



Alberta Brain Injury Initiative

BULLETIN

Spring 2001

Background

The Alberta Brain Injury Initiative began in August 2000 in response to a recommendation made in the *Building Better Bridges* (BBB) report released by Alberta Health and Wellness in March 2000. This report called for the development and implementation of a concrete action plan to address the needs of persons with acquired brain injury. Peter Faid, consultant with Community Services Consulting Ltd., was hired to conduct the community consultation and bring forward a proposed Action Plan. A Coalition Action Group of key stakeholders was formed to provide guidance and support.

On December 8 and 9th, 2000 the *Making Choices* Forum was held in Red Deer, Alberta. Approximately 135 persons were invited to attend, with 1/3 of the attendees being survivors, 1/3 family members and 1/3 other key stakeholders. All areas of the province were represented.

The information obtained at the Forum was used to draft "*Making Choices*", a proposed Action Plan that outlined a single model of service and the action plan.

Minister Zwozdesky meets with Coalition Action Group

The Minister met with members of the Coalition Action Group in Edmonton on Monday, May 14, 2001. There will be more news in the next issue.

New Ministry, New Minister

On March 15, 2001, the responsibility for Persons with Developmental Disabilities and the Premier's Council for the Status of Persons with Disabilities was transferred from Alberta Health and Wellness to Alberta Community Development.

The responsibility for the Alberta Brain Injury Initiative has also been transferred to Alberta Community Development. The Minister of Community Development, the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, is pleased to continue to support this important Initiative.

A New Division to help support Albertans!

The newest Division in Alberta Community Development is called Community Support Systems.

Dr. William Byrne is the Deputy Minister of the Department and David Steeves has been appointed Assistant Deputy Minister of the Division. David has been a member of the Coalition Action Group since its inception.

The new division is responsible for:

- ✧ Persons with Developmental Disabilities (liaison)
- ✧ Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities (liaison)
- ✧ Protection for Persons in Care
- ✧ Alberta Brain Injury Initiative and other initiatives arising from *Building Better Bridges*

Alberta Government 2001 Budget Recognizes Brain Injury

Alberta Community Development has budgeted \$1.5 million in 2001-2002 to begin meeting the needs of individuals with acquired brain injury.

These funds will be directed towards service delivery through contracted coordinators and community service providers based at existing regional sites. Strategic implementation will begin once the review of *Making Choices* has been completed.

We are very pleased that the community support needs of the acquired brain injury community have been recognized.

For more information, contact:

Community Supports Team
Alberta Community
Development
3rd Floor Standard Life Centre
10405 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5J 4R7
Tel: 780-415-2747

<http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca>

Alberta
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT