

Volume 7 Issue 1
 Winter 2006
 The latest
 Road Report
 from . . .



THE
RoadAhead
 SOCIETY OF CALGARY
 WWW.THEROADAHEAD.CA

FUTURE PLANNING RESOURCES FOR OUR FAMILY MEMBERS WITH A DISABILITY

Our Mission

The Road Ahead 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

PRESIDENT

Jorgen Asserson

DIRECTORS

Sheilagh Cook, Secretary

Berta Fisher

Karen Kryzan

David Oakleaf

Max Phillips, Treasurer

Gordon Sick, Vice-President

CONTRIBUTORS

Shelley Asserson (Editor)

Jacqueline Armstrong

Darrell Cook

Bill Forman

Felicity Foster

Andrew Kryzan

Marg Meisner

Bonnie Pacaud

Robin Phillips

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Wendy Thomas

* Elected at the June'05 AGM. We value your commitment to the growth of RAS! Thank you!



Straight from the heart . . .

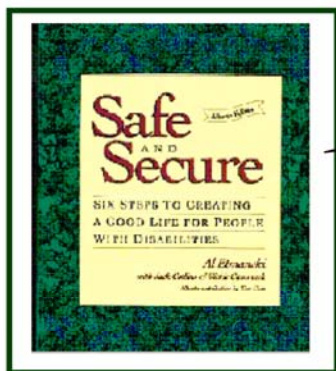
"The situation is urgent. We must move slowly."

– Buddhist saying

It's a paradox that continually confronts and challenges us at **The RoadAhead Society**: to achieve a safe and secure future for our loved ones and peace of mind for ourselves, we want *immediate action* with *tangible results*. But this urgency is balanced with an awareness that we must proceed on all levels with great care and *intention*. We want committed, effective personal networks in place *now* – just in case the 'hit-by-the-bus' scenario actually happens tomorrow – and yet we know that all meaningful relationships must be developed and nurtured over time.

We also know that our organization cannot achieve self-sufficiency in a vacuum. To survive, we must ally ourselves with others – individuals, organizations, businesses, corporations, etc. – as soon as possible. At the same time, identifying, establishing and developing partnerships that are a 'good fit' with *our* values takes time, patience and careful thought.

Last fall, RAS board, staff and contributors participated in two retreats to reconsider where we are, where we are heading and who we should invite along on the journey. Since that time, we have had several opportunities to share our experience with PLAN, its affiliates and others inside and outside the disabled community. These dialogues have been very productive and have affirmed that while progress may seem slow – and of necessity, often is – we are moving in the right direction . . . **FORWARD!**



AVAILABLE FROM THE ROADAHEAD SOCIETY! BUY YOUR COPY TODAY!

Safe AND Secure
 ALBERTA EDITION
 SIX STEPS TO CREATING A GOOD LIFE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

\$29.⁹⁵

(plus S & H where applicable)

WE ARE AN AFFILIATE OF . . .



AND PARTNERS WITH . . .



- ♥ **ROAD REPORT** from Max Phillips, Treasurer: A group of RAS members and others met with Jack Styan, Executive Director of PLAN, in January to provide valuable input from a family perspective on the proposed creation of a Federal Disability Savings Plan. Working a lot like an RRSP, a DSP would assist families with saving to supplement their relatives' income and supports in the future. To find out more, follow the links to Public Policy and Disability Savings Plan at www.plan.ca. You are also invited to sign an online petition in support of this initiative (the first new announcement for disabled since 1981, the International Year of the Disabled.)
- ♥ **ROAD REPORT** from Shelley Asserson, Lifetime Family Member on *"Thinking Like a Movement: A Dialogue to Advance Leadership for the 21st Century,"* with mentors Vickie Cammack and Al Etmanski from PLAN: I spent three very intensive, often confusing and ultimately inspiring days in late January exploring the complexities of systemic change. Through the 'Panarchy lens' (so termed by ecologists studying natural, life cycle systems), we discussed success, resilience and renewal from a social innovation perspective Confused? Intrigued? Looking for answers? *Perhaps there are no answers*, only 'comfort in paradox and ambiguity.' To learn more, RAS has a number of very interesting articles in hard copy and pdf. My notes are also available and I'd be happy to meet with others to continue the dialogue! Also recommended: **Tamarack – An Institute for Community Engagement** <http://tamarackcommunity.ca/> *"If you know the answer, you've got the wrong question."* – Chinese Proverb
- ♥ **ROAD REPORT** from Gordon Sick, Chair, Fundraising Committee: RAS has been fortunate to have some very generous donors (one anonymous and the other our partner Gibraltar Mortgage), as well as several smaller donors who recognize the importance of our organization. So far, this funding has carried us along well, but we anticipate a financial crunch in the next year or two. The problem with financial instability is that it makes people less inclined to regard RAS as a key link in their future planning for their family member with a disability. That has the effect of making fewer people interested in using our services, which makes it harder and harder to get funding. Of course, this can also go the other way, i.e. with more stable funding, more people will use our services making it easier to acquire stable funding. This has been called a 'chicken and egg' problem, a 'virtuous cycle' or a 'positive feedback loop'. We need to work both sides of the loop by getting more funding *and* more people involved.
- We plan to run a Casino (likely Fall 2007) but we still need to find other sources of funding. The Fundraising Committee welcomes your suggestions and offers of help! In the short term, please be reminded that **RAS is a registered charity** (#89667 4918 RR0001) and issues donation tax receipts. In the longer term, we should establish an endowment. If you want to provide more permanent assistance to RAS, you might consider planned giving, whereby you make RAS one of the beneficiaries of your estate or life insurance. Here's a suggestion that benefits both sides of the virtuous cycle: **in buying a RAS Membership. (e.g. you will be issued a *tax receipt for \$500 for Lifetime Family Membership,) you will become closely entwined with our activities and help our funding at the same time!**
- ♥ **ROAD REPORT** from the Network Facilitation Committee: Lifetime members, their families and our committee continue to learn and grow in our endeavours to create a good life for our family members. Some of our Lifetime members are enjoying the assistance of their facilitators as they help them to meet new people, connect with old friends in fun ways and in general, to build a richer social life.
- Some of our Lifetime families are using the facilitation process to introduce and connect close friends and family. These are friends they can count on to 'be there' when they are unable to assist and care for their sons and daughters. Developing a network among these important people is another exciting step for RAS.
- We are pleased that the ads for new facilitators we placing in community newsletters are getting a good response. Our first facilitators came to us by word of mouth but now we are seeing an interest from other community members. We welcome applications from anyone who has an interest and enjoys helping people connect. **Please see Facilitators ad on Page 4!**
- Jacqueline Armstrong has moved out of the Network Development Coordinator position. She has done great things for RAS both as a facilitator and during her time as Coordinator. We look forward to Jacqueline's future contributions as a strong supporter of Road Ahead families.
- ♥ **ROAD REPORT** from the Future Planning Resource Committee: Our Will and Estate Planning workshop (see separate ad) is well organized and registrations are being received. We plan to hold this workshop at least two more times this year. Also, through partnerships, we hope to add to our repertoire of workshops including: Taxation and Disability, Setting Up and Administering a Small Trust; Creating the Housing Options You Want; Home Ownership by People with Disabilities; Planning for Transitions from Adolescence to Adulthood; Guardianship; Safe and Secure – Seven Steps to Creating a Personal Future Plan for People with Disabilities; and Navigating PDD and AISH. We are looking for agencies or other societies to join us in presenting these workshops. Any ideas are welcome. Please contact us through the RAS office.

FEBRUARY 2006:

- **PDD Calgary Region** will be hosting its annual *School Resource Fair* for graduating students with developmental disabilities on **Wednesday, February 22nd, 2006** at Bishop Carroll Senior High, 4624 Richard Road SW, from 5 – 8 p.m.
- **A Vision for Families: Preparing for the Future for You and Your Family Member (#1)** with Darcy Elks will take place from Friday, February 24 to Sunday, February 26, 2006. *This excellent workshop is one RAS highly recommends for families!* No fee but space is limited. To register, contact Sylvia at 245-4666 or ccls@telus.net NB! Follow-up workshops will be held on April 1 (#2), May 5, 6, & 7 (#3) and September 30 (#4). Participants are encouraged to take all four workshops.

MARCH 2006:

- **RAS WILL AND ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOP!** The Road Ahead Society is hosting a morning workshop presented by Leanne Cherry from the law firm Underwood, Cherry and Gilholme Estate Lawyers. This workshop is intended for families caring for persons who are developmentally disabled. Executing a good will and estate plan is an important part of the process to a "Safe and Secure" future for our dependent family members.

Saturday, March 4, 2006
9:00 a.m. to noon
Kahanoff Centre – Room 202
1202 Centre Street S.E.
(southeast corner of Centre Street & 12th Avenue SE – free parking available behind Kahanoff Centre)

Members \$25/Non-members \$50 (memberships available for \$25)
For enquiries or registration, please contact Wendy at 263-8226 or
families@theroadahead.ca or Karen at 249-2716 or K.Art@shaw.ca
- **Special Needs Conference for Parents and Caregivers**, sponsored by Centre Street Church Special Needs Ministry will take place on **Friday, March 10 starting at 6:45 p.m. and continuing through Saturday, March 11 (9a.m.- 3:15 p.m.)** at Centre Street Church Main Campus, 3900 – 2nd Street NE. For further information, contact Dorothy at 295-7259 or dcowling@shaw.ca
- **THE WORLD WE WANT – A Community Dialogue on Citizenship. 'Celebrating Community: Learning and Living Together'**, the third in a series of Public Dialogues, will take place at Edmonton City Hall from Friday, March 10 through Saturday, March 11, 2006. Keynote Speakers include Al Etmanski, President of PLAN (Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network.) To register (no fee), email darka@bottomlinepro.com or phone (780) 988-8914.
- **FAMILIES: the heart of community. AACL's Annual Family Conference and 50th Anniversary Celebration** will be held on March 17-18th at the Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton. Presenters include Al Etmanski and Vickie Cammack (PLAN) conducting their workshop **7 Steps to A Safe and Secure Future: Creating a Good Life for People with Developmental Disabilities**. For conference fees and to register online, visit www.aacl.org

ONGOING:

- **Family Voices – Calgary Region** meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Rocky Mountain Bible College, 4039 Brentwood Rd NW. Alberta Association for Community Living's **Family Voices Network** provides a powerful vehicle for families to connect with and support each other and to advocate as one voice for needed supports, services and funding. Call Lori (AACL) at 717-0361 to confirm dates, receive notices and agenda by email, etc.

"It's no longer a question of who does what but how we do it better together."
 – Lester M. Salamon, (Johns Hopkins University)

ASK RHODA!!!

Dear Rhoda –

What is 'Social Enterprise' and how does it relate to **The RoadAhead Society**?

Joe

Dear Joe –

Social Enterprise is defined as "income-generating activities that are consistent with the social purposes of an organization." In other words, the organization's mission and business practices are compatible. At RAS, we believe that people with disabilities and their families are an **asset** not a deficit to society (as has often been the public mindset.) We are committed to creating an organization that is **self-sufficient**, driven by a 'head high' rather than a 'hand out' mentality. To achieve this, RAS will establish relationships and partnerships with a variety of income sources including families and friends, foundations, businesses and corporations – **all of which will honour and share the values of The RoadAhead Society.**

Rhoda

Websites of special interest:

- **PLAN:** www.plan.ca
also: www.planinstitute.ca; www.philia.ca
- **National Film Board documentary, 'The Ties That Bind':** www.nfb.ca/tiesthatbind
- **everyone belongs:** www.everyonebelongs.com
- **Social Role Valorization:** www.socialrolevalorization.com
- **The World Café:** www.theworldcafe.com
- **Ashoka (Social Entrepreneurship):** www.ashoka.org
- **The Berkana Institute:** www.berkana.org
- **Tamarack – An Institute for Community Engagement:** <http://tamarackcommunity.ca/>

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?

Then join us at The RoadAhead Society!

Positions available for part-time facilitators (4 to 6 hours per month @ \$20/hr.)

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 at bottom of page)

RAS MEMBERSHIP FEES

(to be reviewed at June 2006 AGM)

| | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Lifetime Member (Voting plus Personal Network developed and maintained): | |
| Initial Contribution | \$500 |
| Annual Contribution | \$180 |
| 2. General Family Member (Voting but no Personal Network) | |
| Annual Contribution | \$ 25 |
| 3. Associate Member (Non-voting) | |
| Individual | \$ 30 |
| Non-Profit | \$ 50 |
| Corporate | \$250 |

AND FINALLY, OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- Gibraltar Mortgage for its most recent donation
 - Our Anonymous Donor

We are very grateful for your generosity and support!

THE ROADAHEAD SOCIETY OF CALGARY

#300, 1000-9TH AVENUE SW

CALGARY, AB T2P 2Y6

(403) 263-8226 / FAX: (403) 263-5277

EMAIL: families@theroadahead.ca

WEBSITE: www.theroadahead.ca

NOTE CHANGE! RAS Board Meetings are held on the **fourth Wednesday of each month from 5:15 to 7:30 p.m.** 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. Our continued thanks to Gibraltar Mortgage for generously providing office and meeting space!