

ALBERTA BRAIN INJURY INITIATIVE

BULLETIN

September 2000 Update

- In January 2000, the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Associate Minister Alberta Health and Wellness completed his report *Building Better Bridges – Final Report on Programs and Services in Support of Persons with Developmental Disabilities*. The report recognized the limited availability and fragmentation of current resources for individuals with brain injuries in the province. A key recommendation made in the report regarding this issue states:
That the Minister of Health and Wellness in partnership with regional service providers and representatives of the brain injury community, proceed immediately to develop a response and a concrete action plan regarding the needs of those with acquired brain injury... (Pg. 36)

- Alberta Health and Wellness is pleased to announce that work has begun on this important initiative. Peter Faid, Community Services Consulting Ltd. is the consultant chosen to review the needs of the brain injury community and bring forward recommendations to address these needs.

- The process for the consultation includes:
 - a) The formation of a Coalition Action Group made up of select stakeholders from the brain injury community that will act as an advisory body / steering committee on the initiative. The group held its first meeting on September 7, 2000.
 - b) Regional focus groups to seek survivor / family input held over the next eight weeks.
 - c) Interviews with service providers, boards or committees involved in providing services to the brain injury community.
 - d) A two day provincial forum for a variety of stakeholders (survivors, family members, support / advocacy groups, service providers, etc) to confirm issues, provide input related to scope of need, determine regional service gaps and outline a policy framework.
 - e) A final report written within one month of the Forum.

- The expected outcome of the meetings with the Coalition Action Group, the Focus Groups, the Stakeholder Meetings and the Forum is to develop a policy framework and implementation strategy for brain injury in Alberta.

- People wanting to provide input should contact their local brain injury association or Alberta Health and Wellness (780) 427-2388 or toll free 310-0000, then 427-2388