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COMMUNIQUÉ

A publication of the
**Premier's Council on the
Status of Disabled Persons**



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Executive Director's Message



The Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons has been very busy since our last newsletter working on the new Disability Action Plan and Employment Action Plan. We continue to work with consumers, community groups and key stakeholders on a number of important initiatives that will benefit people with disabilities in New Brunswick.

The Premier's Council is currently compiling the research from the Disability Action Plan Survey that has been circulated to all stakeholders in N.B. This data will help us prepare the New Disability Action Plan Report, which will be presented to government during Disability Awareness Week 2012. In addition to the Disability Stakeholders' Summit and survey, the Premier's Council facilitated a Town Hall meeting in Moncton, to capture the issues and concerns from those in that region. This event was well attended with over 40 people participating in this information sharing session. We hope to reschedule a Town Hall meeting in the Bathurst region in the near future.

I would like to thank everyone who has provided feedback to the Council on the issues faced by persons with disabilities and encourage those wishing to do so to contact the office. I look forward to continuing to engage government and moving the disability agenda forward.

Thank you to the Council members and staff for your tremendous support.

Christyne Allain, Executive Director



The Council wishes to thank Michelle for her outstanding contribution and dedication to the work of the Council during her term as Chairperson. Thank you for your continued support!

From left to right: Michelle Horncastle, Chairperson and Christyne Allain, Executive Director

Our Condolences



On behalf of the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons we wish to extend our most heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Jean LeBlanc, who passed away in September, 2011. Jean was a longtime Council member who was known for his work in the disability community, especially in the Greater Moncton area. He enjoyed volunteering for many groups, and was never afraid to advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities. We are forever grateful for Jean's contribution to the Council, and for making New Brunswick a better place for everyone!

Input for upcoming Action Plan to be released 2012

The Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons recently distributed a survey questionnaire to help interested individuals and groups to provide us with their input on what is the current level of services available across the province for persons with disabilities of all types and ages. The information that will be compiled from the input received will be put together and used in developing a new Action Plan that could address the different disability-related issues. It is our hope to release this new report during the Disability Awareness Week 2012 campaign. We would like to take the time to thank everyone for their input!

"It's the constant and determined effort that breaks down all resistance and sweeps away all obstacles." – Claude M. Bristol

Changes Proposed to Prescription Drug Program

The provincial government is proposing a change to the New Brunswick Prescription Drug Program to ensure its sustainability for future generations.



"The increasing cost of prescription drugs poses a significant challenge for our health care system," said Health Minister Madeleine Dubé. "While the program has seen its costs more than double in the past 10 years to \$188 million, the program has not increased its co-payment amount since 1996. Clearly, this is not sustainable."

The government is proposing to increase the co-payment ceiling for seniors covered by the program to \$500 per calendar year from the current \$250 per calendar year. The amount paid for each prescription would remain unchanged at \$9.05.

The proposed change would result in an estimated cost saving of \$3 million per year. This change would affect less than half of the 48,000 seniors currently participating in the program since only those receiving more than 28 prescriptions per year and reaching their current \$250 maximum would experience an increase.

A draft regulation will be posted today for 30 days to allow the public and stakeholders to provide comments.

"If we are to maintain a program that helps New Brunswickers with their drug costs, it needs to be sustainable so it can continue to benefit those who need it for many years to come," said Dubé.

More information on the draft regulation can be found on the Department of Health's website: www.gnb.ca/health

Rick Hansen 25th Anniversary Relay

The Rick Hansen Relay Team made its way through the Fredericton Region on October 6, 2011. Dozens of medal bearers were selected to carry the Rick Hansen medal throughout the city, which culminated in a celebration event at the Currie Center on U.N.B. campus. Sarah Lord was chosen as the final medal bearer, and was greeted by hundreds of community spectators and volunteers as she made her way onto the podium to meet Rick Hansen.



The Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons would like to thank Rick Hansen and his relay team for a fantastic event. We would also like to thank the City of Fredericton for hosting the ceremony, and for including the Council in this very special day.

For more information, please visit the you-tube link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rvn0eigKCs0>

For photos of the event please visit the Premier's Council website at: www.gnb.ca/council

November is Diabetes Awareness Month

New Brunswickers are encouraged to mark Diabetes Awareness Month by taking steps to reduce their risk of developing the disease.

Individuals can take the following steps to help reduce their risk of developing diabetes or its complications:



- maintain a healthy weight;
- eat a healthy diet;
- exercise regularly; and
- maintain healthy blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose levels.

In June, the provincial government announced a comprehensive diabetes strategy which focuses on prevention, as well as improved support and care offered to people earlier in the management of diabetes to significantly lessen the impact of the disease.

The four-year plan includes:

- improved detection and better patient education with access to affordable medications, supplies and devices, and ongoing monitoring for the management of diabetes;
- increased forms of self-care support, accessible, affordable and appropriate for a variety of learning levels and preferences;
- providing health care teams with access to technology to assist in monitoring the disease, and tools to support decision-making by health care workers based on evidence and best practices; and
- providing citizens, health-care providers and health-system planners with access to the appropriate information to support personal, patient and population health.

"Traditionally health care services have been focused on people after they have developed diabetes and the serious complications requiring hospitalization," Dubé said. "More emphasis is needed in the areas of health promotion and disease prevention to reduce the burden of diabetes on society and on the health care system. Our objective with New Brunswick's first Comprehensive Diabetes Strategy, is to outline a clear, deliberate road map for the next four years to address the growing challenge of diabetes."

More information on diabetes prevention is available on the department website.

LINK:

Comprehensive Diabetes Strategy: www.gnb.ca/health

Federal Government Launches Review of the Registered Disability Savings Plan

Please see the links below regarding the Federal government's Launch Review of the Registered Disability Savings Plan:

<http://www.fin.gc.ca/n11/11-103-eng.asp>

Provincial Recreation Access Fund

Could you or someone you know, use some support to get active in your community? If so, check this out!

Recreation New Brunswick, in partnership with the Department of Wellness, Culture and Sport, is excited to announce a new project called the ***Provincial Recreation Access Fund Program***. Our goal is to increase active living opportunities for people with disabilities in New Brunswick. We want to help reduce those financial barriers that limit people from achieving a healthy lifestyle.

How? People with disabilities can apply for funding from ***The Provincial Recreation Access Fund Program*** to help cover activity related expenses. Want to join a gym, or aqua size class? We can help with registration fees. Want to attend a summer camp or after school program? We can pay for that as well! We'll even help you with some of your equipment and transportation needs too! In fact, we can cover expenses for just about anything, as long as the activity is "ACTIVE", and not just a "one-time thing". All you need to do is fill out an application form and submit it to Recreation New Brunswick. It's that simple.

For more information about this program, or to obtain an application form, contact Recreation New Brunswick, or visit our website at www.recreationnb.ca. We look forward to hearing from you!

Recreation New Brunswick

55 Whiting Road, Unit 34
Fredericton, NB E3B 5Y5
Phone: (506) 457-1939
Fax: (506) 450-6066
E-mail: programs@recreationnb.ca



Improving Universal Design Requirements under the Community Planning Act

The roles of persons with disabilities in society are ever expanding and need to be recognized. Not only are persons with disabilities consumers of services, they are also providers. People with disabilities participate in all aspects of community life, and in doing so, utilize all types of facilities. The percentage of persons with disabilities of all ages is already high and will increase over the next few decades.

It has become increasingly clear that universal design requirements in the *Building Code* must be sufficient to achieve the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society.

The Council applauds the Premier and the department of Public Safety taking a proactive approach in making the building codes more responsive to the needs of persons with disabilities.

The Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons is supportive of having one *Building Code* for the entire province serving as a minimum standard and look forward to working with the department and stakeholders on this initiative. Once the code is adopted, municipalities and/or district planning commissions should be encouraged to go beyond the minimum barrier-free design standards. Having one uniform standard with qualified inspectors will improve the consistency of building code enforcement across the province.

Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission

Please visit the following website to obtain information on accessibility to television for those with visual impairments, individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, access to wireless services, documents in alternative formats, relay services, current and future described video, etc.



<http://www.crtc.gc.ca/eng/access.htm>

Primary health care change coming to New Brunswick

Primary health care change in New Brunswick will be driven in part by the opinions and feedback received at the Primary Health Care Summit held in Fredericton. Premier David Alward spoke at the closing of the summit.

"Driving change in primary health care is the first step to a healthier New Brunswick and a strong, and efficient, health-care system," Alward said. "I am looking forward to moving forward with a stronger focus on primary health care to keep our system sustainable for future generations."

The summit was attended by experts from across Canada as well as stakeholders from across New Brunswick, including government policy and decision-makers, primary health care practitioners, health-care organizations, academics and community leaders. Discussions focused on successful models of care; opportunities and challenges with primary health care; and strategies within each of the four pillars of primary health care (access, teams, timely information and healthy living).

Delegates agreed that access to primary health care needs to improve and that communities should have a voice in identifying their needs.

Much discussion took place about a team-based approach to primary health care, the composition of these teams and how to encourage this approach inside New Brunswick's health-care system.

Another key topic of conversation was the growing burden of chronic disease in the province and the ways that government, communities and health-care providers could work together to promote healthy living and better self-management of chronic illness.

The use of information technology to link providers and monitor performance and outcomes was seen an important way to better co-ordinate patient care.

In March, Health Minister Madeleine Dubé released a discussion paper, *Improving Access and Delivery of Primary Health Care Services in New Brunswick*, which made 12 recommendations to improve primary health care services.

The paper was prepared by the Primary Health Care Steering Committee, which made recommendations with the goal of providing all New Brunswickers with access to a family practice team able to provide personalized, comprehensive and co-ordinated primary health-care services.

As part of the provincial government's commitment to citizen engagement, New Brunswickers were encouraged to read and comment on the recommendations in the report. The Department of Health met with stakeholders to receive their feedback. The feedback gathered during the past months was discussed at the summit.

The major themes of the summit will inform the committee's recommendations to the provincial government in early 2012.

NB ParaGolf Abilities



Join their GOLF Instruction program for persons with disabilities. Previous background in GOLF is not required.

They are also looking for people who would be interested in becoming volunteer Caddy/Mentors, whom will be trained along with the persons with disabilities by CPGA Golf Professional Ryan Kingston.

Monthly Clinics available.

To register or for more information contact Stacey Copeland at:

Phone: 506-452-1544

Fax: 506-451-8309

E-mail: scopeland@cdba-nb.ca

www.cdba-nb.ca

“The bamboo that bends is stronger than the oak that resists.” – Japanese Proverb

Disability Related Equipment

As you may be aware, the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons is a body for consultation, study and information sharing, created to advise the government and the general public on matters relating to the status of persons with disabilities. The Council represents cross-disabilities for the entire province of New Brunswick.



In an effort to provide more relevant and useful information to persons with disabilities, the Premier's Council has included a page on our website where individuals can have any disability-related equipment/items listed which they intend to sell or donate. This is a free service we are providing to the general public, and to non-profit organizations.

If you represent a non-profit organization which provides services to persons with disabilities, we would like to extend the offer to your group to list any specialized equipment on our site at no charge. Provide us with a brief description of the item, contact information (please include where the item is located, ie city, town, etc) and your asking price. Providing the information in both official languages would be appreciated, otherwise only limited translation will be provided.

The items posted on our website can be viewed at:

www.gnb.ca/0048/PCSDP/itemsforsale-e.asp. Your organization can have information posted to this webpage by contacting our office at

Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons

Telephone: 506-444-3000

Toll-free: 1-800-442-4412

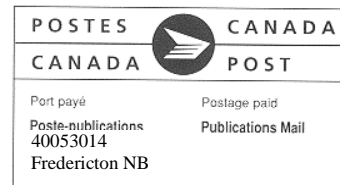
Fax: 506-444-3001

Address: Suite 648, 440 King Street, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5H8

“The more ideas you generate, the greater the odds a high-quality solution will result.” – Arthur Vangundy



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We welcome submissions for our newsletter on any topic relative to persons with disabilities. This newsletter can be available in alternate formats. Please circulate the Communiqué within your office and with friends.



NOTICE

The September 2011 edition of the *Directory of Services Offered to Persons with Disabilities in New Brunswick* is available. If you wish to receive a copy, please fill out the following and return to our office by fax or mail.

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____ Language: English _____ French _____

Return to: Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons
 440 King Street, Suite 648, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5H8
 Fax: (506) 444-3001 E-mail: pcsdp@gnb.ca

Updates are available upon request throughout the year