

## ABIN Contracted Agencies:

### SOUTH REGION

#### REDI Enterprises Society HIP – Brain Injury Relearning Services

828 – 11 Street SE  
Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 1T7  
Telephone: (403) 528-2661

#### REDI Enterprises Society HIP – Brain Injury Relearning Services Lethbridge Office

Mailing address:  
1827 1 Avenue N  
Lethbridge, Alberta T1H 0A6  
Telephone: (403) 320-7402

### CALGARY REGION

#### Southern Alberta Brain Injury Society (SABIS)

137, 2723 – 37 Avenue NE  
Calgary, Alberta T1Y 5R8  
Telephone: (403) 521-5212

### CENTRAL REGION

#### Canadian Mental Health Association, Alberta Central Region (CMHA) Catholic Social Services (CSS) and Central Alberta Brain Injury Society (CABIS) CMHA Office

#4, 5015 - 48 Street  
Red Deer, Alberta T4N 1S9  
Telephone: (403) 342-2266

#### Catholic Social Services (CSS) Office

5104 - 48 Avenue  
Red Deer, Alberta T4N 3T8  
Telephone: (403) 347-8844

### EDMONTON REGION

#### Northern Alberta Brain Injury Society (NABIS)

#301 Royal Alexandra Place  
10106 - 111 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 0B4  
Telephone: (780) 479-1757

#### Edson Office – NABIS

Box 20027  
Edson, Alberta T7E 1S8  
Telephone: (780) 712-7560

### NORTHWEST REGION

#### Northern Alberta Brain Injury Society (NABIS)

**Grande Prairie Office**  
#406 – 9728 Montrose Avenue  
Grande Prairie, Alberta T8V 5B6  
Telephone: (780) 532-0477

### NORTHEAST REGION

#### Blue Heron Support Services Association

4925 – 51 Avenue (P.O. Box 4238)  
Barrhead, Alberta T7N 1A2  
Telephone: (780) 674-4944

#### St. Paul Abilities Network

4915 – 51 Avenue (P.O. Box 457)  
St. Paul, Alberta T0A 3A0  
Telephone: (780) 645-3441  
Toll Free: 1-866-645-3900

## ALBERTA BRAIN INJURY INITIATIVE

# bulletin

WINTER 2003 EDITION

The winter edition of the Bulletin brings a new and exciting opportunity to highlight the successes within each region of the province as the Alberta Brain Injury Initiative continues to evolve. As a first step, we'll provide you with provincial and regional snapshots of activities. Over time, we will showcase the successes, and struggles, of survivors and their families/caregivers and professionals.

### Survival Guide: Second Edition!

The response to the *Survival Guide* has been tremendous! The first 5,000 copies were given out in 2002 and the response was very positive. Based on feedback received from survivors, caregivers, and professionals, the guide was revised and 10,000 more copies have been printed. New to this edition are sections specific to stroke injuries, anger management and children with acquired brain injury. Copies of the *Survival Guide* are available on the website at [www.cd.gov.ab.ca/helping\\_albertans/bii/index.asp](http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca/helping_albertans/bii/index.asp) or by contacting an Alberta Brain Injury Initiative Service Coordinator.

### Alberta Brain Injury Initiative

What's in a name? Well apparently a lot! As the Alberta Brain Injury Initiative (ABII) evolved, to become identified as the Alberta Brain Injury Network (ABIN), an unintentional message was delivered. This message seemed to convey that only those directly contracted by Alberta Community Development, to provide Service Coordination or Supports for Community Living, were a part of the network. This was not our intention.

The road to recovery and inclusion, for survivors and their families/caregivers in their communities, involves many different stakeholders. The ABII must involve all stakeholders, and the message must be clear. The challenge is to communicate a more inclusive message, concerning the broader brain injury community in Alberta. Our activities must focus on addressing the needs of adults with acquired brain injury, while developing relationships with all who are engaged in this community.

Within the ABII, there is a network of Service Coordinators referred to as the ABIN. However, there are many other important activities within the initiative. Examples include: Supports for Community Living (SCL) Workers, one time funding and support for ongoing projects, the Provincial Training Framework, the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Brain Injury Conference, and the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) Benefits Administration Program.

### Community Action Coalition Process: an opportunity for networking

The Community Action Coalition process gives Albertans, who are impacted by acquired brain injury, an opportunity to provide input on the future direction and priorities for the ABII. The Provincial Community Support Coordinator and ABIN Service Coordinators throughout the province have continued to facilitate these community meetings, most recently referred to as the community networking process.

These community forums focus on each individual's story or "real impact scenario," and provide a "window into each community." The feedback from participants has been very positive, and this has resulted in continuous improvement in the process. The most inspiring result is that survivors have expressed satisfaction in being involved in this dynamic process. A total of 20 meetings have occurred across Alberta with more planned for the near future.

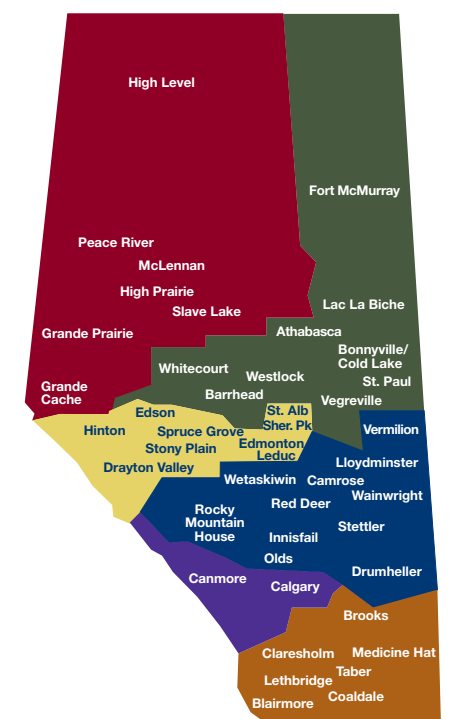
### Supports for Community Living

A key activity of the ABII is the provision of Supports for Community Living (SCL) Workers. SCL Workers are in the community to assist survivors who require a minimal amount of support in order to attain an optimal quality of life in their community, while living independently. This support is survivor-directed with the intention of improving daily living skills. Specific objectives are determined by the individual's strengths, needs and capacities. In future editions of the Bulletin, we will report on the successes of individuals and

the rewards experienced by inclusive communities

### The Provincial Training Framework

"Building on Community Strength" has been the cornerstone in the continued development of the Provincial Training Framework. Stakeholders identified a need for introductory information and specialized training on brain injury for caregivers and professionals. The result has been an approach that recognized what was already in place at educational institutions, rehabilitation programs and community-based agencies, and then built upon the individual and collective wisdom of this experience. A Provincial Coordinating Committee will serve to inform and update the curriculum offered and guide future directions. Please visit [www.cd.gov.ab.ca/helping-albertans](http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca/helping-albertans) to find out more about the framework. Please note that although our website is currently under revision, it still contains valuable information.



## AISH Benefits Administration Program

The AISH Benefits Administration Program has proven to be another successful collaboration for the ABII. The purpose of this program is to assist individuals on AISH who have challenges budgeting and meeting their monthly expenses. The program is voluntary and the results, for those using this service, have been impressive. It is presently available in the Edmonton and Central Regions, with planned expansion to the Calgary region and throughout the province. For more information, contact your local Service Coordinator or Rick Guthrie, Program Contact, at (780) 427-9147. Look for a website link for this program in the New Year.

## ABII and the Aboriginal Community

Acquired brain injury knows no age, gender, cultural, social, economic, or geographical boundaries. The ABII is currently exploring ways to respond to requests from Aboriginal communities to develop a culturally sensitive approach for assisting Aboriginal adults with acquired brain injury. In particular, representatives from the Piikani Nations in Brocket have expressed an interest in becoming involved with the ABII. We look forward to further developing and strengthening our relationship with Aboriginal communities throughout Alberta.

## South

The Service Coordinators for the South Region have been very busy providing information, support, and assistance with coordination of services, for survivors of brain injury and their families. Service Coordinators have also been busy building community capacity. We have visited and shared information with agencies in small communities throughout the South Region, attempting to improve service to Albertans affected by brain injury.

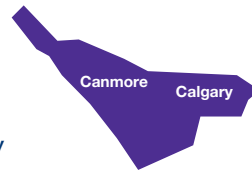
Through Supports for Community Living



(SCL) agreements, individuals with brain injury who live on their own and are over 18 years old, may be eligible to receive up to 10 hours per week of independent living skills assistance. Currently, the South Region has SCL Workers in Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Coaldale, Redcliff, Cardston, Fort McCleod, Claresholm and Purple Springs.

Please contact the ABIN Service Coordinator(s) at (403) 538-2661 in Medicine Hat or (403) 320-7402 in Lethbridge.

## Calgary

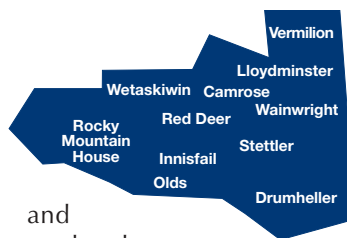


The Calgary Region held a community networking process meeting in Canmore on October 7, 2003. This allowed survivors, family members and professionals in the Banff and Canmore communities to meet and exchange information on brain injury. Specifically, information was shared on services and supports that have been developed over recent years. Participants were asked to list current and potential areas of need. This process provided an opportunity for brainstorming among community members, agencies and service providers. Thanks to everyone who participated in and contributed to the process.

Please contact the ABIN Service Coordinator(s) at (403) 521-5212 in Calgary.

## Central

As the Central Region is a large and densely populated area, partners and coordinators were pleased with the additional funding for community agencies to provide Supports for Community Living workers. The workers offer survivors up to ten hours per week of support to develop independent living skills. This service has been very successful, thus far. Currently, survivors are receiving assistance in Three Hills, Red Deer, the Vermilion area and Lacombe,



with plans to expand the support to other communities soon.

Creativity has become a large and necessary component of life for survivors and professionals in the Central Region. Of the nearly 600 communities in this region, the large majority of them are in remote or rural areas where services are not readily available, particularly services specific to brain injury. Through community capacity building, we have often been able to develop innovative ideas to ensure survivors and their families receive supports.

Please contact the ABIN Service Coordinator(s) in Red Deer at (403) 347-8844 or (403) 342-2266.

## Edmonton



We have had the pleasure of hosting community networking process meetings over the last six months in Jasper, Sherwood Park and Leduc. This has given us the opportunity to meet with individuals who have acquired brain injury (ABI), family/caregivers, community service providers, and other professionals. These meetings were all very successful. The service coordinators were able to hear individuals' experiences in their communities first hand, and, to recognize the tremendous strengths that each community has. Through the networking process, the service coordinators have become informed of community priorities, and it is these priorities that ultimately direct their activities.

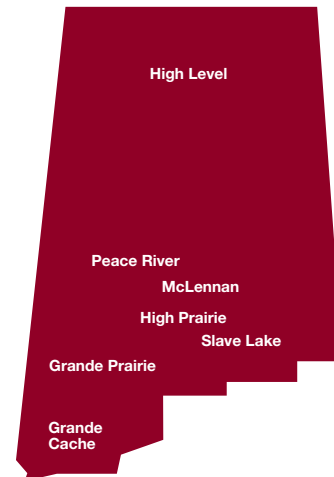
A new addition to the Edson and area ABIN office was Emilia Kudaba, a volunteer from the Katimavik program. Originally from Hamilton, Emilia was in Edson for the last three months. Emilia took pleasure in her work placement at the



Strathcona County CNP

Northern Alberta Brain Injury Society (NABIS) and enjoyed trying a variety of new tasks. NABIS is very pleased to have been selected for a Katimavik volunteer placement and will enjoy working with this program for the next three years. Every three months, a Katimavik volunteer receives a new placement, providing a diversified learning experience.

Please contact the ABIN Service Coordinator(s) at (780) 479-1757 in Edmonton, or (780) 712-7560 in Edson.



## Northwest

The ABIN office recently completed a community network process meeting in High Prairie. Work is underway on a follow-up meeting in High Prairie. In addition, visits to other communities are planned to meet with survivors and explore opportunities to enhance community capacities. Much work has been done to establish the Support for Community Living (SCL) Workers. This service is available in five communities: Grande Prairie, High Prairie, Peace River, Falher and Dicksonville. A survivors' social group, offering support and interaction with other survivors, has been set up in Grande Prairie.

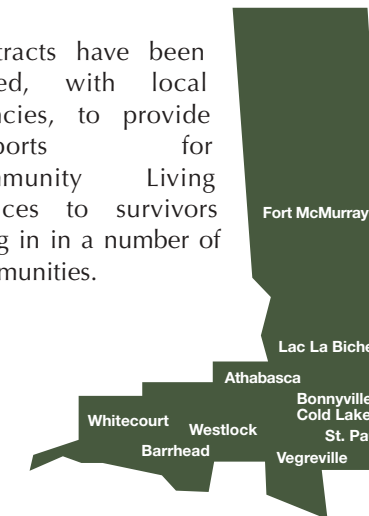
Volunteers are also being recruited for various projects. One program involves brain injury survivors who have had success in their recovery, reaching out to support other survivors who have not been as fortunate. The potential for such peer relationship building is exciting! In addition, the SCL workers have been integrating survivors into some recreational programming offered through existing organizations. The results of their ingenuity have been more than was ever expected. Please contact the ABIN Service

Coordinator(s) at (780) 532-0477 in Grande Prairie.

## Northeast

The Northeast region includes a diverse variety of communities. New partnerships continue to be developed to respond to the needs of survivors and their families/caregivers. Community network process meetings such as the ones held in Barrhead, Cold Lake, Fort McMurray, and Lac La Biche were very successful. They resulted in the promoting of networking opportunities, identifying local needs and ways to address these needs.

Contracts have been signed, with local agencies, to provide Supports for Community Living services to survivors living in a number of communities.



The communities include: Barrhead, Bonnyville, Cold Lake, Lac La Biche, St. Paul, Swan Hills, Westlock, Whitecourt and Vegreville. The evolution of the ABII in the region will continue to build upon the strong sense of community and the active involvement of stakeholders.

To become more informed and involved in the ABII, please contact the ABIN Service Coordinator(s) at (780) 674-9643 in Barrhead or (780) 645-3441 in St. Paul.

In the next edition of the Alberta Brain Injury Initiative Bulletin, you'll hear personal stories from survivors of brain injury and caregivers throughout the province, as well as from agencies providing Supports for Community Living.



Lac La Biche CNP

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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Community Support Systems  
Box 476, Edmonton, AB  
T5J 2K1

Tel: 780.415.2747 (message line)

Fax: 780.427.9145

E-mail: [braininjury@gov.ab.ca](mailto:braininjury@gov.ab.ca)

Web site: [www.cd.gov.ab.ca](http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca)

**Alberta**  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT