

May 18, 2011

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

In June 2010, I announced that an Administrative Review of the Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) program would be conducted. The goal of the review was to identify ways to improve the administration of the program and reduce spending in this area, and reinvest any savings to frontline services for individuals. Many private guardians and family members participated in the review process, as well as other consultations Community Boards have undertaken over the past year in order to improve supports to individuals. I thank you for the time and commitment you have demonstrated toward making improvements to this vital program.

The review has been completed and it was determined that there are opportunities to improve the administration of the program. It is important to me to address the findings of the report in a manner that will be balanced and measured, and in a way that supports my goal of improving outcomes for individuals. As a result, improvements in the administration of the program will ensure a more consistent approach for the PDD program, no matter where you live in Alberta. These improvements will include:

- establishing consistent roles and responsibilities for staff and common staff functions;
- establishing common processes such as intake, individual planning, decision-making and case management; and
- increasing supports for families who manage services directly.

Another important change will be how the PDD program contracts with service agencies to deliver supports to individuals. This year, an alternate approach to contracting will be developed that provides more focus on outcomes for individuals and reduced administration costs. I have asked Mrs. Genia Leskiw, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Bonnyville - Cold Lake, to lead consultations with families/guardians, service agencies, and individuals who receive services on how the PDD program can implement this new contracting approach in the most successful way. I encourage you to participate in the community meetings that will be held to share information about your experiences and what is most important for you in your relationship with a service agency. Attached is a list of locations and dates of the community sessions that will be held. If you are interested in attending a consultation meeting, please contact Ms. Shirley Edwards toll free by calling 310-0000 then 780-643-1156 or by e-mail at [pddfocustgroups@gov.ab.ca](mailto:pddfocustgroups@gov.ab.ca).

One of the recommendations in the consultant's report that I did not accept was to dissolve the PDD Community Boards. I have worked with the Community Boards for the last three years and believe they have a very important role. The Community Boards provide input about community priorities and directions for service delivery. The Boards and staff have demonstrated commitment to ensure adults with developmental disabilities have opportunities to be independent and included in their communities. I have asked the Community Boards to increase their efforts in developing consistent practices across the province, and to reduce duplication and complexity within the program.

I have attached a fact sheet regarding the Administrative Review and our next steps. This document provides an overview of the review's findings and the recommendations that have been approved. The news release, full report and summary report are available on my Ministry's website at: [www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/PDD/AdminReview/](http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/PDD/AdminReview/), along with a video about our next steps on the website.

Thank you again for your continued involvement and support of these efforts as we work together to ensure the PDD program is administered in the most efficient and effective manner. Together we can help people with developmental disabilities to live their best lives, now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne Jablonski  
Minister

Attachment