



Since the COVID-19 public health emergency was declared in mid-March 2020, ACDS has intensified supports to the Community Disability Service (CDS) sector.

# COVID-19 Advocacy Timeline

Through the Service Provider Partnership Committee (SPPC) and with regular communication with service providers and Alberta Community and Social Services (CSS), ACDS has kept abreast of emerging issues and been a central player influencing the collaborative development of policy responses.

## December 2021

As the Omicron COVID-19 variant spreads and active cases hit an all-time high, booster shots are opened up to all Albertans and new screening, capacity, and testing restrictions are put into place.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services announces that Complex Support Needs Designation and Secure Treatment surveys are now mandatory for organizations that provide these supports. A plain-language version of the PDD Steering Committee’s recommendations is released by CSS, and SPPC meeting notes are shared publicly through the ACDS website.

### EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

### ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

#### December 30, 2021

Winter break for K-12 students is extended by a week in light of the rising case count

#### December 23, 2021

CMOH Order 58-2021: screening requirements are amended, residents returning to their living facility must mask for 14 days, and all staff are encouraged to wear surgical masks or respirators

PCR testing is restricted to those at high risk of severe outcomes or those who work in high-risk settings; other Albertans are encouraged to use at-home rapid tests

#### December 21, 2021

Booster shots open up to all Albertans 18+

#### December 17, 2021

Free rapid test kits are made available to all Albertans at select AHS sites and pharmacies

The Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit is introduced, providing \$300 a week in income support to workers impacted by lockdowns; the Canada Recovery Hiring Program is extended and new subsidies are introduced to replace CEWS and CERS

#### December 15, 2021

Indoor gatherings remain limited to 10 people 18+, though the limit of two households, and differing restrictions for vaccinated / unvaccinated attendees are lifted

Booster shots become available to all Albertans 50+

85% of Albertans 12+ are fully vaccinated

#### December 2, 2021

All Albertans 60+ and health care workers providing direct patient care are eligible to receive booster shots

#### December 17, 2021

Complex Support Needs Designation and Secure Treatment surveys, available through ACDS’ CET Accreditation, are made mandatory for organizations that provide these supports

#### December 16, 2021

A plain-language version of the PDD Steering Committee report is released by CSS, sharing recommendations developed over the course of November 2020 to February 2021 to address some of the ongoing challenges impacting the PDD program

The SPPC begins publicly releasing bi-monthly meeting notes on the ACDS website

## November 2021

Vaccination rates rise and booster shot availability increases. ACDS releases a report featuring stories from the CDS sector on the continued impacts of COVID-19.

### EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

**November 24, 2021**

Children between the ages of 5 to 11 become eligible for vaccination

**November 10, 2021**

Round two of the Alberta Jobs Now program opens, providing wage subsidies for businesses and nonprofits hiring new employees

**November 8, 2021**

Booster shot eligibility opens up to Albertans 70+ and frontline health care workers

**November 1, 2021**

80% of eligible Albertans are fully vaccinated

### ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

**November 4, 2021**

ACDS releases a report, 'COVID-19 Pandemic Year 2: Stories from Summer 2021 in Alberta's Community Disability Services Sector', that highlights the continued impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the CDS sector

## October 2021

As service providers weigh the benefits and challenges of vaccine mandates within their organizations, two vaccine doses are now required to access services covered under Alberta's Restrictions Exemption program. ACDS hosts a Fall Webinar Series on 'resilience', as well as two separate webinars to answer service providers' questions about vaccination considerations from both an HR and legal perspective.

**October 25, 2021**

In line with the Restrictions Exemption Program, Albertans must now provide proof of two COVID-19 vaccine doses to access restaurants, movies, sporting events, and other businesses

**October 20, 2021**

CMOH Order 49-2021: supportive living and long-term care settings require masking in all indoor areas and quarantine/testing requirements for residents returning from other health settings

**October 5, 2021**

75% of Albertans are fully immunized against COVID-19

**October 25 to 29, 2021**

ACDS hosts its Fall Webinar Series, focusing on the theme of 'resilience'

**October 18, 2021**

ACDS is invited to attend a weekly meeting held by Alberta Health to relay COVID-19 related issues and upcoming policy changes

**October 12 to 15, 2021**

ACDS hosts two webinars for the CDS sector on vaccination considerations, presented by human resource and legal professionals

**October 7, 2021**

ACDS issues a statement on its support of vaccination in community disability services



# September 2021

Restrictions based on vaccination status are implemented as cases and hospitalizations rise during Alberta's fourth wave.

**SPPC meetings resume and the PDD Transformation Committee presents its recommendations to Minister Luan.**

## EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

**September 29, 2021**

Olds, Alberta declares September 29th 'Support Worker Appreciation Day', an initiative spearheaded by local service providers

**September 24 & 29, 2021**

Alberta Health hosts two webinars on rapid testing programs for disability service providers

**September 20, 2021**

The Restrictions Exemption Program launches, allowing businesses to avoid new capacity and operating restrictions if they check patrons for proof of vaccination or a negative test result before entry

**September 16, 2021**

Private gatherings are limited to two households of vaccinated Albertans and prohibited for those who are unvaccinated; work from home measures are mandatory unless operationally required

**September 15, 2021**

A third public health emergency is announced

**September 13, 2021**

A vaccination incentive of \$100 is offered to all Albertans 18+ who receive either their first or second dose between September 3rd and October 14th

**September 6, 2021**

Disability Services offices close for in-person PDD and FSCD appointments following work from home recommendations

**September 4, 2021**

Due to rising C-19 cases, masking and alcohol serving restrictions are implemented

**September 2, 2021**

70% of eligible Albertans are fully vaccinated

**September 1, 2021**

Disability Services offices reopen and resume in-person PDD and FSCD appointments

Third doses of C-19 vaccines are made available to seniors living in congregate care and immunocompromised Albertans

## ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

**September 29, 2021**

PDD Transformation Steering Committee presents their recommendations to Minister Luan

**September 23, 2021**

Regular SPPC meetings resume after pausing for the summer

ACDS announces the launch of the 2021 Creating Excellence Together Standards

**Mid-September, 2021**

As wave 4 cases continue to rise, the SPPC resumes COVID meetings to discuss COVID-specific issues such as vaccination mandates and changing restrictions



## August 2021

Cases begin to rise as Alberta enters its fourth wave. Supportive living and long-term care restrictions that were set to expire in August are extended due to rising case counts.

**ACDS connects with the new Minister of Community and Social Services to discuss future work in the CDS sector.**

### EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

### ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

**August 27, 2021**

Active C-19 cases exceed 10k as Alberta enters its fourth wave

**August 25, 2021**

Dr. Hinshaw writes a letter to licensed supportive living and long-term care staff, reminding operators that CMOH orders 37-2021 and 38-2021 are to remain in effect while C-19 cases remain high

**August 13, 2021**

Masking, isolation, and testing restrictions set to expire in mid-August are extended to the end of September due to rising C-19 cases

**August 3, 2021**

ACDS CEO and Board Chair meet with Alberta's new CSS Minister, Jason Luan, to discuss future work in the CDS sector

## July 2021

Restrictions are lifted as Alberta's Open for Summer initiative is implemented and vaccination rates continue to rise.

**July 29, 2021**

Quarantine for close contacts of positive cases changes from mandatory to recommended, contact tracing is limited to high-risk settings, and testing is limited to symptomatic cases

**July 19, 2021**

Alberta disability service providers release the results of 2021 Referral Capacity Survey

**July 13, 2021**

CMOH Order 37-2021 and 38-2021: the Government of Alberta begins lifting some continuing care restrictions, including visitor, dining, and recreation restrictions

**July 8, 2021**

Jason Luan becomes the new Minister of Community and Social Services

**July 7, 2021**

Over 50% of eligible Albertans are fully vaccinated

**July 1, 2021**

Stage 3 of reopening: the majority of all COVID-19 restrictions are lifted in Alberta

**July 30, 2021**

Developed in partnership with Griffith University's Centre for Investigative Interviewing, ACDS presents a new year-long certification program on Trauma Informed Abuse Investigation



# June 2021

Vaccination numbers rise, prompting the first two stages of the Open for Summer reopening plan.

After months of letter writing, social media campaigning, and conversations with CSS, eligibility for the Critical Worker Benefit is extended to all frontline community disability workers.

## EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

## ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

**June 30, 2021**

Active C-19 cases drop below 1,000 for the first time since July 2020

**June 29 & 30, 2021**

AHS hosts three town halls to discuss lifting restrictions in licensed supportive living and other care sites

**June 22, 2021**

Eligibility for the Critical Worker Benefit is expanded to all community disability workers

**June 18, 2021**

All Albertans become eligible for second doses

**June 14, 2021**

CMOH Order 32-2021: operational and outbreak standards for continuing care facilities are updated

**June 10, 2021**

Stage 2 of reopening: outdoor gatherings allowed for up to 20, indoor recreation opens at 1/3 capacity, indoor dining is reopened, and work from home order is lifted

Second doses are made available to those who received their first dose in April or earlier

**June 1, 2021**

Stage 1 of reopening: outdoor gatherings allowed for up to 10 people, outdoor patio dining resumes, indoor retail capacity increases to 15 percent, personal and wellness services open by appointment only

Second doses are opened to those who received their first dose in March

### Throughout June

The SPPC and its associated working groups continue to meet, discussing urgent operational needs due to C-19 as well as broader sector concerns

ACDS continues to update members with sector-relevant information and resources

### June 23, 2021

ACDS holds its Annual General Meeting, featuring CSS Deputy Minister Cynthia Farmer as a guest speaker



# May 2021

Vaccination eligibility opens to all Albertans over the age of 12. C-19 cases continue to rise and hit record highs, before beginning to fall in mid-May.

Issues arising due to SLALA regulations in the CDS sector are discussed between ACDS, CSS, and AHS; ACDS submits a research brief summarizing the effects of SLALA regulations on group homes.

## EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

**May 26, 2021**

The Alberta Open for Summer plan is announced, with three reopening stages based on vaccination rates of Albertans 12+

**May 25, 2021**

Students return to in-class schooling

**May 21, 2021**

CMOH Order 26-2021: establishes isolation and quarantine requirements for people who are fully or partially vaccinated

**May 19, 2021**

Alberta Jobs Now is announced, providing salary support for newly hired employees and higher grants for employees with disabilities

CMOH Order 23-2021: outbreak and operational standards are updated for supportive living, long-term care, and hospice settings

**May 18, 2021**

50% of Albertans aged 12+ are vaccinated

**May 10, 2021**

All Albertans 12+ are eligible for vaccination

**May 9, 2021**

Alberta reaches the peak of wave 3 with over 25,000 active C-19 cases

**May 6, 2021**

All Albertans 30+ are eligible for vaccination

Alberta Health holds two webinars on CMOH Order 16-2021

**May 4, 2021**

New restrictions are announced: schools are moved online, indoor and outdoor dining is prohibited, outdoor gatherings are limited to 5 people, and personal care services are closed

**May 3, 2021**

AHS holds a town hall to answer vaccination questions for disability support workers

## ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

**May 27, 2021**

ACDS Chair participates in panel discussion hosted by ADWA on the future of the CDS sector workforce

**May 25, 2021**

A virtual meet-and-greet event is held for new CEOs and ACDS Board members

**May 21, 2021**

ACDS submits research brief to CSS and AHS on the impact of SLALA regulations on PDD group homes

**May 11, 2021**

ACDS cohosts a third vaccination Q&A with ADWA, moderated by COVID-19 Resources Canada

**May 6, 2021**

ACDS meets with CSS and AHS to discuss Bill 70 and the need to ensure consistency across licensed and non-licensed facilities

**May 4, 2021**

ACDS participates in a cross-provincial session on mental health to contribute issues from the CDS sector



# April 2021

C-19 cases rise rapidly as Alberta enters a third wave. Step 1 restrictions are reinstated. C-19 vaccines become available to more frontline workers.

As community disability workers become one of the last remaining groups providing care in congregate and home settings still ineligible for vaccination, ACDS continues to advocate for vaccine eligibility in the sector. Frontline CDS workers become eligible for immunization at the end of April.

## EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

## ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

**April 30, 2021**

All frontline disability workers become eligible for vaccination, alongside everyone eligible in Phase 2C and 2D

**April 29, 2021**

Increased restrictions are implemented in select communities with high C-19 cases

**April 26, 2021**

CMOH Order 16-2021: visitor restrictions are eased in continuing care

**April 21, 2021**

Alberta Labour announces job-protected 3-hour paid leave for workers to get C-19 vaccinations

**April 20, 2021**

AstraZeneca is made available to all Albertans over the age of 40 years

**April 14, 2021**

Alberta exceeds 1,000,000 vaccinations administered

**April 12, 2021**

Phase 2C of vaccinations open to select health care professionals

**April 8 & 9, 2021**

Alberta Health holds two town halls to discuss restrictions in continuing care

**April 6, 2021**

Alberta returns to Step 1 restrictions following rising C-19 cases

**Throughout April**

ACDS continues to advocate directly with government and publicly over social media for vaccine eligibility in the CDS sector

**April 27, 2021**

ACDS forwards PDD vaccination questions from service providers in preparation for upcoming town hall

**April 15, 2021**

ACDS shares resources with members through their SPOKES newsletter

**April 12 & 14, 2021**

ACDS hosts two Q&A webinars on the science behind vaccinations led by volunteer experts from COVID-19 Resources Canada



# March 2021

While the number of active cases of COVID-19 plateaus and then begins to rise, Alberta begins Step 2 of reopening. Vaccines are made more widely available; individuals with severe or profound learning disabilities or severe developmental delay become eligible for vaccination in late March.

**PDD transformation draft recommendations are presented to CSS. ACDS hosts a webinar on legal and HR considerations on COVID-19 vaccinations, distributes the findings of the 2020 Workforce Survey, circulates a list of resources on vaccinations, and produces a brief analysis of the Alberta 2021 budget.**

## EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

## ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

**March 31, 2021**

Alberta CSS and Alberta Health host a virtual town hall for the disability community on vaccines

**March 31, 2021**

ACDS shares a list of vaccination resources with service providers

**March 30, 2021**

Phase 2B of vaccinations begins, targeting people with eligible high-risk underlying health conditions; this includes adults with severe or profound learning disabilities or severe developmental delay

**March 23, 2021**

Bill 58, the Freedom to Care Act, is introduced, proposing a process for non-profits to request one-time exemptions from regulations, if an exemption does not already exist

**March 15, 2021**

Phase 2A of vaccinations begins: Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are made available to 65 to 74 year olds

Albertans with severe developmental disabilities are made eligible for vaccination in phase 2B

**March 12, 2021**

ACDS hosts 'Legal and HR Considerations on Vaccinations' webinar

**March 10, 2021**

Staggered distribution of the AstraZeneca vaccine is made available to 50 to 65 year olds

**Early March, 2021**

PDD Transformation Steering Committee presents report with 30 recommendations to CSS

**March 8, 2021**

Several restrictions are relaxed for retail, hotels, performance groups, and youth sports

**March 1, 2021**

Alberta begins Step 2 of reopening: libraries are open to 15 percent capacity and low-intensity fitness activities are permitted

**March 1, 2021**

ACDS produces a brief analysis of Alberta 2021 budget

2020 Workforce Survey is released



# February 2021

Step 1 of Alberta's new reopening strategy based on hospitalization benchmarks begins. Critical Worker Benefit (CWB) is announced, providing one-time \$1,200 to workers in public and private sectors; CDS eligibility is limited to staff in overnight staffed residences.

**ACDS writes to Minister Sawhney expressing concerns on narrow CWB eligibility for CDS workers. A letter writing campaign is launched for CDS organizations to advocate for expanded eligibility for CWB.**

## EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

## ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

**February 24, 2021**

CMOH order 03-2021 is issued, with stricter protocol to licensed and designated supportive living facilities with an outbreak of a C-19 variant of concern

Vaccination eligibility is expanded to Albertans born in 1946 or earlier

**February 17, 2021**

CWB details limit eligibility to CDS workers in overnight staffed residences, and merges CWB (covering October 12, 2020 to January 31, 2021) with initial staff recognition grant (covering March 2020 to July 2020), for a maximum of \$1,200 per employee under both time periods

**February 10, 2021**

CWB is announced, providing a one-time payment of \$1,200 to public and private sector workers

**February 9, 2021**

Rapid testing program is expanded to include testing of asymptomatic staff in long term care and designated supportive living facilities

**February 8, 2021**

Alberta commences Step 1 of a new reopening strategy based on hospitalization benchmarks

**February 3, 2021**

Alberta Government announces an additional \$68.5 million dollars of funding for continuing care and supportive living

**February 19, 2021**

ACDS provides members a template and key messages for writing letters to MLAs and CSS for CWB advocacy for the sector

**February 18, 2021**

ACDS advocates to Minister Sawhney to expand CWB eligibility to all frontline disability workers, with employer flexibility to recognize other workers if benefit allocations are not fully expended. ACDS also requests that CDS workers and individuals with disabilities be among the priority groups for vaccination



# January 2021

C-19 cases begin to drop across Alberta as strict restrictions continue. Select services reopen in mid-January and outdoor gatherings of up to ten people are permitted. Vaccination distribution continues.

**ACDS continues to advocate for vaccination eligibility for disability sector workers and launches a multi-partner initiative to promote workplace health and safety.**

## EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

## ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

### Throughout January

ACDS advocacy focuses on prioritizing all disability workers for vaccination access

PDD transformation working groups continue to provide input to develop recommendations

### January 29, 2021

CSS announces it will continue to fund select government-operated care facilities in Calgary and Edmonton

### January 22, 2021

Active C-19 cases in Alberta drop below 10,000 for the first time since November 2020

### January 20, 2021

ACDS launches multi-partner Community Services Staff Safety Initiative (CSSSI), a set of resources to increase workplace safety

### January 18, 2021

Personal and wellness services reopen (appointment only) and outdoor social gatherings are allowed for up to 10 people

### January 4, 2021

CSS restructures PDD from six regions to two zones (North and South)



# December 2020

As C-19 case counts continue to rise, new restrictions are enacted, prohibiting all indoor and outdoor social gatherings. C-19 vaccinations begin in Alberta and recognition pay begins to rollout to select disability service providers.

ACDS assists AHS to host two sector-specific Town Halls, and presents a webinar with an expert panel discussing approaches to complex challenges. Preliminary results of ACDS' 2020 Workforce Survey are released, and ACDS is invited by CSS Minister Sawhney to a sector-specific round table discussion on challenges and opportunities.

## EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

December 22, 2020

CSS recommences bi-weekly Q&A for disability service providers which had last been released on July 9, 2020, answering questions asked at the Town Halls in early December

December 21, 2020

Q&A is released by the Alberta government answering questions on the enhanced public health measures and their effect on congregate care centres

December 18, 2020

Rapid point-of-care testing begins at long-term care and designated supportive living facilities using dedicated mobile testing centres

December 15, 2020

First C-19 vaccine is administered in Alberta

December 8, 2020

Alberta announces province-wide mandatory masking in all indoor public spaces and workplaces, restrictions to social gatherings, and mandatory work from home where possible

December 6, 2020

Alberta exceeds 20,000 active C-19 cases for the first time

December 4, 2020

CSS distributes information to claim recognition pay for certain PDD and FSCD positions

December 2 & 4, 2020

In response to ACDS advocacy, and with ACDS assistance, AHS hosts two sector-specific Town Halls to clarify public health orders and address questions

## ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

December 21, 2020

ACDS CEO and a Director participate at an invited round table with CSS Minister on sector challenges, opportunities, and learnings from navigating through C-19

December 18, 2020

ACDS releases the preliminary findings from the 2020 Workforce Survey: COVID-19 Wave 1

December 11, 2020

ACDS hosts *Uncertainty, Risks, and Transformation: Preparing Organizations for the Shifts Ahead*, a webinar for leaders of member organizations

Early December, 2020

ACDS advocates for: vaccination in the CDS sector, recommencing biweekly C-19 meetings, and reinstatement of the weekly Q&A document



# November 2020

C-19 cases continue to rise throughout Alberta and a second state of public health emergency is announced. New restrictions include no indoor gatherings, a maximum of 10 people at outdoor social gatherings, and grade 7 to 12 classes move online for the remainder of the year.

ACDS continues to circulate information on Alberta's CDS sector as a part of the #QualityCDS campaign, and advocates for a forum by AHS to address CDS-specific questions related to the public health orders.

## EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

## ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

### Late November, 2020

ACDS advocates for a CDS sector-specific Town Hall with AHS to interpret health orders

### November 30, 2020

Grade 7 to 12 classes move online for the remainder of the year

### November 26, 2020

Executive Summary of *Impact and Insights: COVID-19 and Alberta's CDS Sector* is published, with recommendations for sector recovery and growth

### November 25 & 27, 2020

AHS hosts two telephone Town Halls by Dr. Hinshaw to discuss ongoing issues in supportive living and long-term care

### November 24, 2020

Alberta enacts a second state of public health emergency, along with restrictions allowing no indoor gatherings and limiting outdoor social gatherings to a maximum of 10 people

### November 20, 2020

Dr. Hinshaw writes a letter to supportive living and long-term care operators, reminding agencies that staff must stay home when they are sick and practice proper hygiene/distancing

### November 15, 2020

Alberta exceeds 10,000 active cases for the first time

### November 5, 2020

ACDS hosts a leadership webinar for organizations to share firsthand experiences and learnings from COVID-19 outbreaks

### Throughout November, 2020

ACDS continues the #QualityCDS campaign, sharing CDS sector data and celebrating the hard work of disability workers during the pandemic



# October 2020

As federal CERB comes to an end, workers are transitioned to an expanded version of Employment Insurance and a new sickness and caregiving benefit (CRSB and CRCB). C-19 cases begin to rise in mid-October, resulting in a 15-person limit on social gatherings in Calgary and Edmonton.

ACDS resumes committees that had been paused due to C-19, and launches the #QualityCDS campaign to celebrate and share facts about the CDS sector. A report detailing impacts and learnings from the first 6 months of C-19 is produced to help inform improvements to PDD program sustainability and supports.

## EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

## ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

October 29, 2020

Dr. Hinshaw writes a letter to supportive living and long-term care operators in Edmonton and Calgary, recommending visitor restrictions

October 26, 2020

Following record numbers of C-19, a 15-person limit is placed on indoor and outdoor social gatherings in Calgary and Edmonton

October 5, 2020

An updated screening tool is provided to long-term care sites aligning screening with other sectors to focus on limiting entrance of individuals with a high risk of transmitting C-19

October 3, 2020

CERB benefit ends and is replaced by an expanded version of Employment Insurance

October 2, 2020

Bill C-4 is passed, providing federal benefits to workers quarantining due to C-19 (CRSB) or staying home to care for dependants (CRCB)

October 30, 2020

ACDS publishes *Impact and Insights: COVID-19 and Alberta's CDS Sector*, highlighting impacts in the first 6 months of C-19, with recommendations for sector recovery and growth

October 28, 2020

ACDS releases a statement to provide facts on community-based service delivery in Alberta

October 19 - 23, 2020

ACDS Fall Webinar Series provides 5 days of professional development for frontline on mental health and trauma, intercultural competence, dementia care, gender and sexual diversity in the disability community, and care in the time of C-19

October 8, 2020

ACDS launches the #QualityCDS campaign to celebrate the hard work in the sector during the pandemic, and to share key facts about the sector and its workforce

October 2, 2020

ACDS summarizes the list of new federal benefits and grants relevant to the CDS sector

Early October, 2020

ACDS Government Relations Committee and ACDS Human Resources Coordinating Committee resume work

The SPPC continues to meet and discuss COVID-related issues and broader PDD program needs, while the Contract Working Group resumes to address outstanding invoicing issues



## September 2020

Schools reopen in Alberta, a broader range of PDD data becomes publicly available, some public health restrictions are relaxed for care facilities, and new federal programs are announced.

**ACDS supports the sector with information on federal programs, and provides input to CSS on distribution of federal wage top-ups if these were to become available to workers in the CDS sector.**

### EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

### ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

September 17, 2020

CMOH order 32-2020 is put into effect, lessening quarantine requirements upon admission to long-term care facilities, re-allowing volunteer access, and allowing exemptions to single-site regulations for specific professions and roles

Asymptomatic individuals are no longer able to access C-19 testing in Alberta

September 2, 2020

Schools begin reopening across Alberta, with masking requirements in place

September 1, 2020

PDD and FSCD program data is updated to the end of June 2020 and made available on the Alberta Government's Open Data Portal

Early to Mid September 2020

CSS requests ACDS' input on the distribution of potential federal wage top-ups for essential workers; ACDS advocates for a flexible process that is not prescriptive or burdensome, which allows employers to use their own criteria for distribution in their agencies

## August 2020

Masking bylaws are implemented in various communities across the province. Increasing numbers of staff and individuals begin testing positive for C-19. Staff coverage costs start exceeding budgeted amounts; some staff express reluctance to work in homes where positive C-19 cases are reported.

**ACDS advocates for clear guidance from AHS, and for CSS to allow unbudgeted coverage costs to be claimed under C-19 expenses. CSS invites input from ACDS on developing a collaborative process to address sustainability challenges through system transformation.**

August 19, 2020

At SPPC, service providers express concerns about staffing and challenges related to unbudgeted costs as communities open up and more staff and individuals test positive for C-19

August 19, 2020

ACDS advocates for clear and consistent guidance from AHS, streamlined reporting process for positive cases, and for CSS to cover unbudgeted expenses as part of C-19 costs

Early to Mid August, 2020

CSS approaches ACDS for input on developing a collaborative process to address systemic challenges and sustainability issues

Early to Mid August, 2020

ACDS advocates for engagement that includes clear parameters, systems design expertise, and representation from community disability service providers, families, and individuals

August 1, 2020

Mandatory mask bylaws are put into place in multiple cities, including Calgary and Edmonton

ACDS Government Relations Committee supports the development of a new engagement body for ACDS to connect with families of individuals receiving community based services



# July 2020

Visitation restrictions relax in long-term care facilities and school re-entry plan is announced.

**ACDS supports CDS sector relaunch, SPPC resumes discussions on systemic issues, and ACDS submits formal response to Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society.**

## EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

## ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

**July 21, 2020**

Alberta Education announces schools re-entry plan for September under scenario 1 (near normal operations with health measures in place)

**July 16, 2020**

CMOH order 29-2020 issued, giving long-term care facilities greater visitation flexibility

Alberta Health releases an updated Q&A for CMOH 23-2020, answering questions on health screenings, testing, and isolation

**July 7, 2020**

Bill 32, the Restoring Balance in Alberta's Workplaces Act, is introduced in the Legislature

**July 6, 2020**

Minister Sawhney and senior CSS staff consult with academics and researchers to discuss opportunities and challenges in PDD, FSCD, AISH, and Income Supports

**July 31, 2020**

ACDS submits formal response to Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society consultation, advocating for: sustainable and flexible funding; reduced regulatory burdens; supports to enhance overall organizational capacity (not just service delivery); better understanding of cross-system impacts; and stronger collaboration mechanisms

**July 20, 2020**

ACDS is invited to participate in Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society consultation on what Alberta's civil society needs to guide recovery

**July 10, 2020**

ACDS makes their return to office guidelines publicly available as an example for any organization planning their own return to office

**July 9, 2020**

SPPC COVID Learnings Working Group summarizes key learnings and provides recommendations to support governance, flexibility, collaboration, and innovation in the sector

**July 6, 2020**

ACDS Director of Strategic Services and Stakeholder Engagement is invited to participate in Minister Sawhney's Disability Advisory Forum



# June 2020

Phase 2 of Alberta's reopening begins June 12; public health emergency is lifted June 15. Health guidelines increasing some allowances while restricting others create confusion and conflicting pressures. Reopening of non-essential services creates new staffing deployment issues.

**ACDS advocates for CSS to engage with Health to make appropriate adjustments and exemptions to mandatory regulations to reflect differences in risks between sites, and to provide services with information and tools to make reasoned risk assessments in their reopening approach. Invoicing process is clarified and SPPC launches COVID Learnings Working Group to assess responses and identify key learnings from the pandemic.**

## EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

## ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

**June 23, 2020**

Dr. Hinshaw hosts Town Hall on visitor policy for supportive living and long-term care facility residents

**June 19, 2020**

Alberta Disability Workers Association (ADWA) launches letter-writing campaign to advocate for at least \$2/hr wage increases for CDS workforce

**June 19, 2020**

SPPC Contract Management Working Group continues to meet. ACDS shares feedback regarding ongoing invoicing challenges and implementation inconsistencies

**June 18, 2020**

New SPPC COVID Learnings Working Group convenes to examine responses to pandemic, and identify practices to retain or amplify

**June 15, 2020**

Alberta ends state of public emergency

**June 12, 2020**

Phase 2 of Alberta's reopening announced

**June 11, 2020**

CSS releases relaunch guidance for disability service providers

**June 11, 2020**

ACDS updates its decision-making and planning tool to incorporate the guidance from CSS

**June 10, 2020**

SPPC recommences pre-pandemic conversations related to PDD sustainability and data sharing, and creates new COVID Learnings Working Group to capture recent learnings

**June 4, 2020**

ACDS informs service providers of tools and resources to assist with reopening planning, including sharing response strategies being developed in some regions



# May 2020

Phase 1 of Alberta's reopening begins May 14. Health orders gradually and cautiously relax restrictions.

ACDS advocates for clear guidance from CSS for the reopening of community access programs and prepares a tool to assist service providers develop their reopening plans. ACDS also provides workforce information to the Minister and a statement advocating for wage top-up. A one-pager on workforce data is also released to support sector advocacy.

## EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

## ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

May 29, 2020

SPPC Contract Management Working Group clarifies invoicing template and process

May 27, 2020

Alberta Health holds three days of webinars to clarify questions from CMOH 23-2020

May 25, 2020

CMOH order 23-2020 issued, increasing allowances for activities in supportive living and continuing care sites, while maintaining restrictions to protect staff and resident safety

May 25, 2020

CET accreditation surveys relaunched, with online and virtual options, depending on service provider capacity

May 21, 2020

ACDS publishes a decision-making and planning tool to assist day programs develop reopening strategies

May 19, 2020

Alberta Health Services launches a toll-free Rehabilitation Advice Line, providing advice and strategies to adults with disabilities

May 14, 2020

Phase 1 of Alberta's reopening announced

May 14, 2020

ACDS releases 2019 CDS Workforce Infographic to support advocacy activities by the sector

May 13, 2020

SPPC Contract Management Working Group reconvenes to seek feedback on new invoicing process and address areas of concern

May 12, 2020

ACDS provides Minister Sawhney with requested information and data on staff retention and wages, along with a statement advocating for wage top-up

May 4, 2020

ACDS invites photos to showcase innovative methods of providing support during the pandemic

May 1, 2020

ACDS, ALIGN, and ECVO release updated list of federal and provincial services and benefits



# April 2020

Health orders restrict staff movement across care facilities, and there is confusion in how these apply to community disability residences; staffing challenges and access to PPE are exacerbated.

**ACDS advocates for CSS to coordinate access to PPE, provide written communication to help clarify health orders, and raises concerns about staffing challenges. Through SPPC, ACDS supports CSS to develop revised C-19 invoicing for greater contract flexibility.**

## EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

## ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

**April 28, 2020**

CSS releases C-19 invoicing process giving greater contract flexibility and recognizing C-19 costs

CMOH Order 12-2020 issued, providing guidelines to support quality of life, testing directives and an expanded list of C-19 symptoms

CMOH Order 14-2020 issued, allowing temporary replacement for designated essential visitor and allowing outdoor visits with some restrictions

**April 23, 2020**

CSS responds to ACDS pressure for:  
(i) increased clarity and communication, by launching weekly Q&A for disability sector based on questions brought to ACDS and regional councils;  
(ii) PPE supplies, by temporarily coordinating orders via regional PDD offices

**April 10, 2020**

CMOH Order 10-2020 issued. Part 1 restricts staff to single care facility effective April 23, causing concerns of loss of staff to better-paying facilities. Continuous masking mandated for direct care work causes concerns arising from inadequate PPE supplies. Part 2 updates operational and outbreak standards. Complexity of order causes widespread confusion for disability sector home operators.

**April 7, 2020**

CMOH Order 09-2020 issued; visits to mandated facilities restricted only to provide essential care or if resident is near death

**April 2, 2020**

Telephone Town Hall with Minister Sawhney, Minister Schulz and Dr. Hinshaw to provide clarity on health guidelines for licensed sites

AHS C-19 Coordinated Response Line is available to support congregate living site operators with symptom reporting, questions or concerns

CMOH 08-2020 issued; movement of staff across sites is restricted and strict guidelines are in place for reporting C-19 outbreak

**April 24, 2020**

SPPC develops detailed parameters for funding flexibility and invoicing to address C-19 costs

**April 23, 2020**

ACDS publishes flowchart to clarify Order 10-2020 for various disability service facility designations

2019 Workforce Survey released to support advocacy for frontline wages

**April 17, 2020**

ACDS compiles resources related to federal support programs and initiatives, and links to funding sources for non-profits

**April 10, 2020**

ACDS continues to advocate for access to PPE

COVID19@ACDS.ca email created to efficiently gather service providers' pandemic-related concerns

**April 8, 2020**

SPPC discusses staffing challenges arising from federal CERB and administrative challenges of navigating changing employment standards

**April 6, 2020**

ACDS e-update clarifies which disability care sites are mandated to follow Order 08-2020, and what CSS recommends for service providers

ACDS CEO presents video message on what ACDS has heard from agencies, current areas of advocacy and emerging issues or concerns



# March 2020

Provincial public health emergency issued. Public health orders guide operations at care sites.

**ACDS advocates CSS to enhance direct communication with service providers, allow service delivery and staffing flexibility, recognize COVID costs, and support agencies to interpret health guidelines and access PPE.**

## EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

## ACDS ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSES

**March 27, 2020**

Virtual biweekly meetings between CSS, regional PDD representatives, and regional service provider councils begin

**March 27, 2020**

ACDS is a core participant at biweekly meetings between CSS and regional service provider councils

**March 25, 2020**

CMOH Order 06-2020 issued, with extensive operational protocols for symptom notification and response, distancing, cleaning, and PPE use. Service providers have issues accessing adequate PPE

**March 25, 2020**

ACDS, ALIGN, and ECVO release list of federal and provincial services and benefits, and non-profit resources and initiatives related to C-19

First case of C-19 announced in PDD group home

**March 22, 2020**

CMOH Order 03-2020 issued; licensed supportive living and long-term care sites to limit visitors and conduct health screenings. Agencies express concerns about having enough thermometers

**March 22, 2020**

ACDS CEO speaks to Minister Sawhney about issues facing the sector and advocates for direct and ongoing engagement

**March 20, 2020**

CSS releases direct communication assuring a coordinated CSS and community response to C-19; requests agencies to track C-19 related costs

**March 19, 2020**

CSS ADM and ACDS CEO begin daily briefings

ACDS stresses the need for direct communication from CSS to service providers

**March 17, 2020**

Alberta declares public health emergency

**March 16, 2020**

CSS agrees to provide agencies service delivery and staffing flexibility as resources are re-deployed to maintain essential supports

SPPC begins meeting weekly to address emerging C-19 issues and develop solutions

**March 13, 2020**

ACDS begins regular C-19 e-updates to support agencies with information and resources

Pandemic resources are curated on ACDS website

