SCI-AB | October 2026 Peer Newsletter

A Big Thank You to Microsoft & Jeremy Crossman!

SCI-AB would like to extend a huge thank you to Jeremy Crossman and Microsoft for welcoming us into their downtown Edmonton office for an incredible day of learning, collaboration, and innovation. The event brought together people with disabilities, technology experts, and community partners to explore how AI and technology can help remove everyday barriers and create more accessible solutions.

From learning how to use AI in our daily lives to brainstorming bigger ideas for future innovation, it was inspiring to see what can happen when lived experience and technology come together. We are incredibly grateful to Jeremy and the Microsoft team for opening their doors, listening to our community, and creating space for people with disabilities to help shape the technology of tomorrow. We can't wait to see where this collaboration takes us next!

Happy October - Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM)

October is here, bringing cooler days, changing leaves, and lots to celebrate! **October is Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM),** a time to recognize the valuable contributions of people with disabilities in the workplace, celebrate inclusive employment, and continue raising awareness of the barriers that can impact employment opportunities.

It's also the month of **Thanksgiving**, a chance to appreciate our communities and the people who support us, and of course **Halloween**—bringing plenty of opportunities for costumes, creativity, treats, and a little spooky fun! In this issue, we're sharing upcoming events, resources, opportunities, and ways to make the most of the fall season.

Accessibility Fund Applications Are Now Open! - Apply Today! (Deadline is Nov 2)

Accessibility funding is now open through the Alberta Paraplegic Foundation.

Learn more here: https://paraplegicfoundation.org/accessibility-funding-faqs/

The Foundation provides financial assistance to Albertans living with spinal cord injuries to help improve accessibility, independence and quality of life.

If you or someone you know could benefit, now is the time to apply. Applications are open until November 2 at 4pm

Apply here: https://secure.sci-ab.ca/accessibility-fund

Save the Dates for the Year End Holiday Parties! December 2026

We will be celebrating the holidays - 60s style!
We're throwing it ALL the way back to the '60s to celebrate our 65th Anniversary — and baby, it's gonna be a party!

EDMONTON
December 10
6pm-10pm

GRANDE PRAIRIE
December 4
4pm-8pm

CALGARY
December 6
11am-2pm

Stay tuned, cool cats! More groovy details are coming your way soon.

SCI-AB October 2026 Events:

Upcoming SCI-AB Events in October:

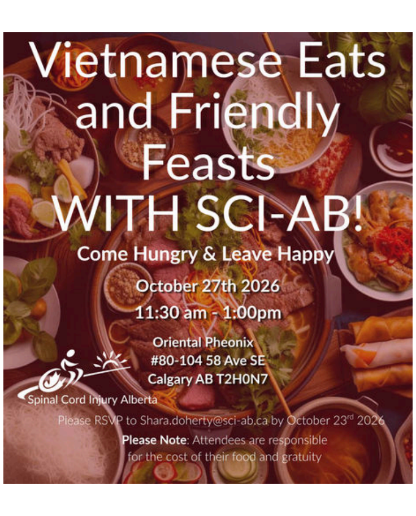
Edmonton:
Oct 14: Peer Dinner (Moxies South Edmonton Common)
Oct 20: Coffee and Peers at the Glenrose
Oct 21: SCI Community Summit
Oct 29: Pizza and Peers at the Glenrose
Oct 29: Ghost Tour of Old Strathcona

Grande Prairie
Oct 10 & 11: Seeking Volunteers for Casino Fundraiser

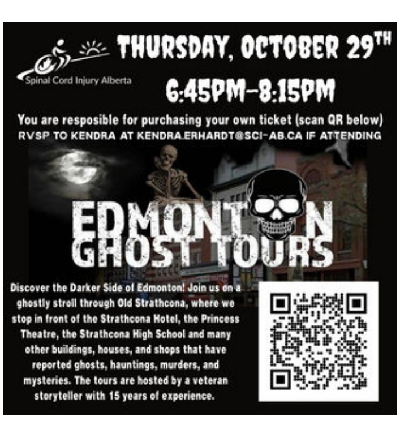
Calgary:
Oct 27: YYC Lunch (Oreintal Phoenix)

Virtual Events:
Oct 27: Virtual Ladies Chat

Office Closures:
Oct 12: Thanksgiving


Spinal Cord Injury Alberta

Vietnamese Eats and Friendly Feasts WITH SCI-AB!
Come Hungry & Leave Happy
October 27th 2026
11:30 am - 1:00pm
Oriental Pheonix
#80-104 58 Ave SE
Calgary AB T2H0N7
Please RSVP to Shara.doherty@sci-ab.ca by October 23rd 2026
Please Note: Attendees are responsible for the cost of their food and gratuity


Spinal Cord Injury Alberta
EDMONTON GHOST TOURS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29TH
6:45PM-8:15PM
You are responsible for purchasing your own ticket (scan QR below)
RSVP TO KENDRA AT KENDRA.ERHARDT@SCI-AB.CA IF ATTENDING
Discover the Darker Side of Edmonton! Join us on a ghostly stroll through Old Strathcona, where we stop in front of the Strathcona Hotel, the Princess Theatre, the Strathcona High School and many other buildings, houses, and shops that have reported ghosts, hauntings, murders, and mysteries. The tours are hosted by a veteran storyteller with 15 years of experience.

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

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.

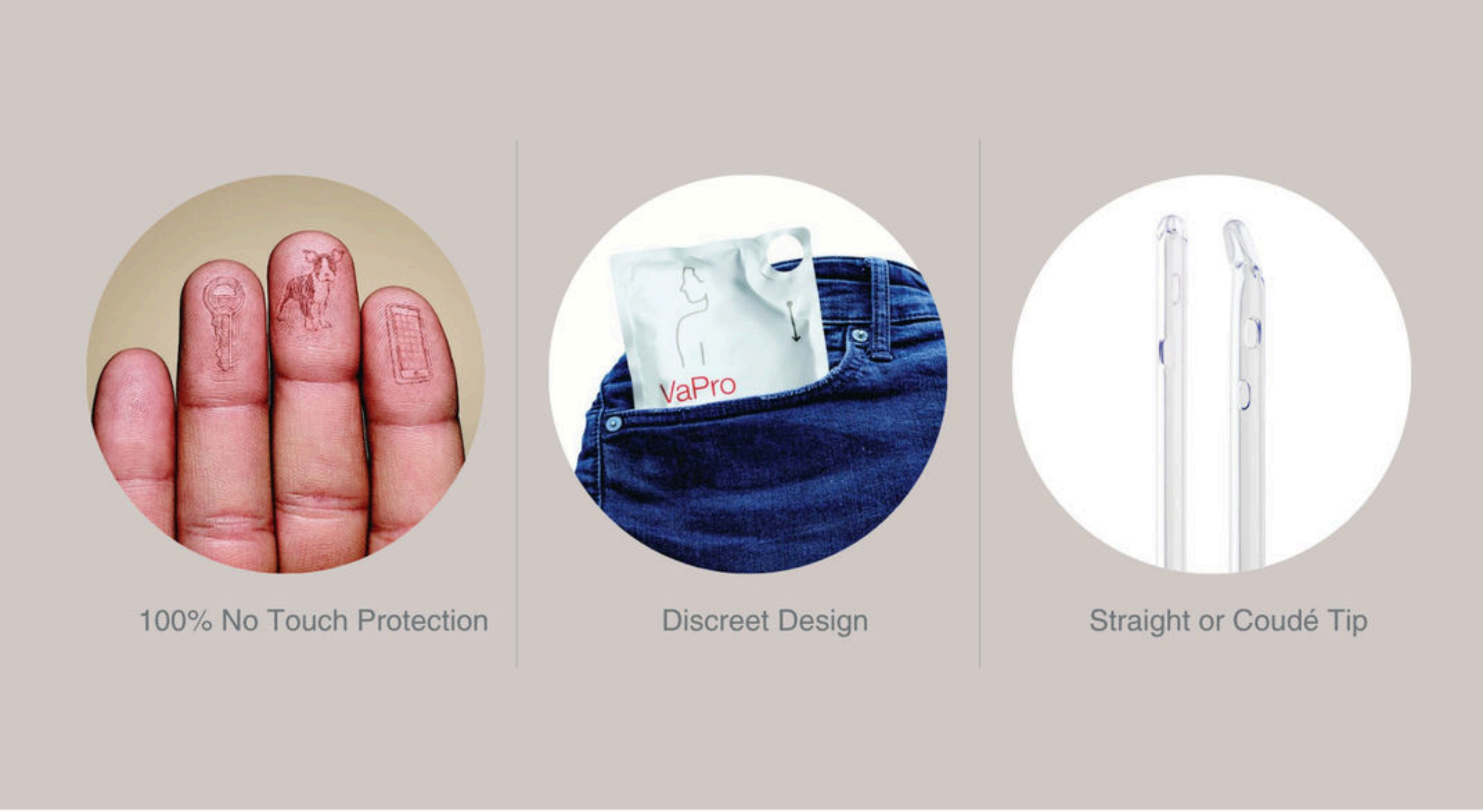
This is more than a conference. It is a gathering of people who understand what it means to rebuild, adapt, and move forward. Whether you are living with a spinal cord injury, supporting a loved one, or working alongside this community as a caregiver, healthcare provider, or advocate, this day is for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

Our Keynote Speaker Brad Bartko, 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!

Last chance for tickets!

Hollister VaPro Catheters



100% No Touch Protection

Discreet Design

Straight or Coudé Tip

VaPro Pocket™- no touch protection and discretion. Available with a straight or coudé tip.

HydraBalance™ Lubricating Technology

VaPro Pocket™ No Touch Intermittent Catheters provide 100% No Touch Protection with a protective tip and sleeve. The pocket-size package design is discreet - a quality users prefer.[1]

Consider VaPro Pocket™ catheters right from the start.

Discreet packaging

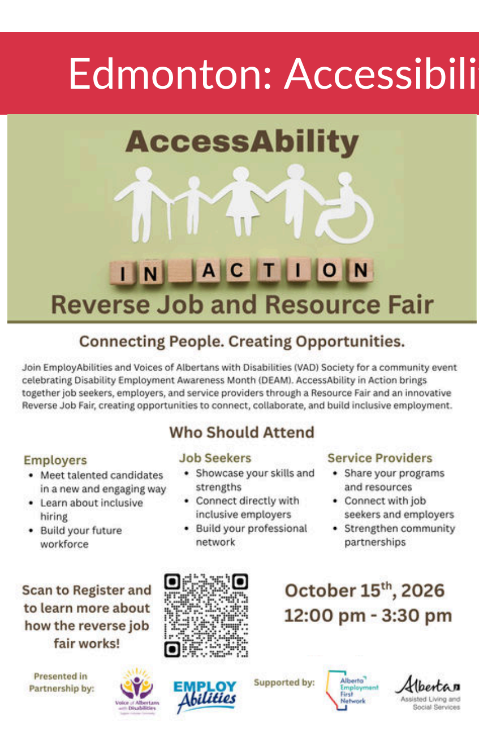
Learn more by visiting Hollister.ca or calling 1-800-263-7400.

VaPro Pocket™
No Touch Intermittent Catheter

Reference 1. Hollister data on file. Ref. 02439, November 2020

Hollister — Making a Difference in the Journey of Life

Edmonton: Accessibility in Action: Reverse Job and Resource Fair


AccessAbility
IN ACTION
Reverse Job and Resource Fair
Presented in Partnership by:
EMPLOY Abilities
Supported by:
Alberta Employment First Network
Alberta Assisted Living and Social Services

Connecting People. Creating Opportunities.

Join EmployAbilities and Voices of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD) Society for a community event celebrating Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM). AccessAbility in Action brings together job seekers, employers, and service providers through a Resource Fair and an innovative Reverse Job Fair, creating opportunities to connect, collaborate, and build inclusive employment.

Who Should Attend

Employers	Job Seekers	Service Providers
Meet talented candidates in a new and engaging way Learn about inclusive hiring Build your future workforce	Showcase your skills and strengths Connect directly with inclusive employers Build your professional network	Share your programs and resources Connect with job seekers and employers Strengthen community partnerships

Scan to Register and to learn more about how the reverse job fair works!

October 15th, 2026
12:00 pm - 3:30 pm

As part of Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM), **Accessibility in Action: Reverse Job & Resource Fair** is taking place on **October 15, 2026, from 12:00–3:30 p.m. at West Edmonton Mall in Edmonton.** This unique event takes a fresh approach to employment networking by putting job seekers at the centre of the experience.

Instead of employers setting up booths and job seekers walking from table to table, participants will have the opportunity to showcase their skills, experience, strengths, and career goals directly to employers. Employers will rotate through the event, creating a more personal and accessible way to connect with potential candidates and learn about the talent available in the community.

The event will include industry-focused networking sessions covering Retail & Customer Service, Trades & Technical Careers, and Professional & Administrative Careers. A Community Resource Fair will also connect attendees with employment services, training and education opportunities, community organizations, and other supports.

Whether you are looking for employment, an employer interested in connecting with talented candidates, or an organization working to create more inclusive workplaces, Accessibility in Action is an opportunity to build connections, discover resources, and help create a more accessible employment landscape. SCI-AB will be there with a table, come by and say hi!

In the Community + Across the Province:

There is a **new para swim program** launching in Edmonton! Mathew Mossey is the coach of the new para swim program at the Keyano Swim Club. They will be swimming out of the downtown YMCA on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and currently have 22 swimmers registered, but they would love to see that number grow! This is a great way to take your swimming to the next level, get a full body work out, meet new friends, and enjoy the therapeutic effects of feeling weightless in the water. For more information or to sign up please contact: paraswim@eksc.com

The **Paralympic Sports Association (PSA)** has lots of great programming across the province! Check out their list of programming in Edmonton, Medicine Hat and Hinton! They are also always looking for volunteers to help with events and programing! They offer bowling, sledge hockey, floor hockey, adapted twakwondo and more!

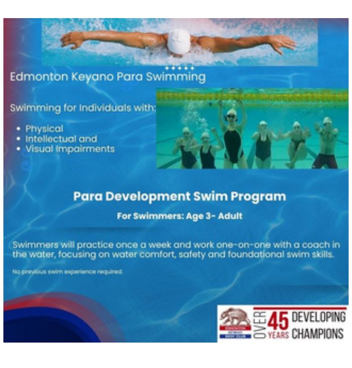
The **Steadward Centre in Edmonton** at the University of Alberta offers a wide range of programming for all levels of fitness goals! Mark your calendars, as their Fall 2026 Program registration is open! They have their **Adult Fitness and Recreation program** which allows individuals to customize a plan that works best for them and their lifestyle, whether it's **custom program design, 1:1 training sessions, group fitness, or access to the gym space to use the adaptive equipment,** they will find a plan that works best for you! Finally, they offer **FES (Functional Electric Stimulation)** programs designed for individuals with paralyzed muscles. The FES program also includes general access to the gym. Registration for fall sessions is now open! Learn more here: https://www.ualberta.ca/en/steadward-centre/programs-and-registration/index.html

Wheelchair Sports Alberta (WSA) has an adaptive sports try it opportunity every Thursday at the main gym at the Glenrose from 2-3pm, there is a rotating try it schedule. There is also now the option to try adaptive sports at the Terwilleger Recreation Complex on Thursdays from 4:15-5:15pm every week!

The **Alberta Cerebral Palsy Sports Association** has programming across the province! They have several programs available for all ability levels! There is para soccer, powerchair soccer and boccia. For more information check out: https://www.acpsa.ca/

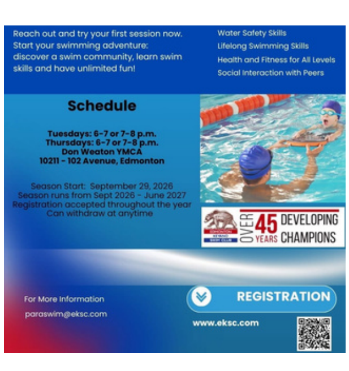
Rocky Mountain Adaptive has lots of awesome activities to do from biking, to trailriders, adaptive paddleboards, kayaks and more! Check out their website for more info! https://rockymountainadaptive.com/

Ultimate Para Sports offers **para-cycling programs** at various levels, and guided meditation classes as well. Check out their full list of programming here: https://www.ultimateparasports.com/our-programs

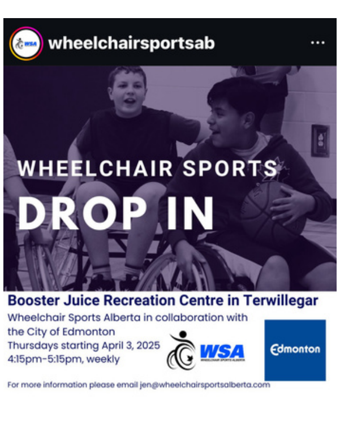

Edmonton Keyano Para Swimming
OVER 45 YEARS DEVELOPING CHAMPIONS

Swimming for Individuals with:
- Physical
- Intellectual and
- Visual Impairments

Para Development Swim Program
For Swimmers: Age 3- Adult
Swimmers will practice once a week and work one-on-one with a coach in the water, focusing on water comfort, safety and foundational swim skills.


REGISTRATION
OVER 45 YEARS DEVELOPING CHAMPIONS

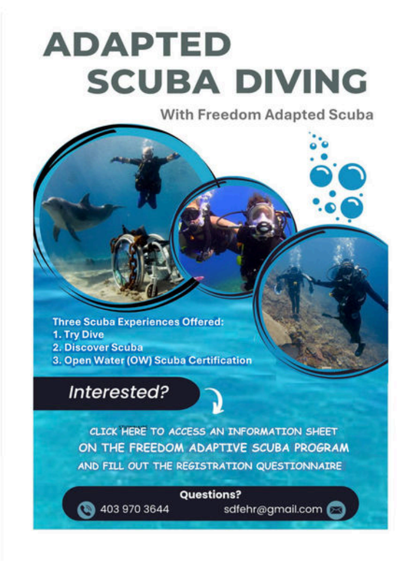
Reach out and try your first session now. Start your swimming adventure: discover a swim community, learn swim skills and have unlimited fun!
Water Safety Skills
Lifelong Swimming Skills
Health and Fitness for All Levels
Social Interaction with Peers
Schedule
Tuesdays: 6-7 or 7-8 p.m.
Thursdays: 6-7 or 7-8 p.m.
Don Weaton YMCA
10211 - 102 Avenue, Edmonton
Season Start: September 29, 2026
Season runs from Sept 2026 - June 2027
Registration accepted throughout the year
Can withdraw at anytime
For More Information
paraswim@eksc.com
www.eksc.com


wheelchairsportsab
WHEELCHAIR SPORTS
DROP IN
WSA
Edmonton

Booster Juice Recreation Centre in Terwillegar
Wheelchair Sports Alberta in collaboration with the City of Edmonton
Thursdays starting April 3, 2025
4:15pm-5:15pm, weekly
For more information please email jen@wheelchairsportsalberta.com

The **Calgary Rollers Wheelchair Basketball Society** offers opportunities to give wheelchair basketball a try. Wheelchair Basketball is a fully integrated sport - meaning anyone can play! They provide demos to schools , churches and sports groups to continue to expose the sport and give everyone the opportunites. For more info contact: (403) 816-7000 or calgaryrollers@gmail.com

The **Calgary Powerchair Hockey League (CPHL)** is an inclusive adaptive sport program offering individuals with physical disabilities the opportunity to participate in fast-paced, team-based powerchair hockey. Open to players ages 11+ and volunteers, the league runs Saturdays from October to April at the VIVO Centre in Calgary, with games at 12:45 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. Players can use a freehand stick or a stick attached to their powerchair, and the game follows rules similar to floor hockey. With 35 current players, including several individuals with spinal cord injuries, CPHL is looking to welcome new players and volunteers. Registration is $50 for players, and participation provides opportunities for physical activity, teamwork, and social connection. To learn more, visit powerhockey.ca or share the program with anyone who may be interested in adaptive sport.


ADAPTED SCUBA DIVING
With Freedom Adapted Scuba
Interested?

Three Scuba Experiences Offered:
1. Try Dive
2. Discover Scuba
3. Open Water (OW) Scuba Certification

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS AN INFORMATION SHEET ON THE FREEDOM ADAPTIVE SCUBA PROGRAM AND FILL OUT THE REGISTRATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Questions?
403 970 3644
sdfehr@gmail.com

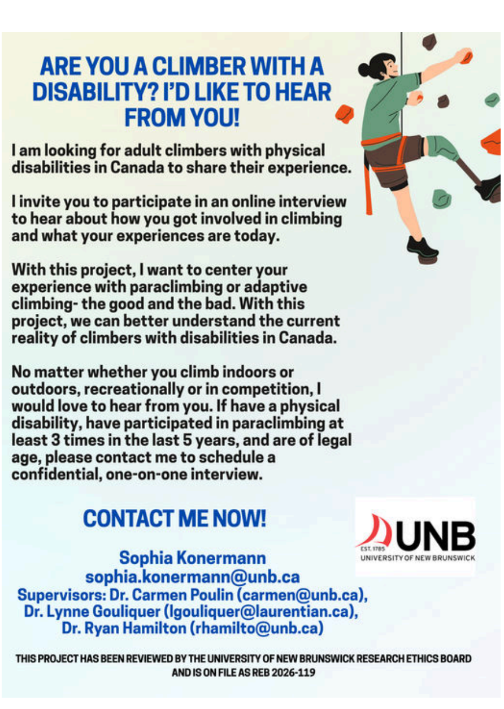
Would you be interested in semi-private group workout sessions tailored to those with SCI? We are gauging interest in starting a newly weekly accessible workout class in Edmonton! If interested, email Kendra at kendra.erhardt@sci-ab.ca for details!

There is a new **sledge hockey team in town in Lloydminster!** The **Lloydminster Lynx** will be kicking off their inaugural season with practices on Friday evenings from 6:45pm-8:15pm at the Cenovus hub of the Co-op Arena, all equipment is provided and no experience is necessary! All ages and abilities are welcome to play, and it is a great sport for friends and family to play together. Registration for the season is $100 and runs from September -April. For moe information please contact lloydparahockey@gmail.com

You can also find **different accessible events in your community** using the AccessEvents Website: https://accessevents.org/

Freedom Adaptive Scuba hosts an adaptive scuba program out of Cochrane at the SLS Center. The try scuba nights will be free on Tuesday evenings, and then it is $550 if you want to complete your open water certification! Or fill out the google form to get more information: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScDQIu7N7p669CNhqdcDpVbL4C7nMsAFQOZi5D5jpRGL4dKfA/viewform

Adaptive Climbing Study Recruitment Outreach


UNB UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

ARE YOU A CLIMBER WITH A DISABILITY? I'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

I am looking for adult climbers with physical disabilities in Canada to share their experience.

I invite you to participate in an online interview to hear about how you got involved in climbing and what your experiences are today.

With this project, I want to center your experience with paraclimbing or adaptive climbing- the good and the bad. With this project, we can better understand the current reality of climbers with disabilities in Canada.

No matter whether you climb indoors or outdoors, recreationally or in competition, I would love to hear from you. If have a physical disability, have participated in paraclimbing at least 3 times in the last 5 years, and are of legal age, please contact me to schedule a confidential, one-on-one interview.

CONTACT ME NOW!
Sophia Konermann
sophia.konermann@unb.ca
Supervisors: Dr. Carmen Poulin (carmen@unb.ca), Dr. Lynne Gouliquer (lgouliquer@laurentian.ca), Dr. Ryan Hamilton (rhamilto@unb.ca)

THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN REVIEWED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD AND IS ON FILE AS REB 2026-119

Climbers with Disabilities in Canada Recruitment

Are you a climber with a disability? I'd like to hear from you!
I am looking for adult climbers with physical disabilities in Canada to share their experience.

I invite you to participate in an online interview to hear about how you got involved in climbing and what your experiences are today.
With this project, I want to center your experience with paraclimbing or adaptive climbing - the good and the bad. With this project, we can better understand the current reality of climbers with disabilities in Canada.
No matter whether you climb indoors or outdoors, recreationally or in competition, I would love to hear from you. If have a physical disability, have participated in paraclimbing at least 3 times in the last 5 years, and are of legal age, please contact me to schedule a confidential, one-on-one interview.

Sophia Konermann
Email: sophia.konermann@unb.ca

This project has been reviewed be the University of New Brunswick Research Ethics Board and is on file as REB 2026-119

Canada's Accessible Housing Crisis: A Call for Action

The **Federal Housing Advocate has called for urgent federal action to address Canada's lack of accessible housing,** following extensive consultations with people with disabilities and disability organizations. The Advocate's June 2026 submission to the National Housing Council's review panel highlights a critical shortage of housing that is accessible, affordable and suitable for independent living. The report emphasizes that inaccessible housing can have serious consequences, including isolation, chronic pain, poor health, homelessness, institutionalization and family separation.

The experiences shared with the Advocate demonstrate the scale of the problem. Among 73 individual submissions, most respondents lived in homes that did not meet their accessibility needs. **60% reported negative impacts on their physical health and 58% reported impacts on their mental health.** Fifteen percent were experiencing homelessness, while another 12% were experiencing hidden homelessness. Nearly half had experienced eviction or felt forced to move because of their disability-related needs.

The report identifies **several systemic barriers, including inadequate accessibility standards, unaffordable accessible housing, discrimination, limited funding for home modifications, and a lack of supports and services needed to live independently.** People also reported being forced to choose between unsafe or inaccessible housing and moving away from their families, communities and support networks.

What is being recommended?

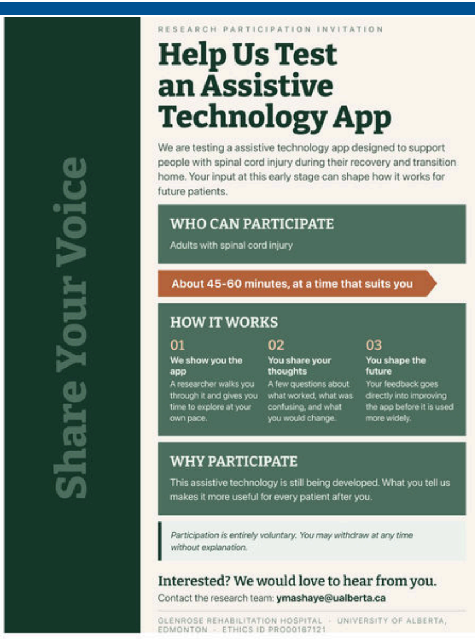
The Federal Housing Advocate is calling on the federal government to make accessibility a fundamental requirement of housing policy. Key recommendations include making **federal housing funding conditional on meeting rights-based accessibility standards,** incorporating Accessibility Standards Canada's **CAN-ASC-2.8:2025 Accessible-Ready Housing** standard into the **2030 National Building Code**, and establishing a voting seat for Accessibility Standards Canada on the Canadian Board for Harmonized Construction Codes.

The Advocate also stresses the importance of "**nothing about us without us**"—meaning people with disabilities must not only be consulted but have a meaningful role in decisions about housing policy and standards. The report calls for better data collection on people with disabilities experiencing homelessness or living in institutions so that governments can better understand and address the problem.

The report makes it clear that accessible housing is not simply a matter of convenience—it is connected to **human rights, independence, safety and dignity.** While the federal government has tools available to make progress, the Advocate emphasizes that meaningful change will require cooperation across federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments.

Read the full report: Review Panel Hearing on the Lack of Accessible Housing in Canada: Written representations of the Federal Housing Advocate, submitted June 5, 2026.

Help Test a New Assisstive Technology App


Share Your Voice

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION INVITATION
Help Us Test an Assistive Technology App
We are testing a assistive technology app designed to support people with spinal cord injury during their recovery and transition home. Your input at this early stage can shape how it works for future patients.
WHO CAN PARTICIPATE
Adults with spinal cord injury
About 45-60 minutes, at a time that suits you
HOW IT WORKS
01 We show you the app — A researcher walks you through it and gives you time to explore at your own pace.
02 You share your thoughts — A few questions about what worked, what was confusing, and what you would change.
03 You shape the future — Your feedback goes directly into improving the app before it is used more widely.
WHY PARTICIPATE
This assistive technology is still being developed. What you tell us makes it more useful for every patient after you.
Participation is entirely voluntary. You may withdraw at any time without explanation.
Interested? We would love to hear from you.
Contact the research team: ymashaye@ualberta.ca
GLENROSE REHABILITATION HOSPITAL · UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, EDMONTON · ETHICS ID PRO00167121

Adults with spinal cord injury are invited to participate in a research study testing an assistive technology app designed to support recovery and community involvement.

Participants will spend approximately 45–60 minutes exploring the app with a researcher and sharing feedback about what works, what could be improved, and what they would change. Your input will help shape the development of the app and make it more useful for those living with spinal cord injuries.

Participation is entirely voluntary, and participants may withdraw at any time.

Interested? Contact the research team at ymashaye@ualberta.ca

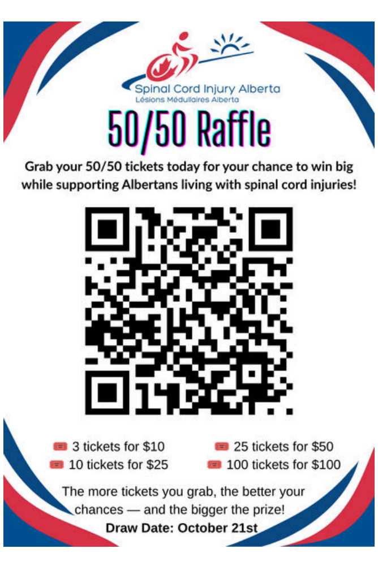
AISH to ADAP Transistion Stories - Alberta Ability Network

As of July 1, 2026, Alberta's disability income assistance system has changed with the introduction of the Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP) and new regulations for AISH (Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped). The changes may affect how individuals qualify for benefits, how much they receive, and how employment income is treated. If you receive AISH or ADAP, it is important to understand how the changes may apply to you and your household. Alberta provides information about eligibility, benefits, and the transition process, as well as an AISH and ADAP Benefit Estimator to help individuals understand potential benefit amounts.

The **Alberta Ability Network is also collecting anonymous experiences from Albertans going through the transition.** Sharing your experience can help inform advocacy efforts and provide policymakers with a better understanding of how the changes are affecting people in the community.

Learn more:
Alberta Ability Network – AISH/ADAP Information & Experience Survey
Government of Alberta – ADAP
AISH and ADAP Benefit Estimator
Government of Alberta – Disability Income Assistance

Spinal Cord Injury Alberta 50/50 Raffle Now Open!


Spinal Cord Injury Alberta
Lésions Médullaires 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	100 tickets for $100

The more tickets you grab, the better your chances — and the bigger the prize!
Draw Date: October 21st

Get your tickets today!

Our 50/50 Raffle is NOW OPEN!
Spinal Cord Injury Alberta
Every Ticket Supports Albertans Living with Spinal Cord Injuries

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

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.signupgenius.com/go/10C0545ADAC2BAAFEC07-64092665-sciab#/

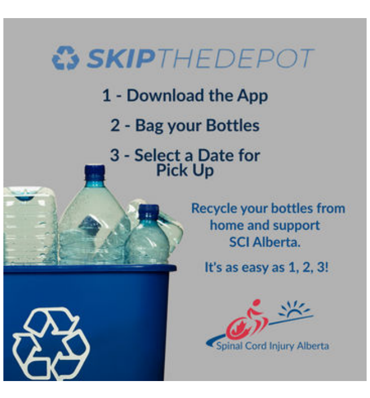
Great Northern Casino
October 10th and 11th 2026

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/register?tab=customer


SKIPTHEDEPOT
1 - Download the App
2 - Bag your Bottles
3 - Select a Date for Pick Up
Recycle your bottles from home and support SCI Alberta.
It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!
Spinal Cord Injury Alberta

"Save the dates for the year end holiday parties!"
- Kendra + Kevin