

As we gather for this year's Annual General Meeting, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude as I reflect on what has truly been an extraordinary and accomplished year for Springboard Centre. Over the past year, our agency has continued to demonstrate resilience, innovation, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to excellence in supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

One of the most significant highlights of the year has been the continued growth of our programs and services. We proudly achieved one of our major strategic goals by increasing the number of individuals served through our programs. Through ongoing engagement with the provincial intake process and the successful admission of new individuals into service, the agency continued its growth trajectory throughout the year from 73 to 78 individuals. As of June 1, 2026, Springboard Centre proudly serves 80 individuals, representing the highest client counts in our history. This milestone reflects not only the growing trust placed in our organization but also the dedication of our staff and leadership in navigating a rapidly changing intake environment while maintaining high-quality supports and services.

Our staff remain the heart of our organization. Throughout the year, they consistently demonstrated professionalism, compassion, adaptability, and teamwork. We celebrated Community Disability Services Professional Appreciation Week, hosted meaningful staff recognition events, held our Annual Team Building activity, and continued investing in professional growth through conferences, development days, and training opportunities. The overwhelmingly positive results of our Employee Satisfaction Survey further reinforced the healthy and collaborative culture that exists within our agency.

This year also showcased the agency's commitment to innovation and responsiveness. During the Alberta Teachers' Strike, Springboard Centre quickly responded by temporarily opening a children's day program for staff families, an initiative that was commended by community partners for its compassion and creativity. In addition, the agency formally introduced its Artificial Intelligence Policy, positioning Springboard Centre as a forward-thinking organization prepared to responsibly embrace emerging technologies.

Another major accomplishment was our successful Continuing Excellence Together (CET) Re-Accreditation review. The feedback received from surveyors was exceptionally positive, highlighting the happiness and satisfaction expressed by individuals served, families, and staff. The surveyors noted that Springboard Centre has "raised the bar" in delivering quality services within the sector. This recognition is a direct reflection of the passion and dedication shown by every member of our organization.

Financial stewardship also remained a strong focus throughout the year. Through prudent planning, responsible budgeting, and sound fiscal management, the agency maintained financial stability while continuing to invest in service quality, infrastructure, and employee supports. Proceeds from our successful January 2025 Casino Event allowed the agency to purchase a new 14-seater Ford Transit vehicle, significantly enhancing transportation capacity and reliability for the individuals we support. Strategic financial decisions, including optimizing funds management and maintaining strong audit outcomes, further strengthened the agency's long-term sustainability.

Most importantly, our financial strength enabled us to reinvest directly into our workforce. During the year, the agency implemented a 1.5-step salary increase for all frontline employees and assumed full coverage of the Employee Extended Health Care Benefits Plan. These enhancements represent a meaningful investment in the people who deliver our services every day and reflect our commitment to employee well-being, retention, recruitment, and recognition. By supporting our staff in tangible ways, we strengthen our ability to provide consistent, high-quality services to the individuals and families we serve.

The agency also continued to strengthen its relationships within the community and disability sector. We participated in major community events including World Autism Awareness Day, sector appreciation celebrations, job fairs, and information sessions for parents and guardians. Our Specialized Programs resumed with strong attendance and enthusiasm, further reinforcing the value and impact these initiatives bring to the lives of the individuals we support.

As we move forward, the organization remains mindful of the broader changes occurring within the disability sector, particularly the ongoing PDD Funding Model Review. Springboard Centre will continue to actively engage in these discussions to ensure that the voices of our individuals, families, and staff are represented while we responsibly prepare for future developments.

This year has also been a year of preparation and anticipation as we look ahead to a very special milestone — Springboard Centre's 40th Anniversary Celebration in July 2026. For four decades, this organization has remained steadfast in its mission of empowering individuals, promoting inclusion, and fostering meaningful community connections. This upcoming celebration will not only honor our rich history but also recognize the countless individuals, families, staff, volunteers, Board members, and community partners who have contributed to our success over the years.

On behalf of the Leadership Team, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated staff, supportive families and guardians, committed volunteers, valued community partners, and our exceptional Board of Directors for your guidance, trust, and continued support. Your belief in our mission continues to inspire the work we do every day.

Together, we have accomplished a remarkable year. Together, we will continue building an even stronger future for the individuals and families we proudly serve.

Thank you.