SCI-AB | August 2026 Peer Newsletter

SCI-AB August Updates:

Meet Our New Calgary Peer Coordinator | Kevin

Hi everyone! My name is Kevin Hebdida, and I'm excited to be joining Spinal Cord Injury Alberta as our new Peer Coordinator in Calgary.

I bring a background in community engagement, event management, accessibility, and the arts. Before joining SCIA, I spent many years performing as a musician, working in sound, and supporting accessible cultural spaces and communities. Outside of work, I'm also a musician and recently completed a Bachelor of Creative Arts with a focus on accessibility and inclusive design. As someone who has lived with a spinal cord injury for more than 30 years, I appreciate the value of peer support and the importance of creating inclusive spaces where everyone feels welcome.

I'm looking forward to connecting with people throughout Alberta, building relationships, and helping individuals access the resources, support, and peer connection they need. Outside of work, I enjoy music, technology, time with family and friends, and developing projects that promote accessibility and inclusion. I look forward to meeting many of you in the months ahead!

Registration Is Now Live for the Calgary BBQ on August 16th!

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

SCI-AB YYC SUMMER BBQ

FREE EVENT!
JOIN US FOR FOOD, FUN, FRIENDS AND MORE!

FISH CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK
CLEARVIEW GROVE
SUNDAY, AUGUST 16 | 11 AM - 2 PM

presented by Hollister

Join Us for the Annual YYC SCI-AB Summer BBQ!

Date: Sunday, August 16th, 2026

Location: Fish Creek Park Clearfield Aspen Site 14428 Bannister Rd SE Calgary, AB

Time: 11am-2pm

What to expect:
Check in Desk opens at 11
11:45am "Gather, Grill and Garnish, The Loaded Potato" - Pre-Ordered Pick-Up

Other activities include:
-Lawn games
-Creative table with craft/play takeaways
-Community recreation groups
-Wheelchair wash
"Give your ride the Hollister experience"
-Connection with other seniores-community members and SCI-AB staff

200pm event ends

Register here: https://secure.sci-ab.ca/calgary-bbq-2026

SCI-AB August 2026 Events:

Upcoming SCI-AB Events in August:

Edmonton:
Aug 12: Peer Dinner + Trivia @ Sherlock Holmes North
Aug 19: Coffee + Peers at the Glenrose
Aug 20: Tile Painting at SCI-AB Office
Aug 27: Relax + Peers at the Glenrose

Calgary:
Aug 16: YYC BBQ at Fish Creek Park

Lacombe:
Aug 23: Adaptive Waterski Try It Day

Virtual Events:
Aug 25: Virtual Ladies Chat

Do you have any ideas or suggestions for the next peer event? Or do you want to start up a peer event in your area? Send your recommendations or inquiries to Kendra at kendra.erhardt@sci-ab.ca

Be sure to check out our online events calendar or our social media channels to keep up to date on upcoming events!

SCI-AB Peer Community Summit in YEG | October 21st

Spinal Cord Injury Alberta

Life Reimagined
The SCI Alberta Community Summit
Wednesday October 21st
EDMONTON

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

The SCI Alberta Community Summit is coming to Edmonton!

Join us on **October 21**, 2026 at the Evario Events Centre for **Life Reimagined** – a full day of inspiration, connection, and community from **10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.**

This is more than a conference, it is a **gathering of people who understand what it means to rebuild, adapt, and move forward.** Whether you are living with a spinal cord injury, supporting a loved one, or working alongside this community as a caregiver, healthcare provider, or advocate, this day is for you.

Our Keynote Speaker **Brad Bartos, Founder and CEO of Disability Accessible by Design**, will be sharing his powerful vision for building a future where accessibility is not an afterthought. It is built in from day one.

Your ticket includes a full day of presentations, an inspiring speaker series, vendor showcase, networking opportunities, and lunch – all for just $60!

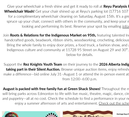
Early bird pricing will be in effect until September 30th, tickets are only $30 each! Bring a friend, family member or caregiver and experience the day together.

Registration Now Open!

Hollister

Start comfortable. Stay confident.

Voices Without Barriers | Accessible Music Festival | September 26, 2026



WNZ Society is preparing for Voices Without Barriers – Alberta's first fully accessible music festival and inclusive community event experience!

This event is being developed to celebrate accessibility, inclusion, disability culture, music, art, employment, and community connection in a way that has never been done before in Western Canada. Learn more here!

Get your tickets here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/voices-without-barriers-alberta-first-fully-accessible-music-festival-tickets-1674195202904

In the Community + Across the Province:

There is **new para swim program launching in Edmonton!** Mathew Mosaya is the coach of the new para swim program at the pool in Mill Woods. Peer Support will be accompanied of the downstairs YMCA in Rossdale and Thorncliffe and currently have 22 swimmers registered, but they would love to see that number grow! This is a great way to connect with other people living with a spinal cord injury, and it's also a great way to stay active and build confidence. If looking ahead to the summer, there will be a swim program at Kinsmen Park in Edmonton.

The **Paralympic Sports Association (PSA)** has lots of great programming across the province! Check out their Brand new Facebook page and follow for updates and events. They are also looking for volunteers to help with events and programming! They have an adaptive golf program and kayaking program in Edmonton that is free to participate in. For more information, see the contacts below:

The **Edmonton Adaptive Sports Association** will be holding summer ice throughout the **Bridge Hockey** off season. This is a fun, inclusive and equipment will be provided. Check out the Bridge Hockey Board Game Series – Monopoly Edition, Sorry and Scrabble! Bridge Hockey is looking for volunteers to help with these events!

Place to Glenrose Park on Thursday, August 27th the Hollister Foundation will be at Glenrose **Millennium Park in Glenrose Park on Thursday, August 27th** the Hollister Foundation will be at Glenrose **Area A and B, on Monday, August 24th from 5:15pm-10:30pm at the Powerade Arena. Please arrive 30-45min before** to get your wristbands and to check in. Bring your ID and your ticket. Wheelchair accessible seating is available. Please let us know if you need a wheelchair accessible seat when you arrive.

The Steadward Centre in Edmonton at the University of Alberta offers a wide range of programming for all levels of fitness, goals and physical capacities, and for all people regardless of age or ability. Check out the programs here: https://www.ualberta.ca/steadward-centre/programs-and-services/index.html

Wheelchair Sports, Alberta (WSA) has an **adaptive sports in Calgary and surrounding area!** Wheelchair Rugby, Sitting Volleyball and Sitting Hockey are all offered in Calgary. There is also now the option to try adaptive sports at the Calgary Sport Hub. Check out the WSA website for more information: https://www.wsa.ca/

The Alberta Cerebral Palsy Sports Association has programming across the province! They have several programs available for all ability levels. They are also looking for volunteers to help with events and programs! Check out the website for more information: https://www.acpsa.com/

Rock Mountain Alpinists has lots of awesome activities to be done! **Hiking to trailblazers, adaptive pickleball, kayak** and more! Check out the website for more information: https://www.rockmountainalpinists.com/ Get Check out their website for more info! https://rockmountainalpinists.com/

There will be an **adaptive snowboard try day near Lake Louise** on Saturday, December 5th. Keep an eye on Kerrie Kerrigan, Peer Support for more info!

The **Calgary Rollers Wheelchair Basketball** team is looking for a few more players! Check out the website for more info! https://www.calgarywheelchairbasketball.com/ Wheelchair Basketball is a fast-paced, high-energy game that combines strategy, teamwork and competition. Players use specialized sports wheelchairs designed for maneuverability and quick turns. Wheelchair Basketball is a great way to stay active, build confidence and connect with other people who share similar experiences.

Learn about Sledge Hockey! **Try wheelchair rugby!** on the Hollister Foundation **Wednesday, August 26, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Don Vertkas North East Sportplex in Calgary.** Open to all ages and abilities, with no experience required and equipment provided! Wheelchair rugby is a game for everyone, regardless of ability. RSVP to Noah P at sciabpeersupport@gmail.com

Ultimate Para Sports will be starting up an adaptive scuba program out of Cochrane at the SCA Center. The first scuba nights will be on September 9th and September 23rd from 6:30-8:30pm. Contact Ultimate Para Sports for more information.

Ultimate Para Sports also offers programs for sledge hockey, adaptive tennis, and guided meditation classes. Check out their website for more information: https://www.ultimateparasports.com/ Or contact Ultimate Para Sports at info@ultimateparasports.com

Have you attended a break dinner and get it ready to eat? **Have Parsons Recovery Centre's Wheelchair Wash!** Get your coat stinkin' up at Beer's parking lot 2215 Parsons Crescent SE for a complimentary wheelchair cleaning on Saturday, August 15th. It's a great opportunity to connect with other people with others in the community, enjoy a complimentary wheelchair cleaning and something to feed. Bonus: you can also get a free tattoo!

Join **Roots & Branches for an Indigenous Adaptive Yoga Class!** Roots & Branches is a joined Indigenous-led, transformative yoga, breathwork, ribbon dance, storytelling, crocheting, delicious food, and community connection. This class is for all people living with a spinal cord injury, including those who are Indigenous, Indigenous allies, or curious about Indigenous culture and art. Sit for the poster for more info! Time for details.

Support the **Rez Knights Youth Team** at their games! The **2026 Alberta Indigenous Games Is taking part in their Silent Auction.** Browse unique auction items, enjoy refreshments, and help support the youth team. Date: Friday, August 14th Time: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM Location: Kainai High School, Gym Lethbridge, AB

August is packed with free family fun at Green Stack Shows! Throughout the month, local artists performing poets, dancers, musicians, and more will be on the stage. Dance, show, entertainment and puppetry - all at no cost. Check the schedule to find a performance in your neighbourhood and support local talent. Stay updated on all events and performances at: https://www.greenstack.com/

University of Alberta Research Opportunity | Smartwear

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Volunteers Needed for the "Smartwear Revolution" Research Study

"Co-designing a Smartwear Revolution" is a large, six-year research project led by researchers at the University of Alberta and funded by the Government of Canada's New Frontiers in Research Fund. The project aims to develop and test smart clothing and textiles (clothing that will look like regular clothing, but will have sensors in it) that can easily adjust to support posture, balance, arm movements, and walking. This project focuses on people living with a spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, movement, posture and balance injuries, and improve quality of life for people with neuromuscular and skeletal weakness, older adults (+65), and health care providers (e.g. physiotherapists).

You may qualify if you are:
- Experienced with neuro-musculoskeletal weakness, including those with Spinal Cord Injury
- An older adult (+65)
- A Professional Healthcare Provider (e.g., Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse)

Participation Involves:
- One on-site interviews with qualified research team members (1.5 hours)
- Wear the smart clothing in your home environments (1 hour)
- Provide follow-up interviews (1.5 hours)

Location: University Commons, University of Alberta, Edmonton AB, T6G 2E1 Room To be determined

Goal: To get to and enhance accessible community spaces (e.g., meeting rooms within Edmonton's Public Libraries)
Hybrid (online and in-person and online options available via Zoom)

Compensation: $50 Canadian dollars per hour for your time and research. (Focus group: 3 interviews expected time initial interview and one follow-up at 1.5 hours each session.

Contact: Research Project Coordinator, Jonathan Sawchuk: sawchuk@ualberta.ca

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Smartwear aims to fill an important gap in research and technology for people living with a spinal cord injury or complex needs. This project is being co-designed with people with lived experience and community partners with the active participation of persons with lived experience. Our goal is to ensure that the experiences and perspectives of people with Smartwear aims will drive its needs based design process. Our team is working with people who have lived experience with the development of Smartwear to support their ongoing participation in the research process.

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Free FUTURES Program for Disabled & Neurodivergent Youth

Access Studio by Accelerate is now accepting registrations for six free FUTURES cohorts launching this fall. Funded by the Government of Canada, the program is designed for disabled and neurodivergent young adults aged 18–30 across Canada.

Participants can self-identify—no formal diagnosis is required.

FUTURES offers virtual, hybrid, and in-person options, with cohorts beginning in August, September, and October. Programs are led by Disabled and neurodivergent facilitators and focus on building leadership, community, and personal development. Participants from across Canada can join.

Accessibility is built into every cohort, with options to participate by chat, scheduled breaks, ASL interpretation for select sessions, and personalized access supports.

The first cohorts begin August 11, with registration closing August 4. Additional programs include a 12 week Core cohort and the FUTURES Elite Club (25). running from September 16 through February 27.

For more information and to register, visit the Access Studio by Accelerate website or contact studio@accessnow.ca

In the Community + Across the Province:

Spinal Cord Injury Alberta

50/50 Raffle

Grab your 50/50 tickets today for your chance to win big while supporting Albertans living with spinal cord injuries!

- 3 tickets for $10
- 25 tickets for $50
- 10 tickets for $25
- 50 tickets for $100

The more tickets you grab, the better you're feeling! Tickets are limited!

Draw Date: October 21st

Our 50/50 Raffle is NOW OPEN!

Every Ticket Supports Albertans Living with Spinal Cord Injuries

Get your tickets today!

Call for Volunteers October 10th and 11th in Grande Prairie

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS
Grande Prairie

Sign Up

Join us at our upcoming Grande Prairie Casino fundraiser and help support programs and services for people living with spinal cord injuries. It's a fun and rewarding way to give back, meet great people, and make a real impact.

Sign up today and be part of the action!
https://www.sciab.ca/volunteer-at-the-great-northern-casino

Great Northern Casino
October 10th and 11th 2026

Skip the Depot Fundraiser | Support SCI-AB

Got bottles lying around?

Skip the trip to the depot and donate them to SCI Alberta using SkipTheDepot! **Just download the app, schedule a pickup, and they'll come right to your door.** Your bottles help support programs and services for people living with spinal cord injuries across Alberta, easy and convenient.

https://app.skipthedepot.com/template/?tab=custom#

1. Download the App
2. Sign up/ Review Pre-Sorted Bottles
3. Schedule Pickup
4. Enter Code: SCIAB

"Hope to see you at peer events soon!" - Kendra + Kevin