



**LETHBRIDGE ASSOCIATION
FOR COMMUNITY LIVING**

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Bulletin Update - May 2006

The Lethbridge Association for Community Living Annual Family Pot Luck Picnic

Hosted by the Parent-to-Parent Committee

Friday, July 12, 2006 at 5:30 p.m.

Kiwanis Picnic Shelter at Henderson Lake Park

*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 6th Annual Dinner Dance, Live and Silent Auction. It was a wonderful success and we were able to raise over \$10,000.00. 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.

Casino Dates are May 27th and 28th. We thank all those that volunteered for this event. It should be a lot of fun and will provide funding for many upcoming workshops in addition to allowing us to do ongoing advocacy with those who require our assistance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the Newton family on the passing of Ken Newton and also to the Robb family on the passing of Owen's father. We would like also to express our appreciation for their thoughtfulness to LACL at this most time difficult time .

BINGO DATES

Please call Dave or Lesley at the LACL office if you can help with our bingo. Our next events **are June 2nd** which is a Friday evening event and **July 2nd**, a Sunday evening event. Please give us a call if you can help as we need your support.

The LACL Inclusive Education Award

Congratulations to the staff, students and parents at General Stewart Elementary School LACL has worked closely with families and schools towards having an inclusive learning environment for all students. Many schools share the vision of inclusion and some are very successful in fulfilling that mandate. We thought it was important to recognize one of these schools. Parents, being the best judge of a schools ability to create a welcoming school community, chose to give this year's award to:

General Stewart Elementary School

The award was presented by LACL President Tina Fowler at our 6th Annual Dinner Dance and Auction on April 29. We want to hear from parents that would like to nominate a school they feel deserves to be recognized with next years LACL Inclusive Education Award.

2006 Corporate Sponsorship Meyers, Norris Penny

We wish to send out our sincere thanks to our Sponsors for the year 2006, MNP. They have assisted us with volunteers and sponsorship for our 6th Annual Dinner Dance and our upcoming events such as our 1st Annual Family Fun Day and Fishing Derby being held on June 17th as well as our book of local family stories (title yet to be named) due for release during Community Awareness Month, October, 2006. They have been most supportive of our projects and our mandate in helping families and individuals. We very much appreciate all that they have done for us.

DON'T FORGET!!!

Remember the following:

LACL Pot Luck Picnic – July 12th Bingo Events – June 2nd and July 2nd.



Every person can live and participate in the community...lifelong.



Special thanks go out to everyone that joined the call to action to address the funding shortfall for PDD funded supports. It is always important for the government to know how the decisions it makes directly impact the lives of individuals and families. Many members of LACL contacted government through phone calls, letters and arranged personal visits with representatives. This is the sort of information and contact our representatives need to influence their colleagues in caucus and in the legislature. All reports were that people and groups in southern Alberta were very informed, organized and dedicated to issues regarding the rights of people to have the support to live rich and full lives in the community.

One change the government made was to introduce legislation (Bill 30) to dissolve the Provincial PDD Board. The roles and responsibilities of the Provincial Board will be transferred to the Ministry of Seniors and Community Supports. I do not view this as a huge cost cutting measure but I do think it will make the government more directly responsible for its commitment to Citizens with developmental disabilities. Regional Boards (PDD South Board in this region) will continue to fund and oversee services in each of the 6 regions in the province.

Unfortunately we have not turned the corner on the issue of adequate funding for PDD. Given the current budget estimate, PDD will not be able to sustain the spending required for current and future requests for services and supports. Service providers are being asked to make reductions in areas that will not put individuals' health and safety at risk.

As agencies and PDD plan for a reduction of services it is a critical that families be part of that planning process. Families can help agencies and PDD define what sort of impact planned reductions could have on each individual's right to live fully included lives.

Health and safety should be the minimum expectation of support not the total capacity of the service

If family members have not been consulted by the service provider they may want to contact their agency to offer their assistance.

For more information on what else you can do call or stop in at the LACL office.

FAMILY VOICES

Newsletter, May 2006

FAMILY VOICES UPDATE

The last Family Voices meeting held in Medicine Hat, on March 27th brought together parents of adults and young children. We are fortunate to have connections in Medicine Hat with the chairs of the FSCD regional parent advisory committee and plan to continue this relationship. The next meeting in Medicine Hat will be held in conjunction with the FSCD Parent Information night. At this meeting there will be families present discussing their involvement with Family Voices over the years and sharing the benefits of being connected with Family Voices. This meeting will occur on June 14 at 7 pm at the Holy Trinity Church. If you know of parents in the Southeast part of our region - please connect them to our network.

Our second meeting for the Inclusive Education Parent Advisory Committee with School District 51 will be occurring in the middle of May. The group seems to work well as they share a vision of inclusive education for all children.

We are still planning to create these types of advisory groups with the other school districts in the South Region. If your child is in school, and you would like to be part of a parent advisory group, please contact Dannielle Hanna - Co-Chair for Family Voices South, or Anne Kish - staff person for Family Voices South at 327-2911.

FAMILY VOICES UPDATE

At the last Family Voices meeting in Lethbridge, it was decided that as Family Voices is doing a great deal of the work planned by Family Voices, it would be beneficial to families to change meetings to every other month, rather than monthly. The next Family Voices meeting in Lethbridge is scheduled for June 22nd. This will be the last meeting before summer break. Meetings in both Lethbridge and Medicine Hat will begin again in September.

WHAT'S NEW

June 14, 2006 - Family Voices and FSCD Parent Information meeting in Medicine Hat @ 7 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Church - 925 Yuill Street SE. Families involved in Family Voices will be there to share their stories.

Please plan to attend this meeting

June 22, 2006 - Family Voices meeting in Lethbridge @ 7 p.m. at the Inclusion Resource Center 527 6 Street South.

Please plan to attend this meeting

*If you would like to attend either of these meetings, and/or for your own information please contact Anne at the LACL office to get connected. **Phone (403) 327-2911***

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email please contact Anne - Thank you!

Meyers Norris Penny
&

Lethbridge Association
For Community Living

1st Annual

Family Fun Day and Fishing Derby

Fun for All Ages!
Fun for All Ages!

Prizes	Food
Dunk Tank	Astro Jump
Frisbee Golf	Face painting

11am-4pm June 17, 2006

Nicholas Sheran Park

Call the Lethbridge Association for Community Living
@ 327-2911 for more information or to pre-register.