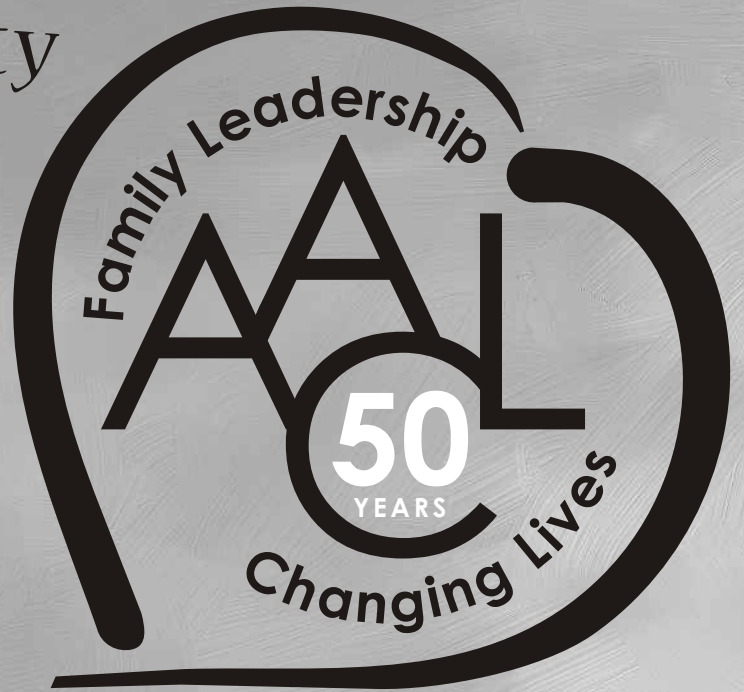


Families

the heart
of community



Annual Family Conference
and 50th Anniversary Celebration

March 17-18, 2006 | Fantasyland Hotel | Edmonton Alberta

March 17 / Workshop / 9 am - 4 pm

7 Steps to a Safe & Secure Future: Creating a Good Life for People with Developmental Disabilities

Presenters: Al Etmanski and Vickie Cammack, with assistance from Alberta PLAN members

This event will focus on the questions every parent asks; questions that over time cannot be avoided, " Who will be there for my son or daughter when I am no longer around? Who will be there to provide hope, possibility, security and love? Who will ensure their interests are protected, their gifts and contributions recognized and their needs and choices honoured?"

These questions can haunt and trouble parents and others who deeply care about an individual with developmental disabilities. But they are questions that must be asked, and sooner in life than later. Simple answers do not exist but there are steps, strategies and pathways that families can pursue in their efforts to provide a safe and secure future.

This workshop will provide practical strategies and tools families and others can use to develop and implement a plan that has the potential to change the present while helping to secure a promising future. This interactive event will provide an opportunity to be inspired by the stories of personal support networks and the amazing differences they have made in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and give their parents peace of mind.

Vickie Cammack is an author (*Safe & Secure: six steps to creating a personal future plan for people with disabilities* – written with Al Etmanski) and the Executive Director of the PLAN Institute for Caring Citizenship. Vickie works with communities across North America, Europe and Australia in their efforts to develop similar programs. A college instructor, she designed a curriculum process for the preparation of caregivers used in universities throughout British Columbia.

Al Etmanski is an author (*A good life-for you and your relative with a disability*) and social inventor who specializes in non-governmental solutions to social problems. A leading advocate for people with disabilities in Canada for two decades, Al is recognized as a visionary thinker in social policy, community development and individualizing services for people with disabilities.

Al and Vickie are the Co-Founders of PLAN: Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network.

They have a blended family of five children, one of whom has a developmental disability.

Childcare and Teen Club:

Cartoonigans Family Entertainment has provided Childcare and Teen Club services at the Family Conference for almost 15 years. Each day will be a new adventure filled with fun, inclusive play and hands-on experiences. The staff are professional quality care givers / play consultants who will add a touch of magic to the day, while you participate in the conference.

A limited number of Childcare spaces are available for children 12 and under and Teen Club spaces for 13 and up. Registration is a 2-step process. First, you absolutely must indicate on this registration form how many Childcare and Teen Club spaces you require. Second, you also must fill in a separate Childcare or Teen Club form for every person. Forms are available at www.aacl.org or by calling 1.800.252.7556 ext. 222. Spaces will be filled on a first-come basis.

50th Anniversary Family Dance and Celebration: Come and Rock Around the Clock

Join us on Saturday evening (6:30 pm - 12 pm) in the Ballroom for a family buffet dinner, celebration and 50's dance and party. The evening will be hosted by those fabulous Cartoonigans' Rockers who will be joined by Roy Orbison and Elvis Presley. Back by popular demand, a spectacular band, TR3 will keep everyone entertained and active. You are encouraged to attend in your best 1950's attire poodle skirts, white t-shirts, jeans, pedal pushers, school letter sweaters, white/bobby socks, saddle shoes, scarves, black combs and your other creative ideas.

There will be entertainment and activities for everyone including children but an important reminder - as Childcare and Teen Club are not provided during the evening, parents are responsible for the supervision of their children. Tickets for the 50's Celebration are included in your registration fees and extra tickets can be purchased for guests and others who would like to attend. Please indicate on the registration form if you will be attending the Celebration and if you require additional tickets.

March 17 / Workshop / 9 am - 4 pm

Inclusive Education: Achieving Equity and Excellence for All

Presenters: Norman Kunc and Emma Van der Kliff

This workshop will address how schools can ensure every child belongs while providing opportunities for a quality inclusive education. This can be challenging at a time when there is increased demand for standardized achievement testing in an era of global competition. Yet a commitment to ensuring quality inclusive education for children with disabilities can benefit the education and learning of every student. Norman and Emma will share their insight on how inclusive education can be successfully implemented for all children.

Topics to be covered include: the supports needed for teachers to be successful in an inclusive classroom, how to create an inclusive school community, strategies for evaluating students, teaching strategies, collaborative planning, and effective use of teacher assistants.

Norman Kunc (pr. koontz) & Emma Van der Kliff have been working with parents and schools for over 20 years to enable individuals with disabilities to live more inclusive lives. They speak extensively across the United States and Canada.

Although Norman Kunc is a well known disability rights advocate, he now prefers to think of himself as a storyteller, continuing the long held tradition of using humour and narrative to initiate self-reflection and social change. Born with cerebral palsy, Norman attended a segregated school for children with physical disabilities; then, at the age 13, he was integrated into a regular school. From there, he went on to complete a Bachelor's degree in Humanities and a Master of Science degree in Family Therapy.

Prior to establishing Axis Consultation and Training Ltd with Norman, Emma worked as a program director in services to individuals with disabilities. In addition to her knowledge of inclusive education, Norma has experience in supported employment and residential options.

Norman and Emma have published a number of articles and chapters, which have been featured in, *Restructuring for Caring and Effective Education*, *Collaborative Learning: A practice guide for empowering teachers and students*, and the *Canadian Journal for Exceptional Children*. They are currently working on a book on disability and human services.

"Norman Kunc's work on inclusion and belonging continues to be a cornerstone of the Harvard Principals' Summer Institute. The power of his argument for inclusive learning environments comes from his ability to summon our principals to think globally about the learning and social needs of all students, not just those with disabilities. He always receives rave reviews."

Millie Blackman, Director - The Principals' Center
Harvard Graduate School of Education

March 18 / Opening Plenary / 9 am - 10 am

Family Leadership: Inspired and Inspiring

On the 50th Anniversary of the Alberta Association for Community Living (AACL) it is fitting that the opening plenary session considers the roots of the community living movement and its leadership. It was 50 years ago that parents across Canada began to organize themselves into a sustained advocacy movement. These parents were inspired to organize for change, and to challenge the prevailing societal assumptions about the value and place of their children in society. This inspiration was rooted first in their love for their own children but it grew to be a concern for all individuals with developmental disabilities.

Joan Charbonneau, Barbara Nish, Zuhy Sayeed and Robin Acton, all parents and Past-presidents of AACL, along with Wendy McDonald, current Vice-president, will share the pivotal moments in their lives, which inspired them to make a difference for others. The future of the community living movement rests on these collective pivotal moments past, present and future - and their capacity to inspire leadership.

March 18 / Youth Forum / 10:30 am - 3 pm

Speaking Out for Inclusion

Across Alberta, youth between the ages of 16 - 22 years of age are having the opportunity to hold youth forums and join provincial youth networks. Until now these youth forums and networks have not been inclusive of youth with developmental disabilities. If you are a young person between the ages of 16 - 22 and believe all youth, including those with developmental disabilities, have a right to have their voice heard, then the Youth Forum is for you.

This will be a highly interactive and exciting session, which will provide youth with an opportunity to learn how their voice can make a powerful difference. Youth at this session will share their ideas on how Alberta youth forums and networks can be truly and fully inclusive of youth with disabilities. This Forum is being organized by youth and will be directed by them. Lunch will be provided.

March 18 / Morning Sessions / 10:30 am - 12 pm

Inclusive Education: Achieving Equity and Excellence for All

Norman Kunc and Emma Van der Klift will provide an overview of their Friday workshop. They will illustrate how schools can ensure every child belongs with the opportunity for a quality inclusive education. Topics include, classroom supports, creating an inclusive school community, strategies for evaluating students, teaching strategies, collaborative planning and effective use of teacher assistants.

Political Advocacy and Family Leadership

Families have been influencing social policy and legislation in Alberta since the inception of the community living movement. Each generation of parents and their allies have had a dramatic impact leaving a legacy for future generations. This session will highlight the successes of individual and collective action, from a right to an education to the most progressive family support legislation in the country. Participants will explore how families, both individually and collectively, can continue to make a significant difference politically to the benefit of children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Relationships: Dating, Love and Sex

This session will explore the complex but essential nature of loving and sexual relationships and how to support these possibilities for individuals with developmental disabilities. Participants will discuss how to best facilitate and enable inclusive sex education during the school years, with a particular emphasis on the supportive role of parents. Families will also have the opportunity to share ideas and challenges in supporting the possible development of loving and sexual relationships for young adults, especially when attempting to pursue an inclusive community life.

Presence, Participation and Belonging: Stories of Community Membership

Finding a place to belong in the community is often a struggle for people with developmental disabilities. Authentic membership that welcomes and values the presence and contribution of people with developmental disabilities is the signature of a community's capacity to include others. In this session, families, individuals and community members will share stories that illustrate the powerful possibilities that exist when communities open their hearts, minds, and doors to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

March 18 / Afternoon Sessions / 1:30 pm - 3 pm

7 Steps to a Safe & Secure Future: Creating a Good Life for People with Developmental Disabilities

Al Etmanski and Vickie Cammack will provide an overview of their Friday workshop. This event will focus on the questions every parent asks, "Who will be there for my son or daughter when I am no longer around? Who will be there to provide hope, possibility, security and love?" Al and Vickie will provide specific and practical strategies, including personal networks and will and estate planning tools, families can use to address these difficult but necessary questions.

The Inclusion Journey: It's Never Too Early

Choosing to pursue an inclusive life for a young child with developmental disabilities can be a challenging parental decision. How do you know you are making the right decision? Will inclusion still be a good idea when your child is older? What will the journey be like and what does it take to stay the course? In this dynamic session, parents of young children will share their vision, and the power of their vision, of a valued life for their child with developmental disabilities. Parents will have the opportunity to learn how the decisions made early in a child's life can make all the difference later in life.

Family Voices: A Growing Voice for Change

Family Voices, which are regional family advocacy networks, represent an entirely new and unique collective force for change within the community living movement. This is the first time in the history of the movement that families have begun to organize and empower themselves regionally. Family Voices represents a new and powerful advocacy strategy whose potential for creating systemic change is only just being realized. For example, Family Voices networks are setting the stage for a new approach to advancing inclusive education as well as increasing the opportunities for inclusive post-secondary education. This session will explore how Family Voices can continue to grow into a strong and recognized force for social change.

Pathways to Adulthood

The transition to adulthood, while a normative life experience for nearly everyone, appears to be a more significant issue for individuals with developmental disabilities. Many families seem challenged by this unavoidable necessity and often confuse what should be a normative and inclusive transition to adulthood with the transition to adult services and supports. In this session families will learn about their role in facilitating an inclusive transitional pathway to adulthood and the appropriate role of adult supports and services in this transition.

March 18 / Closing Plenary / 3:15 pm - 4:15 pm

50 Years and Counting: OUR Never-Ending Story

The 50th Anniversary of the Alberta Association for Community Living is a time to honour and appreciate the legacy of the founding families and advocates. This is a particularly powerful and unique legacy as it provided the foundation for a sustained movement built on the love, commitment and hard work of families but with an amazing capacity to expand its vision over time. While the future always remains unknown and unpredictable, the future of a movement is reliant on certain universal truths and the continuing capacity to envision, as yet unimagined, possibilities. This conclusion to the 50th Anniversary of AACL will look to the past to envision a future where families remain the visionary heart of community.

Conference Registration

Registration Deadline: March 3, 2006
To register online visit www.aacl.org

Alberta Association for Community Living (AACL) • 11724 Kingsway, Edmonton, Alberta T5G 0X5 • Fax: 780.453.5779

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Support Person (if applicable) _____

Association (if applicable) _____

Home Address _____

City _____ Prov/State _____ PC/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____ First time attending Family Conference? yes no

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Conference Fees Please choose one | <input type="checkbox"/> ATTENDING FRIDAY ONLY Please choose one workshop: <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusive Education: Achieving Excellence <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Steps to a Safe and Secure Future | <input type="checkbox"/> FRIDAY ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> Student: \$75 \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Individual: \$125 \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$175 \$ _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> ATTENDING SATURDAY ONLY | <input type="checkbox"/> SATURDAY ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> Student: \$75 \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Individual: \$125 \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$175 \$ _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> ATTENDING BOTH DAYS Please choose one workshop: <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusive Education: Achieving Excellence <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Steps to a Safe and Secure Future | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH DAYS <input type="checkbox"/> Individual: \$200 \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$300 \$ _____ |
| Childcare/ Teen Club Fees | You must complete a Childcare registration form for each child 12 and under or Teen Club form for each person 13 and over. Registration forms available at www.aacl.org or by calling 1.800.252.7556 ext. 222. | Childcare / Teen Club participants: 12 and under: \$10 x _____ \$ _____ 13 and over: \$10 x _____ \$ _____ |
| Youth Forum Saturday: 10:30 am - 3 pm (Lunch Provided) | For youth between the ages of 16 - 22 years. Name of participant: _____ Age: _____ Name of participant: _____ Age: _____ | Youth Forum participants: No. of youth between 16-22: _____ no charge |
| President's Reception Friday: 8 pm - 10 pm (Cash Bar) | A delightful presentation that will be a motivating look at our history and future while celebrating our successes. Everyone is welcome to attend. It is a time to renew old friendships and meet new people. Children are welcome, however no childcare is provided. | President's Reception participants: No. of adults: _____ no charge No. of additional participants: \$25 x _____ \$ _____ |
| Family Dance and Celebration Saturday: 6:30 pm - 12 pm (Buffet Dinner: Cash Bar) | Family Dance and Celebration tickets are included for registered family members. Extra tickets may be purchased for guests. | Family Dance and Celebration participants: No. of registered family members: _____ no charge No. of additional adult tickets: \$25 x _____ \$ _____ No. of additional child tickets: \$10 x _____ \$ _____ |
| TOTAL FEES | Lunch is not provided. Persons attending to support another registrant are not charged registration fees. | TOTAL DUE \$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____ |

AACL has a limited number of grants available to individuals and families to assist with costs associated with attending the conference. For grant criteria or forms, call 1.800.252.7556 ext. 222 or download from www.aacl.org.

Grant Application Deadline: February 17, 2006

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Cheque payable to Alberta Association for Community Living
 Credit Card VISA MASTERCARD AMEX

CARD NUMBER _____

EXPIRY DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____