

## ***Improving Albertans' quality of life***

*August 15, 2007*

## **Twenty community members appointed to Persons with Developmental Disabilities boards across Alberta**

*Edmonton...* Twenty Albertans have been named as members of the province's six Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) community boards. Following an open recruitment process, Greg Melchin, Minister of Seniors and Community Supports, appointed 17 new members and re-appointed three members.

"I'm looking forward to working with all board members," said Melchin. "Each has a strong commitment to building inclusive communities and improving the quality of life for Albertans with developmental disabilities."

Minister Melchin also expressed his appreciation to outgoing members for their dedication and hard work while serving on the community boards.

PDD board members are volunteers who help set objectives and provide direction for delivering supports to adults with developmental disabilities. Board members engage communities to enhance programs and help adults with developmental disabilities to live, work and participate in their communities. Each board has up to nine members. PDD boards are located in six regions across the province: Northwest, Northeast, Edmonton, Central, Calgary and South. The PDD program assists more than 9,000 adult Albertans who have developmental disabilities, as well as their families and guardians.

Working with communities to provide quality services for persons with disabilities is part of Premier Ed Stelmach's plan to improve Albertans' quality of life. Other priorities for the government are to govern with integrity and transparency, manage growth pressures, build a stronger Alberta and provide safe and secure communities.

- 30 -

**Attachment:** biographies of members

**Media enquiries may be directed to:**

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# **Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) board member biographies**

## ***PDD Northwest Region Community Board***

**Corrine Card** of Fort Vermilion brings a great deal of experience and enthusiasm to the board. After growing up on the Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement, she now volunteers with the Chamber of Commerce and Native Friendship Centre.

**Ann Martfeld** of Valleyview has been reappointed to the Northwest Board. She has served on the local school, hospital and Child and Family Services Authority boards and has worked as an outreach worker.

**Kerrie Patrick** of High Prairie has been reappointed to a second term on the board. She brings business and board experience having been a member of the Child and Family Services Authority.

## ***PDD Northeast Region Community Board***

**Robert Annett** of Plamondon is an experienced therapist and youth worker. As a psychologist with the Aspen Regional Health Authority in Lac La Biche, Robert has honed his skills in conflict resolution and problem solving.

**Treana Lane** of Cold Lake brings an action-oriented, inclusive approach to the board. Her experience working with people with disabilities in home care, and hospital and school settings, provides valuable insight on many issues.

**Edward Rondeau** of Bonnyville is a semi-retired farmer and businessman. He is a member of the school board and the Child and Family Services Authority, and a municipal councillor.

**Kathryn Wiebe** of Bonnyville is a former municipal councillor and mayor of Bonnyville and has strong mediation skills. She is currently a member of the Frog Lake First Nations Peacemaker's Council.

## ***PDD Edmonton Region Community Board***

**Doug Fletcher** of Edmonton is currently the Practice Leader of the Osborne Group. He has many years of board experience, having served as Chair of the Alberta Lung Association and as a council member with the Canada Lung Association.

**Dennis Maltais** of Edson has been reappointed to the board. He actively promotes community inclusion and is involved in supporting the needs of people with developmental disabilities. Dennis works as a financial and performance measurement consultant.

**Sheryl Pearson** of Edmonton is a lawyer and social worker. She has worked with the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate and the Alberta Law Reform Institute, and instructed at the Alberta College of Social Workers.

**Martin Prentice** of Drayton Valley is a lawyer who has worked with the Drayton Valley Community Foundation, Community Hockey Association, the Community Scholarship Trust Society and Beehive Community Support Services.

**Hansa Thaleshvar** of St. Albert promotes the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities through advocacy, collaboration and partnership. A former mayor of Cold Lake, Hansa has served on the Inter-authority Governance Group and the North Central Child and Family Services Authority.

### ***PDD Central Region Community Board***

**Marilou Yampolsky** of Camrose has more than 10 years' experience working in the developmental disabilities field. She is an experienced communicator and workshop presenter.

**Grace Higgins** of Red Deer returns to the board after a hiatus to continue advocating on behalf on persons with developmental disabilities. Grace brings her experience running a business in Red Deer, which enables her to provide valuable insights and practical solutions.

**Diana Rowe** of Drumheller brings experience as a municipal councillor to the board. She has worked to facilitate partnerships as executive director of the Red Deer Downtown Business Association and chair of the Downtown Safety Task Force.

### ***PDD Calgary Region Community Board***

**Pat Menzies** of Calgary is experienced working in the volunteer sector, including the Calgary Opera and the Hotchkiss Brain Institute. She currently works as an education consultant and has worked as a special needs teacher.

### ***PDD South Region Community Board***

**Henry Heinen** of Picture Butte is a retired vice-principal who has served the Picture Butte Chamber of Commerce and the Southwest Child and Family Services Authority Board. He has also been a foster parent for 24 years.

**Thomas Hopkins** of Lethbridge has served as a board member with the Rehabilitation Society of Lethbridge. He is a former Transit Manager for the City of Lethbridge.

**Terry Olsen** of Magrath is a teacher and business owner who served on the Friends of Magrath Museum and History Association Board, the Glenwood Public Library Board and the Southern Alberta Society for the Handicapped.

**Leo VandenHeuvel** of Lethbridge is retired from municipal government where he honed his skills in risk and financial management, administration and business negotiations. He brings strong communication and relationship-building skills to the board.

- 30 -

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