


What's happening in the Community?

NEXT ISSUE:

Talking to new MLAs

 **Page 1**
Voting is Your Voice!

 **Page 2**
What happened at the SRSAN Meeting

 **Page 3**
Bullying & Baseball

 **Page 4**
Community Events Calendar

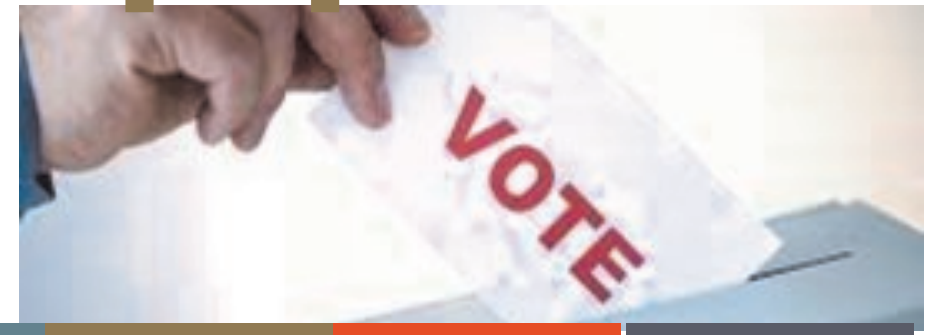
May 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Lethbridge Food Show
3	4	5 VOTING DAY!	6 McHappy Day!	7	8 LACL Dinner & Dance	9
10 HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!	11	12	13	14 Teddy for a Toonie Campaign: Medicine Hat	15	16
17	18 VICTORIA DAY!	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26 Fresh Food Club: Brooks	27 Species Count in Crowsnest Pass	28 SRSAN Conference	29 SRSAN Conference	30

THE Ripple

May 2015

Voting is Your Voice!



Hey guys, guess what? It's election time!

An election means that we will be picking who we want to be our voice at the Alberta Government level. This means the person we want to take our communities message to a group of government decision makers.

We pick the person to represent our community by voting. Voting will happen all across Alberta on May 5. Voting is a right and responsibility of all Albertans. Our newsletter crew thinks that voting is important because our vote has the power to make things in Alberta better. We as Self-Advocates can make things better by voting for the people who have ideas about what makes lives better for people with disabilities. This is your chance to have a real say in what the government does.

Canada is a great place to live because of voting because there are countries that are not allowed to vote.

It can be hard to know who to vote for in an election. Here is a quick look at what some of the political parties stand for in this election:

- Alberta Party - build schools, protect teachers and make class sizes smaller.
- Wild Rose - plan for mental health and addictions, stand up for small towns in Alberta.
- PC - protect jobs and bring as many jobs to Alberta as possible.
- Liberal - return to local health boards and benefits for big cities like Edmonton and Calgary.
- New Democratic Party (NDP) - protect public buildings and services.

SAIPA and SRSAN have lots of information about when, where, why and how to vote. They also have lots of information about the people we are voting for and what they stand for. If you want more information call the SAIPA office at (403) 320-1515.

AND remember to vote on May 5, 2015 because YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE!



What happened at the SRSAN Meeting



During the April SRSAN meeting, group members got together bright and early to travel to Medicine Hat, also known as “The Hat”. The meeting went all day and the lunch they served was pretty darn good, one of our favourite parts. Another favourite part was listening to Melodie Scout speak about CMARD and how it is important to speak up for yourself.

We did a poster activity where we placed golden stickers on issues we thought were most important. The issues we got to vote on were: Accessibility, Safety Standards, Budget (PDD & AISH), and Listen to Me! It was hard to figure out which one to vote for because they are all so important. Even though it was hard, it is still important to vote.

We also had a group discussion with sticky notes where we had to choose one problem to write down to talk about if we were ever going to meet a politician. Some people thought transportation accessibility was a huge issue and others had the Budget as their biggest issue.

There were 2 awards given away at the SRSAN meeting. The Clarence Marsh Memorial Award was won by Sheri Hersleman. The other award was the SAIPA Ally Recognition Award, won by Nina Stolar. They both deserved these awards, Sheri and Nina are always listening to other people and support Self-Advocacy. Whenever people have questions or problems, Sheri and Nina are always there to listen.

A big part of the meeting was the presentation about voting. Mel and Ben talked about what the political parties stand for and where to get more information. If you need information, you can go online, visit the Candidate’s office or call SAIPA. The SAIPA office also has tons of information and can help you register to vote. Voting is important to get your voice heard and to say your opinion about the candidates. So remember, get out there and VOTE! -SRSAN Newsletter Crew

SRSAN’s Key Message to the

Message:

“We cannot live good lives without supports from the government such as AISH and PDD funding. We believe AISH should increase as cost of living increases. We cannot afford cuts to PDD funding as these supports help us to feel safe in our communities, learn new things and get jobs.”

What it means:

To SRSAN, this means that we cannot live good lives in the community without the supports that we get from our staff and service providers through PDD and the money we earn through AISH. Making sure the budget has enough money is important to SRSAN because it changes our lives when the money gets cut. SRSAN wants to work towards a better future for people with disabilities and this better future includes making sure the budget is safe for people with disabilities. - SRSAN Newsletter Crew



Bullying



On the news there was a video about a cheerleader with Down Syndrome at a school in Calgary. She was cheerleading at a basketball game when she started being bullied by fans in the stands. I think the cheerleader has rights and I think the basketball fans were not nice to make fun and say mean things about the cheerleader and about her disability. The basketball players stopped the entire game to help stop the bullying and cheer up the cheerleader that was being bullied. They told the basketball fans that they were not being nice, and I think the people being bullies don’t understand about the cheerleader’s disability. I think they should try walking in the cheerleader’s shoes, to feel what it’s like to be her. The news reporters talked to the cheerleader and asked her how she felt. She said she was sad being bullied, but after the basketball players stopped the game to help her she felt much happier and better.

If there is someone being bullied near you, or if you are being bullied, talk to someone that you trust and that can help you. Ask the bully to stop, and if you need help, the police, or an adult can help you stop the bullying. -Shannon Kehler

Baseball Season is Here!

Baseball season is right around the corner. This means peanuts and popcorn and lots of winning! If you can’t watch Baseball live than there’s always the T.V. Baseball is a fun sport to play because there are so many teams to play against. So many teams, that there are 162 games in a season!! This year the Blue Jays have decided to use more young players than older ones. The younger players could fit and be in good shape, but also could be less experienced. Last year, the San Francisco Giants won the World Series but our newsletter crew hopes that the Toronto Blue Jays will win this year! -Kent Pederson



Safety Standards Update

Since our last talk about the Safety Standards, SRSAN has been very active sharing our fears about the Safety Standards and why they will have a bad impact in our lives and the lives of our peers. SRSAN has met with MLA’s across the region to tell them why we don’t like the standards, developed a survey that we will send out soon and we have kept asking Self-Advocates how to keep this issue on people’s minds to help change it. PDD would like to have another meeting with Self-Advocates about the Safety Standards very soon. When this happens, SAIPA will let Self-Advocates know so that they can be sure to come and have their voices heard! - SRSAN Newsletter Crew