



LETHBRIDGE ASSOCIATION
FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

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Bulletin Update May 2005

The Lethbridge Association for Community Living
Annual Family Pot Luck Picnic

Hosted by the Parent-to-Parent Committee
Friday, June 17 2005 at 5:30 p.m.

**Baroness Picnic Shelter in
Indian Battle Park (note the change in location)**

Bring pot luck to share, family, friends, lawn chairs
and any fun outdoor stuff you would like.

Eating utensils and beverages will be supplied.

Hope to see you there!!!!

We would like to extend a big thank you to all who participated in our 5th Annual Dinner, Dance and Silent Auction. It was a wonderful success and we were able to raise over \$7000.00. Thank you to those who donated to our live and silent auction, purchased tickets and helped make our celebration a success. Thank you to John Perlich for his enthusiastic auctioneering talents; to Mike LeBlanc for once again being our Emcee, and to the band, Southern Flyer for providing the great music for our dance. The LACL Board of Directors and the staff worked very hard to make this an enjoyable event and we appreciate all who supported the Association. We look forward to next year's event.

Office News:

We are pleased to welcome Lesley Sawers as our new Office Administrator. She is a welcome addition and we appreciate her skills. Lindsay Caldwell, our Family Voices Community Advocate, is leaving to take a position with the Alberta Association for Community Living. We are truly sorry to see her go but wish her well in her new job. Her last day with LACL is June 16th.

Increase for AISH:

As you are aware, the Ministry of Seniors and Community Supports have increased the monthly amount of AISH to \$950.00 effective right away with an additional \$50.00 that will come into effect next April. They will also be incorporating other recommendations that increase the amount an individual can earn before their AISH is reduced. Enclosed is a summary of the changes.

We have been fortunate to receive funding to help us improve the home we own that supports individuals with developmental disabilities. Thank you to the Lethbridge Community Foundation for the funding for a new air conditioning unit for the house. This will make a significant difference to the comfort of the home. We are truly grateful for their assistance.



OUR SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to Bob and Tyler Rice and family on the passing of their mother and grandmother, Ruth. We offer our sympathy to Leah Goodman and Marcia Taylor and family on the loss of their mother, Sharna and express our appreciation for their thoughtfulness to LACL at this time.

BINGO DATES

Please call Robert Nish or Lesley Sawers at the LACL office if you can help with bingo. Our next events are **June 18** for an evening event and **June 25** for an afternoon event. Please give us a call if you can help as we need your support.

DON'T FORGET!!!

Remember the following:
LACL Pot Luck Picnic – June 17
Bingo Events – June 18 & June 25



Governor General of Canada to Honour PLAN Pioneers

Her Excellency, the Right Honorable Adrienne Clarkson,
Governor General of Canada, has announced
The award of 47 **Meritorious Service Decorations** (civil division)
To individuals whose specific achievements have brought honour to Canada.

In 1989, Vickie Cammack, Joan Lawrence, Jack Collins and Al Etmanski

founded Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network (PLAN) in Vancouver, B.C.

With affiliate groups across Canada, the United States, Australia and Scotland, PLAN continues to expand, providing advice and assistance to families, individuals and professionals.

The awards will be presented in Ottawa May 30, 2005.

Virginia Crook sent the following note to our fellow parents in Vancouver:

Jack, Al, Vicki and Joan:

On behalf of our Lethbridge Lifetime members, I wish to send our congratulations on winning the Governor General's Citizen Merit Award to PLAN Founders. You have truly earned this honor. As parents of children with special challenges, you have shared with us how we may help our sons and daughters even after we ourselves are unable to.

I personally have continued to gather wisdom from your informative talks and it has been great to share experiences as we did with Jack when he visited in my home.

Once again congratulations to you all for your work in PLAN and for sending your message across Canada and to other parts of the world. Sincerely Virginia

James Chang said

"Congratulations! Let's celebrate all across Canada!"

James met the Governor General himself in Rideau Hall in Ottawa in May, 2002

Join our local celebration Monday night May 30th

**Our Affiliated PLANGroups
Are Celebrating The Governor General awards across Canada &
In Lethbridge on Monday evening May 30th**

Come join in the fun with our LACL PLAN families

Where? Tom Cain's backyard 2518 5 Ave South

Time? 6:30-8:30 pm

Thanks for the idea – James!

Please respond by May 27th so we know how many burgers and hot dogs to prepare
by calling Tom at 327-3365 or LACL office 327-2911 or email lacplan@shaw.ca

If you wish to bring a salad or something else to share - ok. A lawn chair? Good idea. The burgers and hot dogs will be provided by the Association.

This is our 10th Anniversary as a PLAN Affiliate!

Notice of meeting re PLAN June16th – Crowsnest Pass – Mountainview Ind –7pm

FAMILY VOICES

Newsletter, May 2005

FAMILY VOICES UPDATE

The last Family Voices meeting held in Medicine Hat, on April 7th brought together parents of adults and young children. We are fortunate to have connections in Medicine Hat with the chair of the FSCD regional parent advisory committee and plan to continue this relationship. The next meeting in Medicine Hat will be held in the beginning of June. Date/time/place TBA. If you know of parents in the Southeast part of our region - please connect them to our network.

The last meeting in Lethbridge was held on April 28th. Helen Bekkering of the Southern Alberta PDD Community Board joined us for our discussion. Starting in September 2005 we will be meeting in Lethbridge on the last Thursday of every month - this will allow us to stay consistent and avoid confusion. We will however be holding a meeting in the beginning of June. Date/time/place TBA. If you know of a parent in the Southwest part of the region - please connect them to our network.

WHAT'S NEW

Starting July 1st I will no longer be facilitating the Family Voices network in Southern Alberta. I am venturing out and relocating to facilitate the Family Voices network in the Edmonton Region for the Alberta Association for Community Living.

I value each and every one of the parents and family members who have made this network what it is today. I look forward to seeing Family Voices South grow and take on new challenges as I will still be connected to the network through provincial staff and co-chair meetings in Edmonton. Please know that I will miss you all very much.

The new staff person will start at the beginning of July. Our co-chair, Danielle Hanna, will definitely be a mentor to this person but we will rely on the network as a whole to offer guidance and support. We are planning to have the new person attend the last Family Voices meetings before the summer therefore have not yet scheduled the dates as of yet.

Summary of the Recommendations of the MLA AISH Review Committee

1. Increase the monthly maximum financial benefit for all clients to \$1000.00, then to \$1025.00 effective April 2006. Starting in 2007, conduct bi-annual reviews of the benefit rate.
2. Provide supplementary benefits as part of the AISH program, in addition to the base financial benefit, to AISH clients with liquid assets of less than \$3000.00 (e.g. special transportation, medical, child care and school supplies).
3. Increase employment earnings exemptions as follows:
 - Increase by \$200.00 a month for singles and couples, the amount that is fully exempt
 - Increase from 25% to 50% the exemption rate on income over this amount, to a maximum of \$1000.00 for singles and \$2000.00 for couples (income earned above these maximum amounts would not be exempt).
4. Discontinue the requirement that AISH recipients collect Canada Pension Plan benefits at age 60.
5. Review how income is treated under AISH to clarify rules for what income is fully exempt, partially exempt and not exempt.
6. Retain the asset limit at \$100,000.00. (includes cash, savings, property, trusts, etc.)
7. Establish contracts with experts to provide advice to AISH staff regarding complex eligibility decisions and to the Citizen Appeal's Panel as required.
8. AISH staff meeting periodically with clients to identify supports to move forward to greater independence.
9. Improve client service delivery.
10. Partner with disability organizations to provide ongoing training for AISH staff.
11. Improve coordination of supports and services for persons with disabilities.

It is interesting to note that the commission received over 18,000 questionnaires and 130 written submissions from the AISH review. Obviously this was long overdue and it is our hope that the Government of Alberta will adhere to the recommendation of regular reviews of the AISH support and recognize the importance of input from those receiving the AISH benefit.

Thank you to all individuals, parents, guardians and other concerned people and organizations who took the time to send in a response to the review. This once again shows how grass roots advocacy can make a difference.

**The Lethbridge Association for Community Living
is pleased to present an
information Session**

**The Abuse Prevention and Response Protocol
of Persons with Developmental Disabilities**

**Janet Rosentretter from South Alberta Persons with
Developmental Disabilities
will present information for parents and guardians
on this provincial protocol.**

**What is the Abuse Protocol?
Does it affect my child with a disability?
How can I be sure my son or daughter will be safe?
What is my role as a family member/guardian?
What is the role of the service provider?
What is the role of PDD?**

**Please join us on Wednesday, June 8, 2005
at 7:00 p.m.
Southern Alberta Community Living Association
401- 21 Street "A" North**

**There is no charge for this session but please let us
know if you plan to attend.
For more information or to register, please call the
LACL office at 327-2911.**