

May/June 2018

The Ripple



SRSAN
South Region Self-Advocacy Network

Minister Sabir promises PDD review



In January 2018, Irfan Sabir, Minister of Community and Social Services announced the government was going to do a full review of the PDD program.

This was exciting news for self-advocates, families and service providers who have been asking for a review since the safety standards consultations in 2016.

We are glad the government made this commitment. Almost 12,000 Albertans use PDD. As of December 2017, 376 people were waiting on services — including home living, employment, community access and other supports.

The Minister said he would meet with people affected by PDD to talk about when the review should happen and what it should include.

As soon as the review was announced, SRSAN wrote a letter to the Minister. Part of it said:

“We want to thank you for announcing a PDD review. When we had a chance to meet with you last year in Lethbridge, we brought up the PDD review. . . this is something that is important to us. We are writing this letter as a thank you, but also to make sure we have the opportunity to be involved in consultations. We have good ideas on what works well for self-advocates when getting information from them. We want to make sure that self-advocates’ voices are heard from the south region.”

SRSAN has not received a response to the letter from Minister Sabir yet, and hopes to hear from the government soon so the review can move forward.



Cast members created and performed a mixed abilities dance-drama production called Unlimited. This play happened at the University of Lethbridge for five nights in a row in March 2015. A documentary was created about the making of the play, which was shown at the Movie Mill last October. Some of the cast members went to Ottawa to show the film. We interviewed Randy Chandler, Gerry Greer and Julia Clauson, members of the play.

Why is the play called Unlimited?

Gerry: It was called Unlimited because they want to show what people can do when limitations and barriers are taken away.

What did you like most about being in the play?

Randy: I liked being in the play because I got to be on stage for the first time.

Julia: I loved being with people, being in the play and singing.

Gerry: I liked being in the play because I got to be around more people and make friends. I got to challenge ideas that people had about people

Unlimited (continued)

with disabilities.

What were some of your favourite scenes to act out?

Gerry: The scene where three actors were heading to the bus stop early, and acting out limitations they might have, like having trouble finding seats on the bus. We all tried to sit on the same bench and one of the guys fell on his butt!

Randy: My favourite scene was the duet with Cassandra! I was in my Captain Hook coat. She grabbed the coat, and as soon as I put it on, I danced around in circles because I was happy to have it!

Did you like working with people with and without disabilities?

Randy: We got to meet new people through a workshop before the play. We made new friends. I was happy to see new faces!

Gerry: I was nervous about working with people with disabilities even though I had one myself. I just didn't know what to expect. Working with people without disabilities helped me break down the barriers I created in my mind. I felt included, even though I had Asperger's.

The Making Unlimited documentary played at the Movie Mill October 21, 2017. What did you think of the documentary?

Gerry: The documentary was actually pretty interesting, and it showed what we were able to do in a short amount of time. We got casted in November and rehearsed for four months.

What was it like to go to Ottawa to show the film?

Randy: It was really good, we got to go to a conference with different sessions. We got to go to a session where a guy was beatboxing and we got to make music with our hands.

Gerry: The weekend we went was also the weekend of my birthday. I got to go to the parliament buildings, Rideau Hall and the changing of the guards at the war memorial. Showing people what we accomplished as a team was very satisfying. It's cool that I got to help present something that might break barriers in the East Coast as well!

The woman behind Victoria Day



We interviewed Anne Watson, a fellow Brit, about Queen Victoria. With Victoria Day coming up, we wanted to know more about her and her life story.

Queen Victoria was born May 24, 1819 at Kensington Palace in London, England. She was an only child. Queen Victoria had a very unhappy childhood after her father died. Her mother became very protective of her. She wasn't allowed to play with other children, and she was never allowed to be alone without

supervision. She even had to sleep in her mother's room until she was 18! All the men in Victoria's family had died, which meant she was next in line to become queen. Her mother was so protective because she didn't want anything to happen to her before then.

On June 20, 1837, at age 18, Victoria became queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. She ruled for 63 years until her death in 1901 and was the longest serving queen before the current Queen Elizabeth. Victoria married her first cousin, Prince Albert, when she was 20 years old. They had nine children together: four boys and five girls. When her husband died at 42, she was extremely sad and wore black for the next 40 years and spent a lot of time away from people not talking to them.

But, Victoria had a deep love for Canada as it was one of her favourite places to visit. Victoria British Columbia was named after her. She was Canada's queen along with being queen of many other countries around the world. Victoria was also the Empress of India. Victoria loved India so much that she brought home Indian servants with her and learned to speak their language, so she could talk to them. She spoke many other languages including English, German, French, Italian and Latin. Queen Victoria loved to draw and paint! She was very talented at painting and made more than 100 miniature dolls. She also kept journals and diaries all her life. Victoria Day became a Canadian holiday in 1957 to honour Queen Victoria's birthday on May 24.

Self-advocacy in the south region: Dynami



We interviewed Dynami, a self-advocacy group of 12 people from Taber Special Needs.

Why the group is called Dynami?

We asked everyone for input for the name and then chose Dynami as it sounded strong.

Why is advocacy important to the group?

It is important to be heard, to have a voice on things that affect our lives and to help others have a voice.

What does the group do and what do you like to talk about at meetings?

We plan social and recreational activities, discuss volunteer options in the community and fundraising.

How long has Dynami been a group and why did it start?

We have been a group for 15 years. After attending a SRSAN meeting, we thought we should start our own group.

Dynami (continued)

What are some of the things Dynami has accomplished?

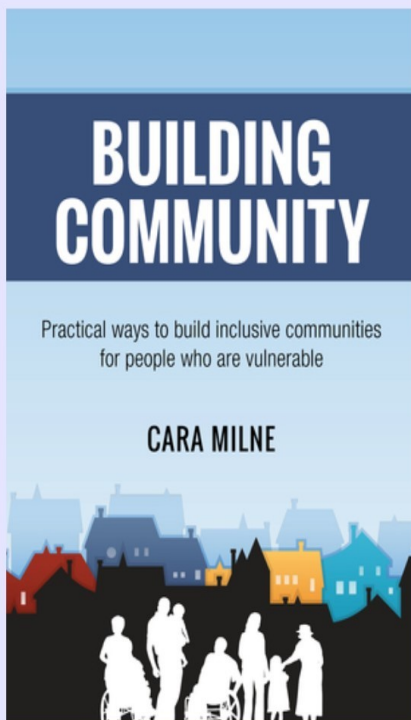
We volunteer with Communities In Bloom, Cornfest and the Taber Food Bank. We also give the food bank birthday bags!

What are you most proud of?

We are proud of our community volunteer work! We are also proud that some of us have won SRSAN's Clarence Marsh Memorial Award!

What are some of the things Dynami is working on in the future?

We will be volunteering for the Southern Alberta Summer Games in Taber this year. We will have a table at Cornfest to increase awareness about Dynami and we will also volunteer there. We also continue to volunteer for Communities In Bloom by watering outdoor plants in downtown Taber.



Cara Milne is the award winning owner of M-Powered Planning Ltd, a Calgary business that promotes positive and valuable roles for people with disabilities. Cara has had an enormous impact in her line of work and continues to enrich the lives of those she teaches and meets.

Resource of the Month: May 2018

Building Community: Practical ways to build inclusive communities for people who are vulnerable

In this book, Cara Milne shares stories and ideas that remind us of the importance of belonging and community. She offers specific and practical direction on how anyone can begin to build community!

Contact the SAIPA office to borrow your own copy of

Building Community

403-320-1515



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June 4 to 8 2018



SAIPA's second annual fundraiser could make YOU the next target!
Send a gentle pie in the face to friends, family, coworkers, spouses or competitors!

CONTACT SAIPA TO PLACE YOUR ORDER BY MAY 28, 2018!

403-320-1515

www.saipa.info/pieitforward

Proceeds will benefit SAIPA's workshops, giving adults with disabilities skills to become safe, self-determined leaders in their own lives.



SAIPA and SRSAN nominated for Celebrate Downtown Award



On April 11, representatives from SAIPA and SRSAN attended the Celebrate Downtown Awards because they were nominated in the Event Of The Year category for Citizen Walk About! We didn't win, but we were honoured to be recognized!

Pictured: SRSAN members Kelly Tower, Gwen and Ben Rowley, SAIPA executive director Mark Davids.

The Ripple Newsletter raises awareness about SRSAN, self-advocacy and inclusion. We welcome comments, questions and ideas! If you have something to share with us, contact Christina Scott, editor, at 403-320-1515 or christina.scott@saipa.info