

**BUILDING BETTER BRIDGES**  
**Final Report on Programs and Services in Support of Persons with**  
**Developmental Disabilities**

**Questionnaire**

This form has been provided to obtain comments on the recommendations of the report BUILDING BETTER BRIDGES Final Report on Programs and Services in Support of Persons with Developmental Disabilities. All individual information submitted will be kept confidential and only summary information will be released. Summaries of the feedback will be used to assist Alberta Health and Wellness and the Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) Boards determine future planning priorities for the Persons with Developmental Disabilities program.

The form consists of three parts. Part I consists of information of the individual or individuals completing the report. Part II contains general questions to obtain your reaction to the report. Part III contains specific questions regarding the recommendations. Feedback is not being solicited for the recommendations that relate to issues one and two. These issues are currently being addressed by Alberta Health and Wellness.

Please forward your completed response to:

Alberta Health and Wellness  
PO Box 1360  
10025 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5J 2N3

Your feedback is requested no later than **April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2000**.  
Thank you for taking the time to complete the form.

## PART 1

### Comments on Recommendations of Building Better Bridges Final Report on Programs and Services in Support of Persons with Developmental Disabilities

To help us organize the data, we would like to know some information about you.

NAME: (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

Check the box that best describes your affiliation. Check **one** box only.

- PDD Service Recipient
- Parent/Guardian of PDD Recipient
- PDD Board Staff
- PDD Board Management
- PDD Board Member
- Funded Service Provider Staff
- Funded Service Provider Management
- Funded Service Provider Board Member
- Provincial/Community Association
- Professional Association
- Government Department
- Other

Please check your Regional location

- South
- Calgary
- Central
- Edmonton
- North East
- North West

Date:

## PART 2 - General Questions

1. Do you support the general direction that is proposed in the report?
2. Which of the recommendations in the report do you feel is the highest priority? Why?
3. Do you feel the report properly reflects the challenges facing the PDD Program? Why?
4. Are there any recommendations in the report that you do not support? Why?

## PART 3 - Specific Recommendations

Please note that Issues 1 and 2 in the report have been addressed by Alberta Health and Wellness as part of the 2000/2001 budget process.

### ***Issue 3: Wages and Workforce Retention***

#### ***Recommendation:***

*That the Ministry of Health and Wellness undertake the necessary steps to narrow the gap that exists in the PDD area between agency/service-provider staff wages and government-employee staff wages.*

*(It is acknowledged that the handling of this issue has the potential to impact wage rates for similar caregivers in areas other than PDD. Still, this wage gap must be narrowed.)*

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Do you agree with the recommendation?

Yes       No

How important is this recommendation?

Very Important     Important     Some importance     Not at all important

How urgent is this recommendation?

Very urgent (address in the next fiscal year)       Urgent (address in the next 2-3 years)

Some urgency (address in the next 5 years)       Not at all urgent

Comments?

#### **Issue 4: PDD Foundation and Ongoing Capital, Research, and Project Needs**

##### **Recommendations:**

Re: PDD Foundation

- *That the PDD Foundation be wound down in an appropriate and timely manner;*
  - *That the central purpose of the PDD Foundation (being the provision of grants to assist PDD community initiatives) be assumed and continued as a separate function of the PDD Provincial Board;*
  - *That monies and other assets held by the PDD Foundation be transferred to the PDD Provincial Board and be dedicated for community grant purposes;*
  - *That relative to its community grants function, the PDD Provincial Board not be allowed to solicit donations or engage in fundraising initiatives.*
- 

Do you agree with the recommendation?

Yes       No

How important is this recommendation?

Very Important     Important     Some importance     Not at all important

How urgent is this recommendation?

Very urgent (address in the next fiscal year)       Urgent (address in the next 2-3 years)

Some urgency (address in the next 5 years)       Not at all urgent

Comments?

## **Issue 4: PDD Foundation and Ongoing Capital, Research, and Project Needs**

### **Recommendations:**

Re: *Ongoing Capital, Research, and Project Needs*

- *That the Ministry provide the PDD Provincial Board with an ongoing annual allocation of \$1 million to assist PDD community agencies/service providers with their capital (building, renovating, vehicle, and equipment), research, and project needs; and,*
  - *That a funding mechanism be established by the PDD Provincial Board to facilitate the disbursement of these funds; and,*
  - *That the PDD Provincial Board as part of its business planning process, submit annually, a detailed capital plan for PDD.*
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Do you agree with the recommendation?

Yes       No

How important is this recommendation?

Very Important     Important     Some importance     Not at all important

How urgent is this recommendation?

Very urgent (address in the next fiscal year)       Urgent (address in the next 2-3 years)

Some urgency (address in the next 5 years)       Not at all urgent

Comments?

## **Issue 5: Support for Acquired Brain Injury Individuals**

### **Recommendations:**

*That the Ministry of Health and Wellness, in partnership with regional service providers and representatives of the brain injury community proceed immediately to develop a response and a concrete action plan regarding the needs of those with acquired brain injury: and,*

*That this response and plan include:*

- *an assessment to determine the scope of need;*
- *an analysis of regional service gaps;*
- *an inventory of existing services;*
- *an analysis of expected costs (from which a budget can be developed);*
- *a policy framework for future service delivery; and,*
- *an implementation strategy; and,*

*That the response mentioned above be completed by July 31, 2000 and the plan be developed as soon as possible thereafter.*

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Do you agree with the recommendation?

Yes       No

How important is this recommendation?

Very Important     Important     Some importance     Not at all important

How urgent is this recommendation?

Very urgent (address in the next fiscal year)       Urgent (address in the next 2-3 years)

Some urgency (address in the next 5 years)       Not at all urgent

Comments?

## **Issue 6: Mandate, Eligibility, and Scope of Service**

### **Recommendations:**

*That the PDD Provincial Board be advised that those individuals who were “grandfathered” into PDD are to remain in the PDD Program with their services provided until such time as an orderly hand-off of responsibility to a more appropriate Provincial Program is secured; and that the PDD Provincial Board develop strategies to resolve issues regarding PDD-funded agencies who have historically provided indirect services (such as assessments, counseling, facilitation and referrals) to the broader disabled community.*

*That the Ministry of Health and Wellness work in partnership with other Ministries to develop a policy framework around ongoing support needs for other disabled communities besides the PDD community; and,*

*That the first step be to coordinate and convene a broad policy and practices forum of representatives from the Premiers Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities and from the Ministries of Health and Wellness, Learning, Children's Services, Justice, Community Development, Human Resources and Employment, and their relevant Boards and Agencies; and that this forum look at issues impacting on:*

- *the orderly transition of children with special needs into adult programs, including early communication with parents/guardians about the process;*
- *those in the disability community with ongoing needs similar to, but currently outside, the PDD mandate (including FAS/FAE individuals, autistic individuals, and others);*
- *the vision and direction of the PDD Program in terms of community inclusion and how it might apply to those in the disabled community who have similar needs to PDD but are not receiving support (including those referenced immediately above);*
- *the current provincial delivery systems and ways to make them more effective to providing service to other members of our disabled community.*

*That the PDD Provincial Board work with the PDD Community Boards to better define the scope of services offered in the PDD system and adopt a policy to include quality day program services and respite services as essential services within the PDD system.*

*That a component to provide for ongoing research regarding PDD be established by the PDD Provincial Board.*

*That, in the future, PDD Boards adopt policies that ensure recipients, parents/guardians and service providers are well informed and involved when changes in services are being contemplated.*

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Do you agree with the recommendation?

Yes       No



How important is this recommendation?

Very Important    Important    Some importance    Not at all important

How urgent is this recommendation?

Very urgent (address in the next fiscal year)       Urgent (address in the next 2-3 years)

Some urgency (address in the next 5 years)       Not at all urgent

Comments?

**Issue 7: Community Board Membership**

**Recommendations:**

*That exclusionary practices not be adopted regarding PDD Board membership; and,*

*That, in accordance with existing guidelines, parents/guardians of PDD recipients continue to be eligible to serve on any of the PDD Boards;*

*That the existing criteria for PDD Board membership adopted by Alberta Health and Wellness remain in place;*

*That the Ministry continue to ensure that a balanced community perspective reflects the composition of every PDD Board.*

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Do you agree with the recommendation?

Yes       No

How important is this recommendation?

Very Important     Important     Some importance     Not at all important

How urgent is this recommendation?

Very urgent (address in the next fiscal year)       Urgent (address in the next 2-3 years)

Some urgency (address in the next 5 years)       Not at all urgent

Comments?

## **Issue 8: Strategic Resourcing for Community Governance**

### **Recommendations:**

*That a more concerted effort be made and appropriate resources be applied over the next year to build a data base that PDD Boards and the Ministry of Health and Wellness can rely upon for management information:*

*That adequate and appropriate human resources be available at the PDD Community and Provincial Board levels to provide them with the strategic capacity necessary to fulfill their governance responsibilities;*

*That similar human resources be placed at the Ministry level to provide for the creating and monitoring of strategic directions, goals, outcomes and standards of the PDD Program, and to ensure ongoing compatibility between the PDD Program and other Provincial programs;*

*That the ongoing responsibility for the governance of Michener Centre be studied jointly by the PDD Provincial Board and the Michener Centre Facility Board; and,*

*That a recommendation be provided to the Ministry of Health and Wellness by September 30, 2000, regarding the potential transfer of governance responsibility to the PDD Provincial Board.*

*That, in the future, with respect to any matters affecting issues such as governance, systems, and future directions for PDD, an improved strategy be developed by the PDD Provincial and Community Boards to communicate directly and in advance with recipients, their parents/guardians, and agencies/service providers.*

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Do you agree with the recommendation?

Yes       No

How important is this recommendation?

Very Important     Important     Some importance     Not at all important

How urgent is this recommendation?

Very urgent (address in the next fiscal year)       Urgent (address in the next 2-3 years)

Some urgency (address in the next 5 years)       Not at all urgent

Comments?

**Issue 9: Standards**

**Recommendations:**

*That the Provincial and Community PDD Boards, together with service providers, proceed with further development and full implementation of Creating Excellence Together standards as a matter of priority.*

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Do you agree with the recommendation?

Yes       No

How important is this recommendation?

Very Important     Important     Some importance     Not at all important

How urgent is this recommendation?

Very urgent (address in the next fiscal year years)       Urgent (address in the next 2-3 years)

Some urgency (address in the next 5 years)       Not at all urgent

Comments?

## **Issue 10: Improving Stability and Predictability**

### **Recommendations:**

*RE: Intake and Assessment Process*

*That the PDD Provincial Board establish an interim task force to review the intake and assessment process and report back to the Ministry of Health and Wellness by June 30, 2000; and,*

*That this interim task force be comprised of 12-15 individual from the partnering group of recipients, parents/guardians, service providers, and PDD Community Board staff with representation from each region of the Province; and,*

*That this interim task force address the needs of each partnering member to be included in the intake and assessment process and arrive at recommendations that meet those needs within the overall PDD framework of predictability, sustainability, and accountability; and,*

*That the recommendations reflect province-wide uniformity and equity.*

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Do you agree with the recommendation?

Yes       No

How important is this recommendation?

Very Important     Important     Some importance     Not at all important

How urgent is this recommendation?

Very urgent (address in the next fiscal year)       Urgent (address in the next 2-3 years)

Some urgency (address in the next 5 years)       Not at all urgent

Comments?

**Issue 10: Improving Stability and Predictability**

**Recommendations:**

*Re: Models of Funding*

*That the PDD Provincial Board coordinate a process to bring together senior staff from each of the PDD Community Boards, with equal numbers representing service providers and recipients/parents/guardians, to review various funding models and processes, and submit recommendations to the Ministry of Health and Wellness by August 31, 2000; and.*

*That stakeholders involved in this process address the needs from all perspectives regarding predictability, accountability, stability and sustainability.*

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Do you agree with the recommendation?

Yes       No

How important is this recommendation?

Very Important     Important     Some importance     Not at all important

How urgent is this recommendation?

Very urgent (address in the next fiscal year)       Urgent (address in the next 2-3 years)

Some urgency (address in the next 5 years)       Not at all urgent

Comments?