



The Ripple

SPECIAL SIS EDITION

Mission

We teach people with disabilities to advocate on behalf of themselves and others. We are a united voice which promotes equality, opportunities, and inclusion for us, by educating the community about our dreams and what we can achieve.

Advocates say “so long” to the SIS!

Self-advocates have a special reason to celebrate! On June 6, 2016, Alberta’s Human Services Minister Irfan Sabir announced the Alberta government would no longer use the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) test.



This was a test that the Alberta Government chose to decide the

support needs of people funded by Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD).

This 2 to 4-hour test asked people questions about the support needed for home and community living, employment, hygiene and building relationships.

People with disabilities felt this test was long, embarrassing and asked too many personal questions that shouldn’t have been asked. Because of this, people felt stressed about taking the test. The results were also hard to understand.

Self-advocates, families and service providers across the province spent a lot of time speaking up to the government about their concerns

by meeting with local and provincial officials, making presentations and writing letters.

When Minister Sabir made the announcement, advocates were pleased to find that the government listened to their concerns and stopped the SIS test.



The voices of self-advocates have not always been heard; we feel empowered

because we finally get to have a say in decisions that will affect our lives. We are excited and overjoyed that no one else will have to take the SIS test. We can sleep better, too!

We have a great opportunity to share our ideas about better ways to decide the support needs of people on PDD. Self-advocates and service providers came together from the Medicine Hat and Lethbridge to talk about what could replace SIS. Flip the page to see some of our ideas!

- Support workers and individuals could work together to come up with something new.
- An independent person (not service providers or PDD) should give the test.
- Use plain language and include pictures on the test.
- Do the test in two parts over two days.
- Communication between everyone involved (service providers, PDD, families and guardians).
- Get permission to talk to all of the important people in a person's life to get the big picture.
- Hire someone with a disability to help create the test.
- Use MAP and PATH – these tools look at a person as a whole, not what can be funded.
- Put more money into cross-ministry work (different departments working together).



A service provider who was part of the conversation said that the service plans coming from PDD had good information in them; some of this information needs to be kept to know how to best support people.

We understand the government may not always use our ideas, but we appreciate the opportunity to be part of the conversation.



Guess what? Self-advocates across the south region wanted to thank Minister Sabir and educate their communities about the SIS! Look for a special letter to the editor in The Lethbridge Herald, The Taber Times, Medicine Hat News, The Brooks Bulletin and The Crowsnest Pass Herald in the coming weeks!