up on the Paddle River Métis Settlement, she became president of her Métis local chapter and a community volunteer. Ms. Card has extensive retail and property management experience and recently served on the Child and Family Services Authority Board in the northwest region.



New Northwest
PDD Board Member
Corrine Card

Ann Martfeld of Valleyview has been reappointed to the Northwest Board. She has served on the local school, hospital and Child and Family Services Authority boards and has worked as an outreach worker. Additionally, Ms. Martfeld has been selected to represent the Northwest PDD Board as Vice-Chair.

Kerrie Patrick of High Prairie has been reappointed to a second term on the board. She brings business and board experience having been a member of the Child and Family Services Authority.



Northwest PDD Coordinator Karen Martin recently received recognition from CEO Susan McKenzie for her 20 years of service to the Alberta Provincial Government

Northwest PDD Reports on 2006/07 Year

In the fall of 2005, Northwest PDD Board members and staff traveled to several communities in the Northwest to get input for future planning. Adults with developmental disabilities, service provider staff and families were asked the following questions for discussion at these meetings:

1) What is necessary for people with developmental disabilities to participate in this community?

2) How can PDD influence change in this community?

Three themes for future direction became obvious as a result of these meetings:

- **Awareness:** community awareness of PDD as well as of the participation and contributions of individuals.
- **Staffing issues:** wages, recruitment, retention, staff development, benefits, value of the profession, recognition and appreciation
- **Flexibility in funding:** so that individuals, families, agencies can determine where the support is most needed for an individual.

Using those themes and the feedback that was provided, the Northwest PDD Board was able to come up with a plan for doing business in 2006/2007. Based on your feedback and that plan, these are some of the highlights of what the Northwest PDD Board accomplished.

You wanted planning for better access to your communities. So we...

- ...partnered with a Northwest service provider and a contractor to identify affordable housing options.
- ...recognized the Town of Peace River's funding of a public transit system in that community.
- ...worked with Peace Country Health Region to expand home-care options for individuals.
- ...worked with families and community in order to provide continued services for individuals in Slave Lake after a service provider went out of business.

You wanted better community awareness of people with developmental disabilities and their contributions to their communities. So we...

- ...celebrated the contributions of individuals with disabilities, their employers and community organizations with our annual Spring Celebration & Awards Night.
- ...recognized the valuable contributions of one employer and three individuals from the region with the provincial Norm McLeod Community Inclusion Awards.
- ...acknowledged the contributions made by Community Capacity Building Initiatives such as Grande Prairie's Community Village and the Person Centered Planning Project.

You wanted support for the Northwest self-advocate movement. So we...

- ...provided support to a self-advocate wishing to establish a consulting business providing public

education about the self-advocate movement.

- ...worked with 20 self-advocates so that they could attend the provincial Self Advocacy Summit in Edmonton.
- ...provided Leadership Today training for individuals across the Northwest.
- ...encouraged participation of adults with developmental disabilities in the provincial leadership review (332,000 Strong movement).
- ...engaged in a project to evaluate the existing self-advocate movement in order to plan for future support from the Northwest PDD Board.
- ...continued to work with the Northwest Advocates in Action in their reorganization process.

You wanted your communities to be educated and supported in employing people with disabilities. So we...

- ...continued to work with Human Resources Development Canada and Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry on a project to expand employment options in Slave Lake, Peace River, Fairview and High Prairie.
- ...restructured the Northwest PDD Funding formula in such a way that service providers could address staff turnover, recruitment and retention issues.
- ...addressed annualized funding for the Team Lead position in order to allow for equitable distribution of funding.
- ...provided one-time staff retention funding for Northwest service providers in order to provide sustainable supports for individuals.

You wanted opportunities for training for service provider staff. So we...

- ...offered service provider staff a workshop facilitated by Jeff Strully.
- ...supported Leadership Today Training for service provider staff to increase awareness of the needs of self-advocates.

You wanted improved flexibility in your PDD funded supports. So we...

- ...participated in the Provincial Funding Allocation Committee.
- ...established and implemented the Family Managed Supports policy.

You wanted to ensure that the Northwest PDD Board operated with accountability and best practices at the forefront of all decision making. So we...

- ...completed a Board evaluation and established an action plan.
- ...reviewed and updated all Board policies.
- ...completed an evaluation of the Northwest PDD Board Audit Committee.
- ...worked to establish a consistent service provider contracting process.
- ...updated the Northwest PDD Board's Vision, Mission and Value Statements to reflect the current status and outcome expectations.

- ...clarified the role of the Northwest PDD Board in relation to the PDD Program Branch and the Ministry of Seniors and Community Supports in relationship to the new Community Governance Legislation.
- ...participated in Northwest wide community consultations to identify priorities of stakeholders in order to establish future directions of the Northwest PDD Community Board Business Plan.

You wanted increased and improved relationships between the Northwest PDD Board and community stakeholders. So we...

- ...participated in the Northwest Alberta Child and Family Services Authority Complex Needs Committee.
- ...consulted with senior management of Alberta Association for Community Living and Northwest Family Voices regarding Northwest PDD residential support policies.
- ...developed new ways of collaborating with Alberta Council for Disability Services and the Northwest service providers.
- ...collaborated with Peace Country Health Region management in order to review eligibility and clarify mandates.
- ...reviewed protocols and Memorandum of Understanding with Northwest Alberta Child and Family Services Authority.
- ...identified opportunities for partnership and shared responsibility with AISH and Office of the Public Guardian.

You wanted the Northwest PDD Board to take a role in public education about PDD services and the people it serves. So we...

- ...participated and supported a local event for International Day of Disabled Persons.
- ...were represented at the Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities forum in Grande Prairie.

If you would like more information about this report, feel free to contact Northwest PDD CEO Susan McKenzie at (780) 538-5115.

Self Advocacy Research Project Update

The research project for the summer is finally complete and I want to thank all of the self advocates, PDD coordinators, support staff members and community members who helped me during the researching process. Everyone's input was contributed to the project. Here is a summary of some of the information gathered.

A total of 61 people were interviewed. This included 54 persons with developmental disabilities, 3 PDD coordinators, 3 support staff and 1 community member.

- 63% of the individuals interviewed had received Leadership Today Training

- 73% of the individuals interviewed said what they liked most about self advocacy meetings was getting together with friends and socializing.

- 24% of the individuals interviewed said that the groups helped them stand up for themselves and helped them stand up for others.

- There is currently only one consistent self advocacy group running in the Northwest region.

With all of the information gathered from individuals, I was able to put together recommendations for the Board, which were presented to them in August

I really enjoyed my summer with PDD the summer just flew by. I want to wish everyone luck and to encourage everyone to be self advocates everywhere in their communities, at work and at home.

Aimee Steinke



Some of the northwest self-advocates that participated in the Self-Advocacy Research Project this summer

How We Spent Our Budget in 2006/07
Total Spent: \$18,526,000

