



ALBERTA
COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Office of the Minister

October 1, 2018

Dear Self-Advocates, Families, Workers and Agencies:

This year, I was proud to announce a review of the Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) program. The purpose of this review is to find ways to improve supports and make life better for Albertans with disabilities.

This review will build off of the work our government has already done to improve this program. This includes increasing funding by almost \$150 million, ending the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS), repealing the PDD Safety Standards and improving client and staff safety.

We want to work collaboratively with the community on this review. That's why we have taken time to engage the community through roundtables, in person visits and an online survey over the last several months.

We heard that the community wants a panel similar to the PDD Safety Standards Consultation, and wants the review to focus on the following issues:

- access to services
- creating a responsive, accountable and predictable system
- evaluating access to training and supports to enable a skilled and well-trained workforce
- examining eligibility criteria to access the PDD program's services and supports
- ensuring engagement with the disability community at both the system level and individual level has clarity of purpose and outcomes

I am writing you today to share that I have appointed a diverse, community-led panel made up of self-advocates, family members, workers and agencies to lead a review of these issues. Information about each of their backgrounds can be found below.

- **Dick Sobsey, Co-chair** - father of a 28-year-old son with disabilities and emeritus professor from the University of Alberta who has studied the health, education and human rights of persons with disabilities.
- **Dorothy Badry, Co-chair** - parent of a young adult with developmental disabilities and associate professor with the faculty of social work at the University of Calgary.
- **Ann Nicol, Co-chair** - former CEO of the Alberta Council of Disability Services and member of the Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities.

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- **Lloyd Thornhill** - self-advocate who has been an active member of the Disability Action Hall for 21 years. Lloyd is an avid volunteer.
- **Dan Huising** - self-advocate with cerebral palsy that works as a community support worker assistant. He has been involved with Special Olympics and serves on the Board of Directors of the Loseca Foundation.
- **Ryan Geake** - CEO of Calgary SCOPE Society and an instructor with Bow Valley College and the University of Calgary. Ryan serves on a number of disability-related non-profit boards and councils.
- **Johnathon Red Gun** - disability employment coordinator for Community Futures Treaty Seven and advocate for First Nations person with disabilities.
- **Lorelei Martin** - executive director of the Drumheller and Region Transition Society, a rural community organization that provides individualized support to people with disabilities.
- **Norman McLeod** - board president of the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights with over 50 years' experience in the disability field.
- **Krista Carr** - executive vice president of the Canadian Association for Community Living. Krista brings a perspective on disability supports and services from across Canada.
- **Sahana Parameswara** - executive director of Gateway Association and former community disability worker.

We are committed to an inclusive, meaningful and open review process that supports “nothing about us without us.” Public community conversations will begin this fall. Albertans will be able to provide input to the panel by attending a community conversation, or by making a written or online submission.

Information on the dates and locations of the public sessions will be available in the coming weeks. Additional details on the review panel and engagement is available at www.alberta.ca/pddreview.

Thank you for your ongoing work and partnership to make life better for Albertans with disabilities. We look forward to hearing your feedback and ideas as part of this review.

Sincerely,



Irfan Sabir
Minister