



Updates to Foundations in Community Disability Studies (October 2023)

ACDS has made significant updates to our Community Disability Studies training curriculum, designed to empower you with the latest knowledge and insights to excel in your role as Community Disability Services Workers in Alberta.

Here's what's new:

1. **Updated Curriculum Based on Foundation Advisory Committee's Review:** We've incorporated valuable input from our Foundation Advisory Committee to ensure our curriculum aligns perfectly with your real-world needs.
2. **Updated Learning Activities:** We've revamped recommended learning activities to make them more engaging, interactive, and tailored to your needs.
3. **Presentation Slides with Micro-Learning Sections:** Our new presentation slides for tutor trainings are now divided into micro-learning sections, making it easier for you to grasp and retain important concepts.
4. **New Sections Added:** We've introduced several new sections to enrich learner understanding and enhance capabilities as Community Disability Services Workers:
 - **Societal Attitudes and Models of Disability:** Explore the evolution of societal attitudes towards individuals with disabilities, including the shift from the medical to the social model of disability. Understand how these models shape the approach to supporting individuals with disabilities.
 - **Development of Disability Services:** Discover the improvements in disability services over time and how inclusivity plays a pivotal role in your practices.
 - **Government Roles and Policies:** Gain insights into the government's role in setting policies and funding services for individuals with disabilities in Alberta, directly impacting your ability to assist your clients effectively.
 - **Organizational Impact:** Learn how your organization's mission, vision, values, and philosophy influence your work and guide your approach to supporting individuals with disabilities.
 - **Critical Self-Reflection:** Explore the importance of addressing biases and understanding cultural perspectives. Promote self-learning, relearning, and unlearning of values while respecting different cultures.
 - **Social Role Valorization:** Understand how this concept extends normalization and shapes the roles individuals with disabilities play in society positively.
 - **Challenging Outdated Perceptions:** Challenge historical devaluation of individuals with disabilities and advocate for a more inclusive society, emphasizing informed consent in service delivery.
 - **Impact of Colonialism and Capitalism:** Explore how colonialism and capitalism have shaped our perception of impairment and disability in society.
 - **Identity First Language and Neurodiversity:** Learn about Identity First Language, Person-First Language, and the concept of neurodiversity, which emphasizes the uniqueness of human brains.

Thanks to members of the Foundations Advisory Committee consisting of ACDS staff and external members, including:

- Erin Clark, Blue Heron Support Services Association
- Michelle Cole, Associate Dean of Bow Valley College
- Kathy Dykstra, Team Lead at Robin Hood Association
- Adam Heighes, Director of Vantage Enterprises Ltd.
- Donna Jones, Program Chair at Bow Valley College
- Corrine Thomas, Bow Valley College