



## **Alberta Council of Disability Services**

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### **Questions to Political Parties – Election 2019**

1. A panel was appointed in September 2018 to review the Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) Program. This review was recommended during a previous community consultation and has been community driven. Stakeholder and community consultations were held in October – December 2018 with continued work scheduled in 2019 to develop recommendations and a path forward.

- **What would your party do to ensure that the review process continues and is conducted in collaboration with community stakeholders?**

We would publicly commit to ensuring the process continues. We would ensure there were adequate resources to move forward with future work scheduled. We have also committed to creating an Associate Minister of Disability. We will make sure future consultations are a top priority for them.

2. PDD contracts with community service providers do not fund all the true costs of service delivery. In addition, funding for staff wages has not been addressed since 2014. Both have a severe impact on organizational sustainability, recruitment and retention, and the ability to provide quality services.

- **What would your party do to ensure prudent investment in the sector through contracts that recognize true costs, are flexible, responsive, and ensure the delivery of quality care?**

Sustainable funding is about more than keeping up with inflation. It's about accurately reflecting costs in budgeting and not cutting corners when you're trying to cut the deficit. Sustainable funding also requires a commitment to address the ways in which costs rise over time.

We will consult with PDD stakeholders and community members to identify areas where true costs are not being reflected in contracts and then commit to addressing the funding differential.

3. Individuals with disabilities need access to support services in the communities where they live. Family Managed Services is one option that is suitable for some families however, not all families are able or willing to manage their own services, while others prefer to have agencies provide the services for other reasons. In these situations community agencies are critical to supporting community based supports. Alberta's experience has shown us that service delivery is most cost-effective and efficient when

delivered in communities by contracted agencies. Through research, partnerships and continuous learning, agencies have the expertise to provide world-class services consistent with best practice standards. Additionally, they are both strategic and nimble enough to meet unique needs that arise in their community. Contract agencies have succeeded through economic highs and lows by having strong business models, a focus on efficiency, professionalism and a passion for their work. Communities look to these agencies as resources during good times and bad.

- **What would your party do to work collaboratively and support the provision of community-based service delivery?**

We believe in decentralized models and community-based decision making. We understand the value in first hand experience and expertise. We will expand existing community-based service delivery.

4. The lives of individuals with disabilities intersect with multiple programs and services, and are shaped by a broad range of policy areas, yet, a disability impact lens is frequently not considered in policy outside core disability mandates.
- **What would your party do to ensure government policies, programs, and initiatives assess and address their potential impact on individuals with disabilities in the same way that governments often conduct analysis of policies, programs and processes for other frequently impacted groups?**

We see inclusion as a universal human right. The aim of inclusion is to embrace all people irrespective of race, gender, age, disability, medical or other characteristic. It is about giving equal access and opportunities and eliminating discrimination, intolerance and barriers to full participation in society.

It affects all aspects of public life. Alberta Liberals will ensure policy decisions are made with an inclusive lens. We will engage with citizens, families and stakeholders on policy that affects their lives and defend and support inclusion and accessibility.

We see persons with disabilities as one of the groups that have been most ignored in policy decisions. Our platform promise of an inclusivity lens will help address this.