

Volume 8 Issue 2
April 2007

Winter is over (!?)
and there's a Spring
in our step!



THE
RoadAhead
SOCIETY OF CALGARY
WWW.THEROADAHEAD.CA

FUTURE PLANNING RESOURCES FOR OUR FAMILY MEMBERS WITH A DISABILITY

♥ ♥ ♥ *Straight from the heart . . .*

OUR MISSION

The RoadAhead Society of Calgary is a family organization committed to supporting persons with disabilities to develop meaningful relationships in the community, to build positive lives, and to create their vision for a sustainable future.

OUR BOARD, STAFF AND CONTRIBUTORS

BOARD MEMBERS

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WENDY

A New Beginning!

The RoadAhead Society of Calgary, an affiliate of PLAN, celebrates the following announcement reprinted from PLAN Institute for Caring Citizenship:

Ottawa, Ontario (March 19, 2007):

Canada becomes the first country to create a Disability Savings Plan with Minister Flaherty's budget announcement today.

For the first time in history, a generation of people with disabilities are outliving their parents. The creation of the Disability savings Plan, responds to this global phenomenon by assisting families create financial security, provide safe homes, and cover the extraordinary costs associated with their son or daughter's disability.

The Disability Savings Plan will benefit more than 700,000 people with severe disabilities, whose families will now have a simple method for planning for the future. The Plan will put billions into the hands of people with disabilities.

PLAN and its Affiliates have been promoting the creation of a Disability Savings Plan for nearly five years. During 2005 and 2006, PLAN conducted national consultations and met with hundreds of families from coast to coast to get their input on the design of a plan.

The Budget Announcement creates a Registered Disabilities Savings Plan with the following characteristics:

1. The creation of a Disability Savings Plan, a Disability Savings Grant and a Disability Savings Bond.
2. The Disability Savings Plan should have the following characteristics:
 - \$200,000 lifetime contribution limit
 - contributions permitted by the individual, any family member or friend
 - no annual limits on contribution
 - no restrictions on when the funds could be used or for what purpose
3. The Disability Savings Grant should match contributions and should be greater for individuals/families with less income.
4. The Disability Savings Bond should target individuals or families with low income and should not require a contribution.
5. Eligibility should be based only on qualification for the disability tax credit.

Today, Minister Flaherty has signaled the creation of a Plan with these characteristics.

The Disability Savings Grant will enhance families' efforts. This is important because families and people with disabilities already face additional disability-related expenses.

A Disability Savings bond will provide support to people with disabilities who have low incomes and are without family support. This initiative signals a shift away from a welfare-based model towards an investment model.

Our sincere thanks to . . .

- ♥ **Sheilagh Cook** who volunteered to be **The RoadAhead Society's** 'Point Person' for the past six months. Sheilagh is one of our founding members and has contributed countless hours over the years as a Board member, chair of the Network Development Committee, coordinator of the New Horizons Seniors Project, chair of the Membership Committee, workshop developer and presenter just to name a few.

RAS, as a family-initiated, family-governed organization, relies heavily on the contribution of our dedicated volunteers most of whom are parents or siblings of our Lifetime Members. As Point Person, Sheilagh played a key role in keeping us on track with our Business Goals. She has done an extraordinary job of championing RAS! Thank you!

*Volunteers are not paid – not because they are worthless,
but because they are priceless.*

- ♥ **Gibraltar Mortgage** for its support through generous funding and donations of office space, etc. This support, now and in the past, has made it possible for **The RoadAhead Society** to continue to develop meaningful workshops and resources for families as they create a safe and secure future for their loved ones with disabilities. We are grateful for your ongoing support!
- ♥ **PLAN Institute for Caring Citizenship**, especially Al Etmanski, Jack Styan, and Vickie Cammack (with apologies to anyone left out – your efforts are also greatly appreciated!) for their enormous work over the past five years to create a Registered Disability Savings Plan. **The RoadAhead Society of Calgary** was one of the many groups and organizations consulted – as well as hundreds of individual families – as PLAN crossed the country seeking input into the design of a future savings plan to benefit family members with disabilities. Congratulations!

*For more detailed information on the Disability Savings Plan
making the Federal Budget (including pages 83-86 from the Budget), connect to:*

www.planinstitute.ca/ezine/ezine_dsp_march1.html

“The most important disability initiative in my son’s lifetime”

APRIL 2007:

- **Saturday, April 21: 4th Annual Connecting-the-Dots Conference** in High River put on by Foothills SNAPS (Special Needs Association for Parents and Siblings.)

MAY 2007:

- **Does your Will require a Spring Tune-up?** RAS plans to hold a *Wills and Estate Planning* workshop in May (or possibly June.) Cost: \$20. Date and location to be announced. Please contact our office at 263-8226 or website for updated information!
- **Canadian Down Syndrome Society** will hold its **20th Anniversary National Conference** in Calgary from **May 18 – 20th**. The Road Ahead Society has been invited to present on "Fostering Positive Peer Relationships" on Sunday, May 20th. For more information, please visit: www.cdss2007.ca/

JUNE 2007:

- **RAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will be held on Thursday, June 14th from 6 to 9 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 1307 – 14th Street S.W. (parking lot on south side off 14th Avenue.) Please RSVP to 263-8226 or families@theroadahead.ca Everyone is welcome!

ONGOING:

- **RAS Board Meetings** are held on the **fourth Tuesday of each month from 5:15 to 7:00 pm at Gibraltar Mortgage, 1000 – 9th Avenue SW (3rd Floor Board Room.)** You are welcome to attend as an observer. Call 263-8226 to confirm time and location.
- **AACL's Family Voices Network** provides an effective vehicle for families to connect with and support each other and to *advocate as one voice* for needed supports, services and funding. **Family Voices – Calgary Region** meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at Rocky Mountain Bible College, 4039 Brentwood Rd NW. Call AACL at 717-0361 or email familyvoices@aacl.org.

FYI:

- **Family Survey Researchers** from University of Alberta are seeking families and people with disabilities to participate in a national survey to determine the direct and indirect costs that families face when caring for relatives with disabilities. To find out more and/or participate: www.hecol.ualberta.ca/HCIC/surveys.htm
- **PDD (Provincial)** recently held a workshop and conference in Edmonton for family members and adults with developmental disabilities to share ideas about how to research topics that are important to us and how to apply for funding through the Community Research Program (CRP.) Feedback from the event was very positive and encouraging. For more information on CRP and how to access funding: <http://www.pdd.org/crp>
- **Family Voices – Calgary** encourages families to meet several times with their individual MLA over the next 6 months. The purpose is to mentor our MLA's on important issues within the community relating to individuals with developmental disabilities. So that the same message is heard by MLAs across the province, discussion information and an MLA list can be received from Pat Winter pwinter@aacl.org

PART-TIME FACILITATOR POSITIONS
4 to 6 hours per month @ \$20/hr

Do you...

- Have a natural talent for *connecting* people?
- Enjoy extending *hospitality*?
- See the *gifts* rather than the deficits of others?
- Believe *relationships* are essential for a *good life*?
- Want to *help people* who are isolated to develop their *support networks*?

You may be the Facilitator we're looking for!

Successful candidates will:

- Have strong community connections
- Be a resident of Calgary
- Be willing to commit to a one-year contract
- Have good interpersonal and group skills

Please mail, fax or email your résumé to:
THE ROADAHEAD SOCIETY OF CALGARY
(contact details below)

RAS MEMBERSHIP FEES

1. **Lifetime Member** (Voting and Personal Network for Family Member)
Initial Contribution \$500
Annual Contribution \$180
2. **General Family Member** (Voting / no Personal Network for Family Member)
Annual Contribution \$ 25
3. **Associate Member** (Non-voting)
Individual \$ 30
Non-Profit \$ 50
Corporate \$250

Note! Fees will likely increase at our June AGM. Save by joining RAS NOW!!!

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AND PARTNERS WITH

