

Office of Genia Leskiw
MLA, Bonnyville-Cold Lake

August 31, 2011

Dear Participant,

I am pleased to send you the final report on the focus sessions regarding a new contracting process for the Persons with Developmental Disabilities, or PDD program. The report is also available online at:

www.seniors.alberta.ca/PDD/AdminReview.

I want to thank all participants for the warm reception I was given and the depth of honesty, compassion, and wisdom that you demonstrated. I was extremely impressed with the level of participation at these sessions.

Attached, you will find both the main report and the more detailed regional reports that summarize the conversations we had in each of the six communities we visited. Of course, length did not permit us to include every word we heard in these reports, but I think they do effectively capture the tone of your comments and summarize the feedback you gave us. I have full confidence that the PDD working group that is developing the new contracting process will keep your feedback foremost in their minds as they develop a new, more effective and efficient contracting process for the PDD program. The Ministry of Seniors and Community Supports will be moving forward carefully, and your work will help them in the development of pilot projects that will be underway early in the new year, with implementation in spring 2013.

The experience of leading these consultations has had a profound effect on me. What has stayed with me most is the obvious consideration that all of you have for Albertans with developmental disabilities. There is so much love and compassion in this sector, and that was heart-warming to see. It is clear that we all want the same thing: a great life for your loved ones, friends, neighbours and clients with developmental disabilities. I was also struck by the wisdom, sense of humour, and frank honesty that the self-advocates showed me. It has truly been an eye opening experience. Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to meet all of you.

Yours truly,

[Original signed by]

Genia Leskiw, MLA
Bonnyville-Cold Lake

Enclosure

cc: Honourable Mary Anne Jablonski
Minister, Seniors and Community Supports