

May 18, 2011

Dear _____:

In June 2010, I announced an Administrative Review of the Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) program. Many service providers participated in this review and other consultations the Community Boards have undertaken over the past year. I thank you for the time and commitment you have demonstrated toward improving this vital program.

The report of the Administrative Review highlights the need to reduce administrative complexity and duplication in the program. Improvements that will be made will benefit service providers and individuals alike, such as developing common processes and developing an integrated information technology system that includes case management and automated payments. This work will focus on better outcomes for individuals and more consistent service delivery across the province. These are goals I know we all share.

As a service provider organization, I am sure you are concerned about what all this means for the individuals you serve. First and foremost, I want to assure you that I share your concern for the individuals supported by the PDD program, and that you as a service provider are an important partner. Changes made to improve how the program is administered will not affect funding of direct services for individuals. Savings achieved through efficiencies in administration will be redirected to frontline services for individuals.

One of the key recommendations from the review is to improve efficiency by implementing an alternate contracting process for service providers. To gain stakeholder input on how best to do this, I have asked Mrs. Genia Leskiw, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Bonnyville - Cold Lake, to hold consultations on how to implement the alternate contracting process.

This builds on the findings outlined in the Administrative Review report and the Flexible Funding consultations from last year. I want to ensure that administrative changes will be in the best interests of the individuals we serve. I would like to invite one person from your agency to participate in one of these consultations to share their expertise. Attached is a list of the dates and locations. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ms. Shirley Edwards toll free by calling 310-0000 then 780-643-1156 or by e-mail at pdffocusgroups@gov.ab.ca.

I have not accepted the recommendation to dissolve the six Community Boards. The Community Boards continue to play an important role in the PDD program and adults with developmental disabilities, including ensuring community involvement in establishing priorities and directions for services, and promoting community inclusion for adults with developmental disabilities. I believe that significant improvements can be made in the PDD program when the Community Boards are working together with Ministry officials on our common goal of creating the best outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities.

I have enclosed a fact sheet that will help you to gain a detailed understanding of the results of the Administrative Review and our next steps. The news release, full report and a summary report are available on my Ministry's website at: www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/PDD/AdminReview/, along with a video about the next steps.

I wish to thank you for your dedication to the individuals we serve. I appreciate your continued involvement and support of the efforts undertaken to ensure the PDD program operates in the most efficient and effective manner, and achieves the best possible outcomes for individuals. Together, I know we will continue to work towards our shared goal: that individuals with developmental disabilities in our province have every opportunity to live their best life.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne Jablonski
Minister

Attachments