

What's happening in the Community?

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Meet the first person with a disability to enter into the Culinary Arts program at Lethbridge College!

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Community Events Calendar

April 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 April Fools Day!	2	3 Good Friday	4
5	6 Easter 	7	8 Galt Museum Art Classes Lethbridge	9	10 Lifestyle and Outdoor Adventure Show Crownsnest Sports Complex	11 Lifestyle and Outdoor Adventure Show Crownsnest Sports Complex
12	13	14	15 Galt Museum Art Classes Lethbridge	16 SRSAN Meeting	17 Honoring a Community Dinner Brooks	18 Coaldale Family Fun Run
19 Sunshine Skillet Food Festival Medicine Hat	20	21	22 Lethbridge 8th Annual Coulee Clean Up Kicks Off	23	24 Lethbridge Public Library Movie Night 7:00 p.m	25 Rodeo Crownsnest Sports Complex
26 Rodeo Crownsnest Sports Complex	27	28 Aggies Days Lethbridge	29 Galt Museum Art Classes Lethbridge	30		

THE Ripple

April 2015

"Boo" for Budget Cuts!



Budget Cuts

With budget cuts in our future, Alberta might be getting rid of some important stuff. The government needs to save \$9 billion dollars from Alberta's spending. What Self Advocates want to know is who gets to decide where this funding is cut from and how are they talking to Albertans about what is important to them?

Our services like staff, support to live on our own, find a job, volunteer, advocate for ourselves, and even our AISH money all could be affected. It's important that we don't lose any of our services because we need those services to make sure that we can learn to be independent and get help to live our lives in the community.

Without these services we wouldn't be able to do all of the things we need to do like get groceries, meet our neighbors, get involved in our communities, learn to speak up for ourselves and maybe even afford the things we need like a safe place to live.

Not only are we as people with disabilities affected, but people in the education and health systems, librarians, policemen and firemen could all be affected by the budget cuts. All of these services are important for us and they don't deserve to be affected by these budget cuts.

Why is the budget being cut?

A lot of the money Alberta has to spend is from oil, and so oil prices and oil work are important to fund a lot of what Alberta does. The amount that oil sells for affects everyone. Even though oil prices change, people in Alberta still need to have their needs met. Something needs to change. The government needs to look at different ways to make money so that we can keep having the services we need without having to worry about the price of oil always changing. There is no good answer because it feels like the ideas talked about are raising taxes or increasing the cost of health care or getting rid of important services, but all of these ideas would affect people with disabilities in a bad way.

A Glimmer of Hope

Premier Jim Prentice and Finance Minister Robin Campbell say that while the budget does need to be cut, "we will... show compassion for those who are vulnerable and those who need to be protected". We hope this is what really happens when the budget comes out on March 26th.

What Happens Next

By the time this article comes out, we will already know what the budget says about our services through PDD and AISH. We hope that the budget is respectful of what people with disabilities need to live fully valued and fully participating lives in their communities. If that doesn't happen it is important that Self-Advocates write letters to the government. SAIPA can help people write letters about their services and why they are important.

April Fools Day!

April 1st is known as a day to pull pranks on people, nice ones of course, not mean ones!

In France they used to celebrate New Year's Day on April 1st, but in 1582 Pope Gregory decided France would change calendars. Instead of the Julian calendar, France's new calendar was the Gregorian calendar, and New Year's Day was changed to January 1st. With no internet or phones, it took a long time for everyone to find out that the calendar had been changed. Some people still celebrated New Year's on April 1st and so they were nicknamed 'April Fools'. In France a very popular joke to play on 'April Fools' was putting a paper fish on their back without them knowing. People played pranks and jokes on these 'Fools' and it became a tradition around the world.

Pranks you can pull this April Fools:

- Instead of Orange Juice, take Kraft Dinner Cheese powder and mix it with water
- Tell them you made Caramel Apples... but really they're Caramel Onions
- Take the cream out of some Oreos and replace it with mint toothpaste
- Fill the inside of a donut with mayonnaise
- Hard-boil the eggs and put them back in the carton so your roommate won't know

Sometimes the media and companies play tricks on us too! One year WestJet made a prank that said kids would ride with the luggage on planes so that parents could fly in peace another year they said that people could let their animals ride loose on the planes. On BBC one year they reported that it was possible to grow spaghetti on trees and people actually believed it! Remember to play it safe on April Fool's Day this year and don't believe everything you hear!



SAIPA & SRSAN are MOVING!!!



Hey Everyone!!! We're moving! SAIPA & SRSAN have a new office! The new address is # 200, 410 Stafford Drive South. It is right across from City Hall right above CNIB and right next door to Kenegdo Salon & Spa. The new office is REALLY COOL because it has space for SRSAN to have its own office. This means Self-Advocates can be more independent and have more privacy when they are typing meeting minutes, writing newsletter articles and making conference calls! It will be a change that we will have to get used to because it will mean we won't see LACL staff as much and it will be new space to find and work out of. We will also miss Lesley's sugar free candy! We are excited because we think that the new place will bring SRSAN members together more often. SAIPA & SRSAN are growing which is GREAT because it means Self-Advocacy is growing too! Make sure you stop by the new office to check it out and have a visit!

SELF-ADVOCACY

What it mean to be a Self-Advocate?

- Speaking up for yourself
- Speaking out
- Learning about your Rights
- You can make your own choices
- You are not told what to do
- Making a difference for others
- Self-Advocacy is for everyone
- Helping other people be self-advocates
- Learning about the community
- Getting involved
- Learn new things

The South Region Self-Advocacy Network (SRSAN) is one self-advocacy group that can help you learn to be a self-advocate. SRSAN works to create change in the community by coming together to discuss issues that affect everyone and to create positive change in communities. SRSAN meets five times in a year across the south region and meetings rotate between communities – Lethbridge, Taber, Medicine Hat, Brooks and Crowsnest Pass. SRSAN is a group you could get involved with to change your life or your community. If any workshop participants want to learn more about SRSAN they can call: 403-320-1515, email: anna.olson@saipa.info or go to the website: www.saipa.info



The Next SRSAN Meeting will be:

Thursday, April 16, 2015

10:00am - 3:00pm

Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede

Grandstand Banquet Room

2055 21st Ave.

Medicine Hat, AB

Call Anna at 403-320-1515 if you want to come!

There will be a \$5 charge for lunch!

