

Rachel Notley. Fighting for you

Alberta Council of Disability Services

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?**

Rachel Notley and the NDP have a hopeful and inclusive vision for the future. We are fighting to ensure Albertans with disabilities are included and can participate in all aspects of community life.

Over the last four years, the NDP has protected and improved the supports Albertans with disabilities depend on. The NDP repealed the Safety Standards, which were imposed on the community without consultation, ended use of Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) and has increased funding for PDD by \$150 million to more 1,000 people get access to the PDD services they need. We also appointed a community-led panel to lead a comprehensive review of the PDD program to ensure it meets the need of the 11,000 Albertans who are supported by it.

We look forward to hearing the results of the panel and commit to fully implement their recommendations. As we do so, we will work closely with Albertans with disabilities and their families to ensure the changes achieve the goal of improving PDD services.

If re-elected, we will continue to work with community stakeholders including agencies, workers, self-advocates and families in order to complete the review and ensure the program serves the Albertans that rely on it.

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?**

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Over the last four years, the NDP government has worked very openly and collaboratively with agencies, workers and the disability community. Even in tough times, we increased PDD supports by \$150 million to help 1,000 people get access to the services they need. We know that these investments have provided stable funding and that has helped, but there is more work to do.

We appreciate the hard work of the staff and agencies who dedicate their lives to supporting Albertans with disabilities. We know that these positions are demanding and often come with lower wages than other sectors and employers. That is why the PDD Review is specifically looking at issues related to the workforce, training, administrative costs and funding. We look forward to the recommendations of the PDD Review Panel and will continue to work with the PDD service providers to discuss ways we can ensure agencies and workers are well supported.

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?**

Rachel Notley and the NDP have appreciated the collaborative relationship we have built with you and all PDD serving agencies over the last four years. Our discussions on important topics like the PDD review and safety standards have not always been easy but we have appreciated the partnership as we work together to make life better for Albertans with disabilities.

If re-elected, an NDP government would continue to invest in PDD to ensure that more people get the services they need, just as we have over the last four years. Through the PDD Review, a community-led process, we will work toward the panel's recommendations and find ways to address the sectors concerns. We are committed to look at issues of concern to the sector and to the workforce including wages, training, administrative costs and stable

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funding. We will not stop fighting for Albertans with disabilities and will keep working to build an economy that works for everyone.

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?**

Rachel Notley and the NDP know the value of using a disability lens. We are fighting for an inclusive future and in order to make that happen we must consider the impact of government decisions on all Albertans. If re-elected, we are committed to working with self-advocates, families and the disability community to consider how we could best conduct an analysis of policies, programs and processes that may have an impact on Albertans with disabilities.