



LETHBRIDGE ASSOCIATION
FOR COMMUNITY LIVING
*Celebrating *50* Years*

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August 2007 Bulletin

Fall is upon us way too soon and with it new members, friends and events.

It was wonderful to see so many families come out to our 50th Anniversary Celebration on July 16th and hope everyone enjoyed this very special occasion.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LACL is sponsoring a BBQ at Save On Foods, main entrance on September 4, 2007. Please come out and support LACL and enjoy a Hot Dog & Pop for only \$2.00. Hope to see you there.

LACL Christmas Cards 2007

*We are now setting in motion the production of our very own Christmas Card Collection as our special Fundraiser this fall. This is an exciting project for LACL and we are looking forward to having them available for sale by hopefully the end of September. All of the art on the cards is done by family and friends of LACL. Your support in purchasing these cards will enable us to continue our advocacy in our community. Information on cost and exact availability can be obtained from our office within a few weeks. Each package will contain 12 Cards & Envelopes for the price of \$10.00. **Pre-Orders may be taken at any time.** Just phone us.*



Our library is growing with new books and publications being added all the time. Everyone is welcome to come in and make use of this very helpful resource library.

Are you buying groceries this week?



You can support the advocacy and connection in the community that
The Lethbridge Association has with families and individuals
with your grocery dollars ..

Gift Cards for Save On Foods and Gift Certificates for Sobey's are available NOW at our office. We have several denominations available for either purchasing your weekly groceries or to give as a gift. The cards are pre-loaded and with both you get \$ for \$ and can be used year-round just like cash. The cost to you is face value but your dollars work for us as a source for an ongoing fund-raiser.

Call Lesley, Tina or Dave at the Lethbridge Association for Community Living today to find out how you can help. With your support of our gift card and certificate program, we can ensure that all individuals will always have a place in our community.

Please Contact us at 327-2911

Up-coming Bingo Dates

September 23, 2007	Sunday afternoon	Please contact Cathy McKenzie at 308-6676 or call Lesley, Dave or Tina at LACL's office # 327-2911
October 27, 2007	Saturday afternoon	
November 3, 2007	Saturday afternoon	
December 8, 2007	Saturday afternoon	

Your help is always appreciated in these events

The Parent/Guardian Conference

*This conference is coming up on October 19th & 20th, 2007.
Registration forms will be available for the Gala and Conference at our
office by mid-September. Please call for further information.*

LACL - 50th Anniversary Commemorative Booklet

Copies of the commemorative booklet are available free of charge to LACL members.
Others may purchase copies from our office for a nominal cost of \$10.00.

*September 25th – Post-secondary Inclusive Ed information evening to be
held in the SACLA board room, 401 – 21 Street N at 6:30pm. Families with children or
young adults considering post-secondary education would find this informative.*

Please Contact us at The Lethbridge Association for Community Living
527 – 6 Street South, Lethbridge, AB
or call us at 327-2911
Email: mail@lethbridgeacl.org

To remove your name from our mailing list, please reply to mail@lethbridgeacl.org or call 327-2911

President's Note Bruce MacKay

A new school year has begun. Fifty years ago kids with Down syndrome were defined by education experts, doctors, and teachers as uneducable. They said kids like Maggie could not be taught and could not learn in a regular school setting.

But those powerful people were wrong. When kids with Down syndrome and with other disabilities began going to school, surprise, surprise, they did learn things. They learned how to read and to write and to do arithmetic. They learned about their world, its geography and the different people and plants and animals that inhabit it. In short, they learned from the same curriculum as all the other kids. Sure, they might have learned more slowly and they might not have learned as much, but learn they did.

So, in fact, the experts back then who said these children could not be educated were placing a handicap on them. The handicap wasn't in the kids. The limitations were placed on them by others.

The school system, from school boards on down to individual school staff, speaks about teaching so that students can reach their fullest potential. This is exactly what education should do for every student, including those with disabilities. But the system may define lower expectations than it should for some students. If you don't expect a child will learn to read, then you don't find ways to teach that child how to read, and the child may never learn.



An Individualized Program Plan (IPP) is a collaborative document that is created by the people involved in a student's education each year. Parents are a major part of the collaboration. However, sitting in a meeting with professional teachers, principals, specialists like speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, and the school district psychologist can be a very intimidating, gut-wrenching, and emotional experience.

Parents don't need to be alone in these meetings. You shouldn't feel like it's you against them. Call LACL if you'd like someone to go along with you to your child's IPP meeting. We can help you think about what you'd like to see in the IPP, take notes at the meeting, and be a shoulder to lean on.

A good IPP should respect your son's or daughter's strengths, as well as the areas where they need to work hard. It should describe specific goals that make sense for your child and lay out concrete plans for working toward those goals. It needs to express how this plan will proceed in the same regular classroom that includes the other kids of your child's age. And it should not limit the potential for your son or daughter.

Fifty years ago, Maggie would not have learned to read. The education system of that time would have limited her potential. But she can read. She loves the Dick and Jane books. She learns to read better and better every time she curls up with one of those stories and every day she goes to school.

What is her reading potential? I honestly don't know. I do know, however, that the limits should not be pre-determined for her by having low expectations or by someone else deciding on her behalf what she will and won't be able to learn.

All I ask is that her schooling does not hold her back and that her teachers find creative ways to guide and encourage her so that she can grow and reach as far as she can.

FAMILY VOICES

Newsletter, August 2007

As I will be starting my maternity leave at the beginning of September, I would like to say how much I have enjoyed working with all of the families in the south region, and look forward to seeing you all in a year's time.

The new Family Voices Community Development Advocate is Tina Fowler. We would like to welcome Tina and I know that she is eager to meet with all of the Family Voices families. I am sure that Tina will be working closely with our two Co-Chairs for the South region, Dannielle Hanna and Robin Miller and will rely on their mentorship as well as the leadership from all the families involved to ensure she is supporting Family Voices South to continue with all of the initiatives we are involved in.

FAMILY VOICES UPDATE

Inclusive Education Parent Advisory Committees have been created for both Lethbridge School District #51, and for the Holy Spirit School District. If your child is enrolled in either of these districts and you are interested in being a part of these committees to further inclusive education within the district, please contact us at 327-2911.

Family Voices South has completed many presentations for school districts in the South Region. If you are interested in being a part of these presentations and sharing ***A Parents Perspective*** please contact us to see when the next presentation is set for.

2020 Vision - Several parents have completed presentations to service providers and funders on what their vision for their child's future is. These families have shared what their expectations are for once their child turns 18 years of age. Throughout the next year, these families plan to continue sharing their presentation with others including the government and Minister Greg Melchin.

We Want to Know...

Have any questions? Any concerns? Wondering about a program or Policy? Please let Family Voices know what information you would like to receive. This will help us in setting up workshops and providing information seminars and/or information evenings for parents. These topics can also be added to our newsletter or discussed at Family Voices meetings.

Upcoming Meetings

Medicine Hat

September 5, 2007 - Family Voices meeting in Medicine Hat @ 7 p.m. at The Holy Trinity Anglican Catholic Church - 402-12 Street NE.

October 3, 2007 - Family Voices meeting in Medicine Hat @ 7 p.m. at The Holy Trinity Anglican Catholic Church - 402-12 Street NE. Janet Rosentreter of Persons with Developmental Disabilities South will be presenting on Family Managed Supports. If you are curious about Family Managed Supports, please plan on attending this meeting.

Lethbridge

September 27, 2007 - Family Voices meeting in Lethbridge @ 7 p.m. at the LACL office - 527 6 Street South. There will be a presentation on school IPP's at this meeting. If you have questions about your child's IPP or have information to share with other families on IPP's, please plan on attending this meeting.

October 25, 2007

HOT TOPIC NIGHT - STAFFING CRISIS

At this Hot Topic Night, we will be discussing the current staffing crisis in adult services. Come and chat with other families who are faced with the same difficulties.

Fridge Notes

September 2007

- September 4 – BBQ at Save On Foods
- September 5 – Family Voices meeting in Medicine Hat
- September 23 – Bingo afternoon
- September 25 – Post-Secondary Inclusive Ed Information evening at SACLA
(hosted by AACL & LACL)
- September 27 – Family Voices meeting in Lethbridge

October 2007

- October 3 – Family Voices in Medicine Hat
- October 19 & 20 – Parent Guardian Conference & Gala
- October 25 – Family Voices in Lethbridge – Hot Topic Night – Staffing Crises
- October 27 – Bingo afternoon

November 2007

- November 3 – Bingo afternoon
- To Be Announced: Family Voices Meetings for November & December/07

December 2007

- December 8 – Bingo afternoon
- December 14 – Parent-To-Parent Family Christmas Dinner at McKillop Church
- December 22 – January 1/03 LACL offices will be Closed for the Christmas/New Years break.

For more information on any of these meetings or events, please call LACL at (403)327-2911.