

What's happening in the Community?

NEXT ISSUE:

Accessible Pools in Lethbridge
Hear one man's story of how he advocated for more accessible pools in Lethbridge...and won!



Page 1
Advocacy:
Respectful
Transportation



Page 2
Government:
Safety
Standard 8



Page 3
SRSAN:
What is SRSAN
doing?



Page 4
Community
Events Calendar

February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 SuperBowl 4:30 p.m.	2 Minister Luncheon: Lethbridge Antons 11:30 a.m.	3	4	5 Market @ Medalta Medicine Hat Medalta Potteries 4:30 p.m.	6	7 Black History Month Lethbridge Galt Museum 1:30 p.m.
8	9	10	11 Opportunity Knocks Job Fair Lethbridge Exhibition Park 11:00 a.m.	12 SRSAN Meeting: Brooks 10:00 a.m.	13 Minister Meeting: Medicine Hat Chinook Village 11:30 a.m.	14 Valentine's Day 
15	16	17	18	19 55+ Winter Games Lethbridge	20 55+ Winter Games Lethbridge	21 55+ Winter Games Lethbridge
22 55+ Winter Games Lethbridge	23	24	25	26	27	28 Peace Pow-Wow & Festival Lethbridge Enmax Centre



THE Ripple

February 2015



“ Respect makes sure that everyone can access the community. ”

Being Respectful on City Transit

In this article I will talk about respect using city transit. I use city transportation to get everywhere and have noticed some things that are not respectful to the bus drivers and others on the bus. Other drivers need to be aware of the buses when they are signalling to change lanes. The bus drivers have a schedule to keep as well and other drivers do not always let the busses in or cut them off. This can be dangerous for the bus driver, the people on the bus, and the vehicles that are cutting the bus off. A bus cannot stop on a dime, so it is important to remember to give the bus a lot of room. I have noticed that when people get on the bus they are not always respectful to the bus driver and other people on the bus. I have seen people swearing and spitting on the bus. This is gross and very disrespectful to everyone on the bus. The bus driver has the right to kick a person off the bus and even take their bus pass away. Remember that there are other people on the bus and these actions do not make it an enjoyable ride for others.

The last thing that I want to talk about is when people get on the bus that use wheelchairs and walkers, parents with strollers, and seniors. People already on the bus sometimes take the front seats and do not want to move. These seats are for people that use wheelchairs, walkers and strollers so that they can access the community just like everyone else. Remember to move from the front when you see someone getting on the bus that uses wheelchairs, walkers and strollers. This helps to make sure that everyone can access the community. Always remember to be respectful of the people around you.

Written by: Dennis S.

Meet the New SRSAN Committees



We would like to welcome the new SRSAN committees and give a breakdown of their responsibilities. The seven new committees are:

The *Guidelines/Membership Committee* consists of SRSAN members who focus on new membership and have the job of increasing membership.

The *Community Involvement Committee* consists SRSAN members who focus on community activities and making a calendar of local events.

The *Education Committee* consists of SRSAN members who develop and access community learning opportunities and share them with the community.

The *Fundraising Committee* consists of SRSAN members who focus on raising funds to enhance the SRSAN conference.

The *Government Communications Committee* consists of SRSAN members who learn how to talk and advocate to the government.

The *Conference Committee* consists of SRSAN members who plan the SRSAN conference every two years, they are also trying to bring the conference to smaller communities.

The *Citizen Walk About Committee* consists of SRSAN members who help to plan the Citizen Walk About.

Each committee has to report back at the SRSAN meetings to let everyone know what work the committees are doing. The committees will also add some of their work to the newsletter to keep everyone up to date. We are very excited about the new committees and that they are working towards the success of SRSAN and the Self Advocacy Programs.

SRSAN also sits on various city and provincial committees like: CMARD, UNITAS, Beyond Your Front Door, PDD Self Advocates Advisory Committee and AACT.

Written By: The SRSAN Newsletter Team

Controlling our homes? Understanding Licensing and Regulation

If you want to learn more about this, attend the SRSAN meeting on February 12th. Call the SAIPA office at 403-320-1515 to find out how!



Starting April 1, 2015 there are going to be new rules for some of our homes. This is called Safety Standard 8. It will cause changes in homes for people who have complex needs or homes that have two or more people living in it who aren't family and get PDD funding. Never heard of it? Neither had we. Our newsletter team started to look at what these changes would mean for us. It was very hard for our newsletter team to find what these inspections would look at. We had to ask an inspector from Alberta Health Services, a firefighter and someone who deals with safety codes at the City of Lethbridge, it was a lot of work! The information we got back from these people was difficult to understand. We talked about the information we found for a long time as a group. We learned that Safety Standard 8 means that inspectors will be coming into our houses to make sure they are safe. These inspectors will be looking at many things like do our smoke detectors work, can we get out in an emergency and is the house built properly. They will also be looking at some personal things including the way hand washing is done, how food is prepared, personal hygiene, what we store in our showers, where and what kind of towels we have, how we wash our dishes, how we clean our houses and how we take care of our pets. The information we found was very upsetting! One of the biggest things we wondered was how can all of these inspections have to happen when no one has asked **US** if they can come into our homes to inspect them? Another question that we asked was what makes two people with disabilities any different than two college students living together? Why are just some people singled out? Self Advocates we talked to wondered who would pay for all of these renovations? If our home needed to have a double sink put in, would we have to pay for it? If so, some of us don't want to! We are happy with just one sink to do dishes, we would rather spend our money on items that would benefit us, not our landlord. Speaking of landlords, if it is the landlord who has to pay for these upgrades, will they want to just kick us out and rent to someone else who doesn't come with all of these rules of how they have to live and how their homes have to be "operated"? One Self Advocate we asked said "Government run, government funded, it's not going to feel like my home, it's going to feel like a mini institution" another said "I have my room the way I want it, I don't want to have to change it". The last Self-Advocate we asked said that "we learn about rights, we learn about choices and standing up for ourselves, we learn about independence but as adults we can't be trusted to wash our hands properly or maintain our own home - to me, it is a human right's issue".

Our newsletter team feels the same. We are very worried that these new rules will make people look at us differently. These rules make us feel like people with disabilities need to be protected when we don't think that is the way it actually is. Yes we need support in our lives to live equally to everyone else, but we don't think that means making so many rules that our homes have to be "licensed", that just sounds bad. The public health inspector told us that the inspections are just meant to be educational, mostly for staff. That sounds ok until it's our home that becomes the classroom.

If you want to learn more about Safety Standard 8 come to the SRSAN meeting on February 12th. PDD is coming to join the conversation to learn more about how it might affect us.

Written by: The SRSAN Newsletter Team

What a Song Can Say...

Let it Go

Frozen

"It's time to see what I can do, to test the limits and break through. No right, no wrong, no rules for me I'm free!
Let it go, let it go, I am one with the wind and sky,
Let it go, let it go, you'll never see me cry,
Here I stand and here I'll stay. Let the storm rage on."

You can be free to be who you want to be. Someone tells you that you can't do something yet you feel like you can. Having the confidence in yourself to succeed against the odds. Standing up for yourself and holding your ground.

Written By: Shannon K.

