



**LETHBRIDGE ASSOCIATION  
FOR COMMUNITY LIVING**

**BULLETIN UPDATE  
SEPTEMBER 2004**

**OCTOBER IS COMMUNITY LIVING AWARENESS MONTH**

Across Canada October is proclaimed as Community Living Awareness Month. It is a time to recognize and celebrate the gifts and contributions of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to our communities. We are happy to announce that our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Parent/Guardian Conference and Celebration Gala will be a wonderful start to the month. The 2-day conference this year is in Medicine Hat on Friday and Saturday, October 1 & 2 with Darcy Elks as the facilitator. She will be talking about 'Meaningful Lives During the Day' for individuals with disabilities. We will also be hosting a Celebration Gala on Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup> that will feature an art display and a video on Community Living and Inclusion. To register or for more information, please contact Lindsay or Barbara at the office. We are grateful to PDD, the Alberta Association for Community Living, Redi Enterprises, CORE Association and Next Step Residential Services for their support of the conference and Gala.

**We will once again be holding our Annual Christmas Orange Fundraising Drive in December. Watch for order forms to come to you in November and support our organization by ordering boxes of oranges for family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. We appreciate the support we have received in the past and look forward to another great Drive.**

**Keeping with fundraising, we continue to do bingo events and are always in need of volunteers. Our upcoming dates are October 9, November 13 & November 27. Please help us out by calling Robert Nish at 381-0998.**

**To Contact the office and LACL Staff:**

Barbara Nish                   327-2911  
Lindsay Caldwell           327-2911  
Tom Cain                       327-3365  
Fax:                               320-7054  
Email:                         [mail@lethbridgeacl.org](mailto:mail@lethbridgeacl.org)  
Website:                    [www.lethbridgeacl.org](http://www.lethbridgeacl.org)

**In the Resource Library**

“Life Landscapes - Parents talk about raising children with disabilities.” This book comes from the Saskatchewan Family Resilience Project and captures the stories and personal views of families in Saskatchewan.

“Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”      Ralph Waldo Emerson

### **Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AiSH)**

We are aware that the AiSH program comes up for review this fall. We have offered our services and support to Clint Dunford in setting up focus groups to give input into the proposed changes that may come forward. We will inform individuals and families when these are arranged so everyone will have an opportunity to attend and offer feedback.

### **Parent-to-Parent Family Chat**

Our next Family Chat Support meeting will be on Monday, October 4 at 7:00 p.m. at 43 Laval Road West. The next Parent-to-Parent Meeting will take place on Monday, October 18 at 9:30 a.m. at 711 – 27 Street North and a representative from PDD will be in attendance. Come for conversation and sharing with other families who have similar life experiences. Please call the office for more information.

### **New Logo**

We hope you noticed our new logo and we want to thank Maya Ichikawa for designing this for us. In the future this will appear on our letterhead and other publications of LACL. We have also printed t-shirts with our logo and they are available at the office for \$20.00 each. Come by and pick your LACL t-shirt up today.

### **What's Coming Up??**

Some dates of interest to keep in mind:  
September 27 – LFS Candidate Forum  
October 1 & 2 – ‘A Meaningful Day’ with Darcy Elks  
October 1 – Community Living Awareness Month Celebration Gala  
October 4 – Family Chat at 43 Laval Road West  
November 9 – Jeff Strully

### **Candidate Forum**

Lethbridge Family Services is holding a MLA Candidate Forum on Monday, September 27 from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at Ericksen’s Family Restaurant. The topic for discussion will be “Human Service Needs in Our Community”. They invite members of the public to attend. This presents an opportunity to find out what our candidates know and understand about disability issues and how government decision impact the lives of those we care about.



## **Family Voices**

Family Voices has undergone some changes and have appointed a new Co-Chair. Dannielle Hanna is taking on this position and is excited about the potential for action. Danny Ponjavic will be the representative for Inclusive Education and Connie Berezay will connect with Joint Planning and Persons with Developmental Disabilities. Flora MacKay has been appointed to the Provincial Advisory Committee for Family Support for Children with Disabilities and she has been asked to assist in forming a Regional Advisory Committee. Tina Fowler and Dannielle Hanna will continue to represent families on the Through A Child's Eyes Committee. There is great excitement and momentum on the part of our Family Voices members. If you would like to participate and be involved in any way, please call Lindsay Caldwell at the LACL office.

## **Persons with Developmental Disabilities**

PDD is always looking for input from parents and guardians as they make changes that will impact the lives of our sons and daughters. The South Alberta Persons with Developmental Disabilities Community Board is holding a board retreat on October 7 and would like to have parent input into their business plan. If you would like to attend please contact Barbara Nish at the LACL office.

## **Family Support for Children with Disabilities**

The Family Support Act was proclaimed on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004 and copies of the new act and regulations have been sent to parents and families. We now need to work with Family Voices and other parents in the region to advocate for the formation of a Regional Advisory Committee that will give parents a voice on a local level to FSCD. This is a great opportunity to be proactive and make a difference for our children. Please contact Lindsay if you are interested in this issue.

## **Dinner,Dance and Silent Auction**

It is never too early to make plans for our wonderful, exciting and fun filled Dinner Dance. So mark on you calendars now April 16, 2005 for our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner, Dance and Silent Auction. Bring family, friends, neighbors and co-workers and support the Lethbridge Association for Community Living.

“If I could have seen then where I am today, I would have grieved less, cried less, had fewer fears and smiled more.”

Anna Barlas, Saskatoon