

# DISABILITY SECTOR UPDATE AUGUST 2025



*This update is coming on behalf of the Calgary Service Provider Council, which represents over 40 agencies in Calgary. These updates are for the families and support networks of the Individuals we serve to learn about what is occurring politically, contractually and sectorially in the services that PDD organizations provide to your loved ones. PDD organizations often shelter families from the issues and challenges faced for several reasons. Families have advocated for years and are tired, families are aging, and many want to 'leave things to the organization'. PDD organizations feel it is important for you to be informed of what organizations regularly face to continue providing quality care to the individuals we serve.*

## ASSISTED LIVING AND SOCIAL SERVICES

The Ministry has changed its name to ALSS. The name change reflects the entirety of the ministry which now is very large. It includes seniors, continuing care, ALSH, housing, homelessness, disability services and other social-based programs.

## HOUSING

There continues to be a shortage of affordable, accessible housing options for individuals with disabilities. There are a variety of working groups looking into this, including Alberta Council of Disability Services (ACDS). A set of recommendations will come from ACDS to the Ministry in the near future.

## ASSISTED LIVING ALBERTA

ALA is 1 of 4 organizations created after AHS was dissolved. ALA is falling under ALSS. The specifics of what ALA will look like, its goals and how it intersects with our services is yet to be determined. There have been a variety of working groups that have put forth recommendations to the minister. The hope is that a report will come from Ministry identifying goals.







## AISH

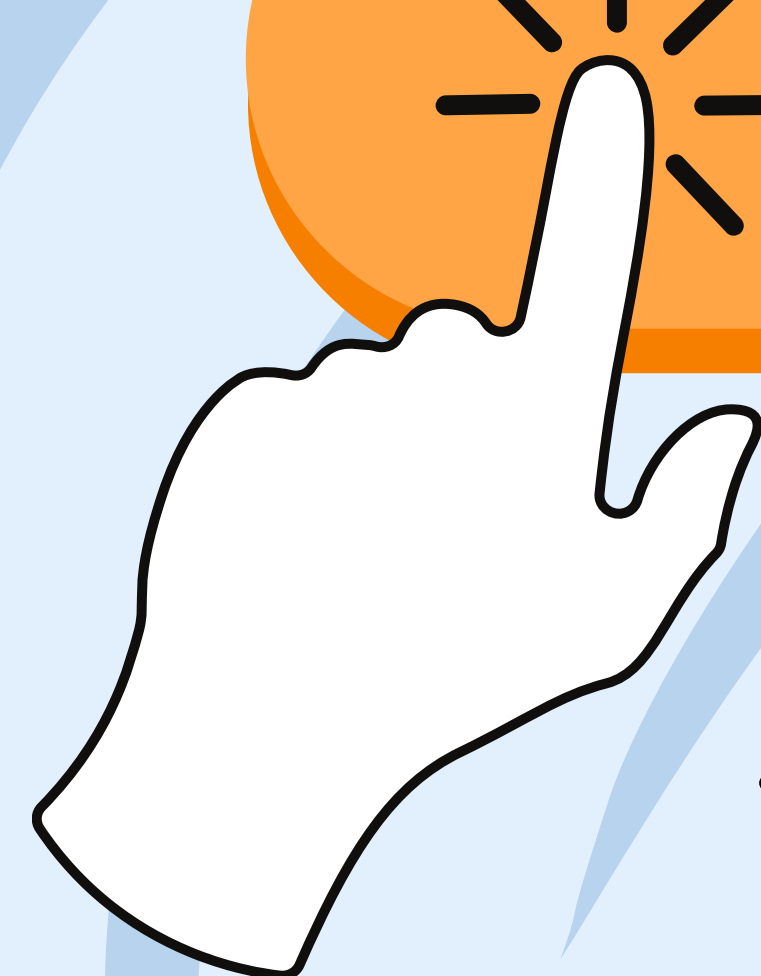
There have been several changes this quarter affecting AISH. As noted last update, the newly formed Alberta disability assistance program (ADAP) is in the midst of working out the details. The program is to launch in 2026. The Canadian Government announced a Canada Disability Benefit (CDB), a new federal benefit. Alberta has decided to deduct dollar for dollar that benefit for AISH recipients, meaning many Albertans with disabilities will not see an increase in their monthly income. This CDB also requires the individual to have filed their taxes and to complete an application process.



## SALARIES AND OPERATING DOLLARS



Given the continued increases to almost every cost there is (utilities, rent, food, benefits for employees, insurance, etc.), agencies still struggle with the day to day operations and end up with a very tight or short budget each year. Agencies do everything they can before having to increase room/board and program fees, but many have had to make that difficult decision.



## INDIVIDUAL PROFILE REGISTRY

In February 2025 PDD introduced in the South Zone (Calgary), a new process for intakes of all eligible individuals. All eligible individuals for service go on a spreadsheet (IPR) which is sent to service providers each Wednesday. Then providers go through the list and complete service requests for possible suitable candidates. Feedback on this process continues to be given to PDD in terms of the timelines it takes to intake individuals and receive confirmation of the funds is taking a long time. No names are utilized on the IPR for confidentiality reasons, but it does seem less personable.

The other main concern with intakes into programs is that only those the Government considers 'Critical and Urgent' are put on the IPR list. This means that agencies may have vacancies but are not able to fill them with people on that list (e.g. a home with 55 year olds in it has a vacancy and only young people with challenging behaviors are on the IPR list, so they don't make a good match for their needs).