



Lethbridge Association for Community Living
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Information Release

Public Information Meeting

Lethbridge Public Library Theatre Gallery on January 31, 2006 at 6:30p.m.

**Regarding concern over cuts in supports and services for citizens with developmental disabilities
as a result of reduced funding to PDD**

PDD (Persons with Developmental Disabilities) funds supports and services for adults with developmental disabilities. **The provincial government has advised the PDD Provincial and Community Boards of planned limits to funding to PDD for the next 3 years. PDD South (responsible for service to 1000 individuals in the Southern Alberta region) has been told to reduce spending by \$1.5m in 2005. This amount will have to be pulled out of existing services and supports before the end of this budget year (April).**

Reducing services and supports has the potential to put vulnerable individuals at risk. Individual agencies may have no choice but to increase client/staff ratios or decrease funding hours for individuals, leaving them segregated and at greater risk of abuse or neglect. Waiting lists have already begun. This will lead to more families and individuals being in crisis. This is not just a temporary "weathering the storm" as there are plans for even further cuts in the next two years as well. The government expects PDD to implement deeper cuts to spending. For the PDD South board that translates into \$3.37m in 2006 and an even worse \$5.78m in 2007.

PDD funded supports should not be confused with AISH. The AISH program is income assistance for people covered under a variety of disabilities to pay for daily living needs like food clothing and shelter. PDD funding goes towards support services and agencies in the different areas and communities. No individual or family benefits monetarily from funding for supports and services. **But the hardships created by the funding cuts come directly from the quality of life of the individuals and their families.** PDD is part of the Ministry of Seniors and Community Supports. The Honourable Yvonne Fritz is the Minister and has made efforts to secure adequate funding for families and individuals. However the action to severely limit funding was taken by the Treasury Board of Alberta. The Treasury Board is the body that primarily determines the Government's budget but the decisions of the Government are nonetheless the responsibility of its Members and the Premier.

At the public information session, Lethbridge Public Library Theatre Gallery on January 31, 2006 at 6:30p.m., we will provide information on existing and planned budget cuts, as well as encouraging families and individuals to contact their local and provincial representatives regarding the very real impact of the government's decision.

**For more information, contact LACL at 327-2911 or by email to
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