



Special Needs MINISTRY

Centre Street Church
Resource Guide for
People with Disabilities
and their Families
Updated in March 2021



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Introduction

The following document is intended to be a resource for people with disabilities and their families. To navigate the document please refer to the table of contents for categories of resources that can be found throughout the document. A link is provided for each resource, simply click on the bolded title of the resource. Please note, Centre Street Church (CSC) and the Special Needs Ministry does not endorse any of these resources. These resources are intended to provide connection and support to public services that are outside of CSC. Please contact the Special Needs Ministry if you have specific questions or concerns associated with this document.

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General

Government of Canada

[Disability Benefits](#) provides information and links to living with a disability, pension plan disability benefits including children's benefits, disability awards, education funding, child disability benefit, federal excise gasoline tax refund program, and disability savings grant and bond.

[Emergency Preparedness Guide](#) provides emergency preparedness assistance, guidance, and direction for people supporting persons with disabilities in emergency situations and for persons with disabilities themselves.

[Food Guide](#) provides information on what foods and how much food to eat in relation to age and gender. There are interactive teachings and methods for organizing food consumption.

[Registered Disability Savings Plan \(RDSP\)](#) is a savings plan that is intended to help parents and others save for the long term financial security of a person who is eligible for the disability tax credit (DTC).

[Canada Revenue Agency](#) provides information about the criteria for the disability tax credit and how to apply for it. It also gives information about related tax credits you can claim on income tax and other disability-related information.

Government of Alberta

[Abuse and Bullying](#) provides information on abuse and bullying, with additional links to specific topics in abuse and bullying.

[Abuse Prevention and Reporting](#) explains what abuse is and the different types, with an emphasis on how and when to report abuse.

[Calgary Region Child and Family Services](#) is a service for Calgary and surrounding areas that support children, youth, adult, and families.

[Child Abuse](#) describes how and when child services become involved for maltreatment of a child by a parent or guardian that results in injury or harm to the child.

[Disability Services](#) provides information and links to Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH), Disability Related Employment Services (DRES), employment first, Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD), Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD), provincial disability supports initiative, Residential Access Modification Program (RAMP), and related legislation. Please note that each disability service available via the disability services link are also separately linked in other categories within the resources document.

[Find a Registry Alberta](#) provides search options to find registries in Alberta. Registries provide services such as: vehicle registrations, testing, and licensing, Alberta health care cards, personal property registration, land titles, and organ donation forms.

[General Resource List from 2016](#) is an extended resource list and document by the Alberta government for persons with disabilities and their families.

[Guardianship and Trusteeship](#) provide services to help all Albertans plan for the future and to help settle affairs in difficult situations such as the passing of a loved one. They work mostly with adults, but they also help manage funds for minors in special situations.

[Ministry of Community & Social Services](#) provides related links to the Alberta disability services for both children and adults.

[Ministry of Transportation: Driver Fitness & Monitoring](#) explains the legalities of driving with different diagnoses and what requirements are necessary for assessment and driving safety.

[Parking Permit for People with Disabilities](#) provides information and access to an application form for getting a disability parking permit which allows persons with disabilities to park in accessible and close to the door parking spots.

[People with Disabilities Support](#) provides information and links to financial benefits and assistance, accessibility and housing supports, community education and employment supports, Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL), Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD), Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), parking placards for people with disabilities, and service dogs.

[Premier Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities](#) is an advocacy group that works towards all citizens having a unified voice. Further links are provided to discuss International Day of Persons with Disabilities and about the council and the council's governance.

[Protection for Persons in Care](#) promotes prevention and responds to reports of abuse of adult Albertans receiving care or support services from publicly funded service providers, such as: hospitals, seniors' lodges, nursing homes, mental health facilities, shelters, group homes, and addictions treatment centers.

[Residential Access Modification Program \(RAMP\)](#) provides grants to help lower-income Albertans with mobility challenges modify their homes so they can enter and move around more easily.

Children

General

[Boys & Girls Clubs of Calgary](#) is a community organization that offers a wide variety of supports. These supports are not special needs specific but include programs that work on employment experience, building relationships, housing, trauma, and educations, etc.

[Children's Link](#) provides information and links to a wide range of services that focus on providing resources, information, parent-to-parent connections, and hope to families and professionals who care for and work with children and youth with special needs. Children's Services and Adult Services provides connection to an abundance of resources for all ages. Children's Link provides learning opportunities associated with Transition Services. Many employees at the Children's Link have experience with guardianship, trusteeship, Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD), and navigating the system.

[The Ability Hub](#) advertises that they are for adolescents and adults on the Autism Spectrum Disorder, but they offer a large variety of supports, resources, workshops, events, and activities for people with disabilities. They are a great place to start if you are looking for community, learning, and/or outreach opportunities.

Funding

[Child Disability Benefit](#) provides information on child disability benefits for children under the age of 18.

[Family Support for Children with Disabilities \(FSCD\)](#) is a program that works in partnership with eligible families to provide supports and services based on each child and family's individual assessed needs. Here is a document that provides [A Guide to Appeal](#) for FSCD.

Education

[Calgary Board of Education \(CBE\): Specialized Services](#) provides information on access to services. A child must first be approved by FSCD before a CBE multidisciplinary team becomes involved with a family.

[Calgary Board of Education \(CBE\): Exceptional and Special Needs Children](#) provides appropriate programming for students with exceptional and special needs in all of the community schools with a focus to meet the unique learning needs of every student.

[Calgary Catholic School District \(CCSD\)](#) offers diverse learning supports for learning disabilities and developmental disabilities. There are specialized programs and supports for students during grade school.

[CanLEARN Society](#) is a learning center that focuses on assisting individuals with educational challenges. Assessment and treatment options available. No referral required.

[Cause and Effect Foundation](#) is an early intervention program committed to delivering individualized programming to each child within their natural environments including preschool, home, and community.

[Calgary Quest School](#) is a designated special education private school that is part of the provincial education system. They offer a full-day, early intervention program for children from ages 2.5 to 6 years, and an elementary, junior high and high school programs for students from 6 years to 20 years of age.

[Estelle Siebens Community Services at Foothills Academy](#) focuses on programs and services for girls with learning disabilities and/or ADHD.

[Getting Ready for Inclusion Today \(GRIT\)](#) is a long standing program of excellence, meeting the diverse needs of preschool children with developmental disabilities in and around the Calgary area. This Alberta Education funded program provides specialized and individualized home, community and school based education.

[Janus Academy](#) is a specialized and accredited educational services for children and youth with autism. Janus Academy takes on approximately 60 students each school year.

[Learning Disabilities Association of Alberta \(LDAA\)](#) provides resources based on where you live, education, access to funding, school advocacy, assessment, and current news for persons with learning disabilities.

[Pacekids](#) is family focused company that strives for excellence in the therapy, education, and family empowerment of children with special needs. Programs vary but are not limited to infant and family support, Early Childhood Services (ECS), and developmental and behavioral aides, etc.

[Providence Children's Centre](#) provides therapeutic and educational services to children with special needs. Providence Children's Centre supports children as early as 1-year old to 6-years old.

[Renfrew Educational Services](#) is a not-for-profit society and registered charity that offers a broad range of specialized programs and is an acknowledged leader in program development for children with special needs.

Agencies

[Approved Regional Service Providers](#) gives the names, website links, and contact information for different service providers in Calgary area. Services include but are not limited to: community access, supported independent living, overnight staffed residence, supportive roommates, employment prep and placement, in/out of home respite, behavioural support, crisis/relief, and psychological supports.

Community Programs

[Alberta Camping Association](#) has a search by region engine for camps across Alberta for a range of types of camps and ages.

[Between Friends](#) is an ability focused charitable organization that provides recreation activities and social opportunities to people with disabilities.

[Blue Sky Music Therapy](#) can be done in one to one sessions or in group settings and is offered for all age groups.

[Canadian Association for Disabled \(CADS\) Skiing/Snowboarding](#) is offered in Calgary by and is a skiing and snowboarding school for people with disabilities. A wide range of abilities and skills are accepted. Adaptive teaching and devices are available.

[Children's Link Community Events](#) provides a list of community connections and events provided by a wide variety of Calgary companies.

[City of Calgary Recreation](#) provides links to all Calgary leisure centers and recreation facilities. Schedules and costs for each leisure and recreation facility are listed. There are programs offered specifically for people with disabilities.

[CLEAR Music Therapy](#) offers opportunities for people with disabilities to learn music through singing, playing instruments, musical games, and moving to music.

[Easter Seals Camp Horizon](#) hosts a variety of summer camps and year-round camps or activities for children, youth, and adults with disabilities. The camp is located just outside of Bragg Creek.

[Moose Lake Gospel Camp](#) caters to the unique needs of all of their campers, whether the needs are physical, emotional, or spiritual. Currently, there are camps offered for every age group.

[Rocky Mountain Adaptive \(RMA\)](#) is a registered charity whose aim is to provide any individual with a disability the chance to access all sport and recreational activities in the Canadian Rockies. RMA is an adaptive sport organization who enables adults and children with physical, intellectual, cognitive, or developmental impairments to participate in all the fantastic sports and adventure activities available in the beautiful Bow Valley (including Canmore, Banff, Lake Louise and its surrounding areas). The programs and activities are available to both locals and tourists from around the world.

[SAIT Summer Camps](#) offered by the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) offers summer camps that focus on interests such as, cooking, computer technology, carpentry, video production, etc.

[Special Olympics Calgary](#) offers sporting opportunities for people with disabilities age 2 and up. Certain sports may require the athlete to be a certain age. There are 21 different sports and 33 programs offered.

[Sunshine Dream Program](#) is for children and youth with severe physical disabilities and/or life threatening illnesses. The Sunshine Dream program allows children and youth the opportunity to find independence and freedom by doing an activity or participating in an experience unique to the child or youth's dreams.

Youth

General

[Boys & Girls Clubs of Calgary](#) is a community organization that offers a wide variety of supports. These supports are not special needs specific but include programs that work on employment experience, building relationships, housing, trauma, and educations, etc.

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Funding

[Family Support for Children with Disabilities \(FSCD\)](#) is a program that works in partnership with eligible families to provide supports and services based on each child and family's individual assessed needs. Here is a document that provides [A Guide to Appeal](#) for FSCD.

[Integrated Transition Planning for Youth with Disabilities](#) provides information to support youth and families through transitioning from Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) to Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD), and/or Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH).

Education

[ALIS Alberta Directory for Education Support](#) provides resources and links to support youth with support in current education, planning for postsecondary, and funding, etc. Here is [A Career and Planning Guide for Students with Disabilities](#).

[Calgary Board of Education \(CBE\): Specialized Services](#) provides information on access to services. A child must first be approved by FSCD before a CBE multidisciplinary team becomes involved with a family.

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[Chinook Learning Services](#) under the Calgary Board of Education offers high school upgrading services. Under the age of 20 is minimal cost, but over the age of 20 is full cost. It is online self-directed learning.

[Janus Academy](#) is a specialized and accredited educational services for children and youth with autism. Janus Academy takes on approximately 60 students each school year.

Agencies

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Employment

[Alberta Learning Information Service](#) provides online information about careers in Alberta to help youth and adults explore possible careers paths.

[Calgary Construction Association Youth Employment Program](#) is for youth 16 and up who are looking for work experience in the trades, such as construction, electrical, or pipe fitting.

[Calgary Youth Employment Centre](#) offers free career planning and job search services for ages 15 to 24. Services include portfolio, resume, and cover letter building, as well as interview skills.

Community Programs

[Between Friends](#) is an ability focused charitable organization that provides recreation activities and social opportunities to people with disabilities.

[Blue Sky Music Therapy](#) can be done in one to one sessions or in group settings and is offered for all age groups.

[Camp He Ho Ha](#) offers summer camps for youth, adults, and older adults for six days throughout the summer. Camps are split up based on age and need. Camp He Ho Ha also offers retreats and support camps.

[Canadian Association for Disabled \(CADS\) Skiing/Snowboarding](#) is offered in Calgary by and is a skiing and snowboarding school for people with disabilities. A wide range of abilities and skills are accepted. Adaptive teaching and devices are available.

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[Easter Seals Camp Horizon](#) hosts a variety of summer camps and year-round camps or activities for children, youth, and adults with disabilities. The camp is located just outside of Bragg Creek.

[JB Music Therapy "Drum Circles"](#) is for youth and adults with developmental disabilities. A family member or support worker is required to attend. Requires a time commitment and a fee to participate.

[Moose Lake Gospel Camp](#) caters to the unique needs of all of their campers, whether the needs are physical, emotional, or spiritual. Currently, there are camps offered for every age group.

[Rehoboth Christian Camp](#) are offered annually in July. The camps are for youth or adults. The camps are suited for age groups and energy levels, with each camp last one week in length.

[Rocky Mountain Adaptive \(RMA\)](#) is a registered charity whose aim is to provide any individual with a disability the chance to access all sport and recreational activities in the Canadian Rockies. RMA is an adaptive sport organization who enables adults and children with physical, intellectual, cognitive, or developmental impairments to participate in all the fantastic sports and adventure activities available in the beautiful Bow Valley (including Canmore, Banff, Lake Louise and its surrounding areas). The programs and activities are available to both locals and tourists from around the world.

[Special Olympics Calgary](#) offers sporting opportunities for people with disabilities age 2 and up. Certain sports may require the athlete to be a certain age. There are 21 different sports and 33 programs offered.

[Sunshine Dream Program](#) is for children and youth with severe physical disabilities and/or life threatening illnesses. The Sunshine Dream program allows children and youth the opportunity to find independence and freedom by doing an activity or participating in an experience unique to the child or youth's dreams.

Adult

Funding

[Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped \(AISH\)](#) provides financial and health benefits to eligible adult Albertans with a permanent disability that substantially limits their ability to earn a living. Provides information on income eligibility, how to apply, payment details, and terms and conditions. Links are provided for application process and contact information.

[Coordination Between PDD and AISH](#) provides assistance in understanding the coordinated application process that exists between PDD program and AISH.

[Persons with Developmental Disabilities \(PDD\)](#) funds programs and services to help adult Albertans with developmental disabilities to be a part of their communities and live as independently as they can.

[\(PDD\) Application Process Support](#) provides assistance in explaining the application process and procedure for PDD.

Education

[Alberta Distance Learning](#) is an online education opportunity for adults to complete modules online.

[Columbia College Community Access Services](#) is an academic support at Columbia College in Calgary that focuses on the goals and academic needs of students with developmental disabilities. Persons with Disabilities (PDD) funding is required.

[Chinook Learning Services](#) under the Calgary Board of Education offers high school upgrading services. Under the age of 20 is minimal cost, but over the age of 20 is full cost. It is online self-directed learning.

[Inclusion Alberta](#) has a webpage dedicated to resources and information for those who are pursuing or thinking about pursuing inclusive post-secondary. Resources include what a typical day looks like for a student, schools that offer inclusive post-secondary, and vacancies for the upcoming school year.

[Mount Royal University \(MRU\): Inclusive Post-Secondary Education](#) is for people with developmental disabilities who require some assistance and support in their academic careers. Individuals who utilize this program take a regular degree stream course but receive additional support services to complete the degree. Persons with Disabilities (PDD) funding is required.

[Mount Royal University \(MRU\): Transitional Vocational Program](#) is an education program offered at Mount Royal University (MRU) that focuses on life skills. The program can be completed as full time or part time studies. When the program is completed, the student will receive an Employment Preparation Certificate. Post-Employment Preparation Certificate, graduates can receive employment support.

[Southern Alberta Institute of Technology \(SAIT\): Accessibility Services](#) helps students with disabilities and their postsecondary education requirements and accommodations. SAIT does not have an inclusive postsecondary education service as other Calgary institutes do.

[University of Calgary: Inclusive Post-Secondary Education](#) is for people with developmental disabilities who require some assistance and support in their academic careers. Individuals who utilize this program take a regular degree stream course but receive additional support services to complete the degree. Persons with Disabilities (PDD) funding is required.

Education Funding

[Learning Disabilities Association of Alberta \(LLDA\)](#) provides information on available scholarships and awards for postsecondary students with disabilities.

[Mattinson Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities](#) is a \$2,000 scholarship for full-time students in their 3rd or 4th years of their undergraduate degree. Candidates are nominated by the school they attend.

[NEADS National Student Awards Program](#) offers four different scholarships and valued amounts within the program. The basic requirements and application process are the same for all the different scholarships. [Disability Awards](#) is a separate website created by the NEADS program to assist students with disabilities in finding awards and scholarships for post-secondary education.

[Richard Haskayne Scholarship](#) is a \$5,000 annual scholarship for an eligible Alberta student with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) pursuing postsecondary education or a vocational program.

[Student Aid Alberta](#) provides information on available funding for postsecondary students with disabilities.

[Studying in Canada](#) is a website that offers information, locations, and scholarship opportunities for post-secondary students with disabilities.

[Voice of Albertans with Disabilities \(VAD Society\)](#) provides information on available bursaries and awards for postsecondary students with disabilities.

Agencies

[Approved Regional Service Providers](#) gives the names, website links, and contact information for different service providers in Calgary area. Services include but are not limited to: community access, supported independent living, overnight staffed residence, supportive roommates, employment prep and placement, in/out of home respite, behavioural support, crisis/relief, and psychological supports.

[Calgary Service Providers](#) provides the names, website links, and contact information for different service providers in Calgary area. Unlike the Approved Regional Service Providers there are no descriptions of services offered by each service provider, but there are additional service providers listed.

[Community Living Alternative Services Ltd. \(CLAS\)](#) is an agency in Calgary and surrounding area with adult day programs, community programs, residential support, and supported living, etc. PDD funding required.

[Darrell Cook Family Managed Supports Resource Centre](#) is a partnership project with Inclusion Alberta that connects families to respite workers for age 18 and older.

[Eric's House](#) is a service in Calgary for adults that focuses on growth and learning adult skills while socializing and developing new relationships.

[Excel Society](#) is a service provider in Edmonton and Calgary. Excel Society provides care services for all ages, and specific programming for adults. PDD funding required.

[Independent Living Resource Centre Calgary](#) provides programs, services, and resources to persons with disabilities. Programs such as LEARN that focuses on education, life skills, and volunteer opportunities.

Housing

Please note that many of Calgary's housing options for persons with disabilities is listed under Approved Regional Service Providers which can be found on page 13.

[Calgary Housing Company](#) is a housing company for low income Calgarians, owned by the city of Calgary. There are certain eligibilities that must be met.

[CUPS Calgary](#) is a company that helps low income Calgarians through education and services associated with housing, education, and health.

Employment

[Alberta Association for Supported Employment](#) is an agency that is committed to supporting employment for people with disabilities by finding networks that promote inclusion and sharing information amongst the agency, employer, employee, and support worker.

[Alberta Learning Information Service \(ALIS\)](#) provides online information about careers in Alberta to help youth and adults explore possible careers paths.

[Calgary Alternative Employment Services \(CAES\)](#) from Calgary Alternative Support Services (CASS) is helps adults with disabilities with overcoming challenges to employment. CAES offers resume building, interview skills, supported job search and employment, career exploration and counselling, and workshops.

[Calgary Employment Services](#) offers a wide variety of resources for assistance in education, training, job seeking, and maintaining employment support. There are specific employment resources for persons with disabilities.

[Champions Career Centre](#) helps individuals to find permanent employment through a team of specialists and employer connections.

[Disability Related Employment Supports \(DRES\)](#) provides information on available job search, workplace, and education supports.

[Employment Information for Persons with Disabilities](#) provides links to programs and services that may help persons with disabilities prepare for, obtain and maintain employment.

[Goodwill Industries of Alberta](#) is a charitable organization that provides employment opportunities for people with disabilities. They focus on helping individuals with job development, search, and skill building.

[Opportunities Fund](#) provides information on the Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities, which provides funding for self-employment of persons with disabilities and employers hiring persons with disabilities.

[Progressive Alternatives Society of Calgary \(PASC\)](#) is a program that supports adults with developmental disabilities to find work and connect with employers. Staff provide 1:1 support to ensure transition participants into meaningful employment.

[Vecova Employment](#) offers inclusive employment opportunities for people with disabilities to build relationships and work skills. The primary employment roles are associated with Vecova's bottle recycling depot.

[Workers Compensation Board \(WCB\)](#) offers support and resources for employees injured in the workplace, as well as support for workplace related injuries and vocational services.

Volunteering

[Bethany Care Society](#) is a branch of long term care facilities in Calgary and surrounding areas. There is an abundance of volunteer opportunities, such as visiting seniors, helping in activities or physical therapy, and helping the musicians.

[Brown Bagging for Calgary Kids](#) is a volunteer run, charitable organization that works with Calgary schools to deliver healthy lunches to children who otherwise would not have a lunch. Volunteer options include preparing food, bagging food, and clean up.

[Calgary Food Bank](#) provides food for Calgarians in need. Volunteer roles can be across Calgary, depending on the role. Volunteer roles include sorting and assembly, distribution, packaging, driving, events, etc.

[Calgary Zoo](#) is the family friendly home to many animal exhibits, wildlife, and learning. Volunteering is a minimum of a 1-year commitment and requires training. Volunteer roles include helping visitors, greeting, maintaining the gardens, and assisting with special events.

[Carewest](#) are rehabilitation services in Calgary with approximately 10 locations, each with a unique population of people and care options. Volunteer roles include but are not limited to helping with parties, exercise groups, games, music, physical therapy, and events.

[MEOW Foundation](#) is an organization that cares for stray cats and finds homes for them. They are 95% volunteer run. Volunteer roles include cleaning, being a foster parent to a cat, and planning events, etc.

[Propellus](#) is a volunteer centre in Calgary that operates as an online search tool for volunteer opportunities within Calgary.

[Telus Spark Science Centre](#) is a learning and family fun centre focused on the history of science and modern technology. Volunteering requires a security clearance and two references to volunteer. Roles include programming, testing activities, greeting, and assisting in events or workshops.

[Theatre Calgary](#) is puts on theater productions regularly for all ages. Volunteers are a significant part of their community. Roles include ushering, facilitating administrative duties, and helping at the events.

Community Programs

[Between Friends](#) is an ability focused charitable organization that provides recreation activities and social opportunities to people with disabilities.

[Blue Sky Music Therapy](#) can be done in one to one sessions or in group settings and is offered for all age groups.

[Camp He Ho Ha](#) offers summer camps for youth, adults, and older adults for six days throughout the summer. Camps are split up based on age and need. Camp He Ho Ha also offers retreats and support camps.

[Camp L.G. Barnes](#) is a camp in Alberta for adults with developmental disabilities with both indoor and outdoor activities.

[Canadian Association for Disabled \(CADS\) Skiing/Snowboarding](#) is offered in Calgary by and is a skiing and snowboarding school for people with disabilities. A wide range of abilities and skills are accepted. Adaptive teaching and devices are available.

[City of Calgary Recreation](#) provides links to all Calgary leisure centres and recreation facilities. Schedules and costs for each leisure and recreation facility are listed. There are programs offered specifically for people with disabilities.

[CLEAR Music Therapy](#) offers opportunities for people with disabilities to learn music through singing, playing instruments, musical games, and moving to music.

[Disabled Sailing Association of Alberta](#) is an association that focuses on adapted sailing programs for people with disabilities. Multiple programs are offered across Alberta for both individual sail and community sail programs.

[Easter Seals Camp Horizon](#) hosts a variety of summer camps and year-round camps or activities for children, youth, and adults with disabilities. The camp is located just outside of Bragg Creek.

[In-Definite Arts Society](#) is for anyone over 18 years old with a developmental disability who loves art and drawing.

[JB Music Therapy "Drum Circles"](#) is for youth and adults with developmental disabilities. A family member or support worker is required to attend. Requires a time commitment and a fee to participate.

[MoMo Mixed Ability Dance Theatre](#) is a professional dance study that welcomes adults with disabilities and mixed abilities to come and learn how to dance. There are a variety of meet times. Mixed skill levels are welcome.

[Moose Lake Gospel Camp](#) caters to the unique needs of all of their campers, whether the needs are physical, emotional, or spiritual. Currently, there are camps offered for every age group.

[Rehoboth Christian Camp](#) are offered annually in July. The camps are for youth or adults. The camps are suited for age groups and energy levels, with each camp last one week in length.

[Special Olympics Calgary](#) offers sporting opportunities for people with disabilities age 2 and up. Certain sports may require the athlete to be a certain age. There are 21 different sports and 33 programs offered.

[William Watson Lodge Society](#) is a lodge in Kananaskis that overlooks the lower Kananaskis lake. The lodge provides full accessibility to cabins, campsites, and facilities for people with disabilities and elderly.

Older Adult

Funding

[Canada Pension Plan \(CPP\)](#) provides disability benefits to people who have made enough contributions to the CPP and who are disabled and cannot work at any job on a regular basis. Benefits may also be available to their dependent children.

Agencies

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Community Programs

[Blue Sky Music Therapy](#) can be done in one to one sessions or in group settings and is offered for all age groups.

[Calgary Seniors Resource Society](#) provides services to help older adults maintain their quality of life. A large part of their services are provided through social workers and volunteers.

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[JB Music Therapy "Drum Circles"](#) is for youth and adults with developmental disabilities. A family member or support worker is required to attend. Requires a time commitment and a fee to participate.

[Kerby Centre](#) is a non-for-profit organization that focuses on the well-being of older adults. The Kerby Centre offers food, activities, events, and supports for older adults.

[Rehoboth Christian Camp](#) are offered annually in July. The camps are for youth all the way up to older adults. The camps are suited for age groups and energy levels, with each camp last one week in length.

[Rocky Mountain Adaptive \(RMA\)](#) is a registered charity whose aim is to provide any individual with a disability the chance to access all sport and recreational activities in the Canadian Rockies. RMA is an adaptive sport organization who enables adults and children with physical, intellectual, cognitive, or developmental impairments to participate in all the fantastic sports and adventure activities available in the beautiful Bow Valley (including Canmore, Banff, Lake Louise and its surrounding areas). The programs and activities are available to both locals and tourists from around the world.

[William Watson Lodge Society](#) is a lodge in Kananaskis that overlooks the lower Kananaskis lake. The lodge provides full accessibility to cabins, campsites, and facilities for people with disabilities and elderly.

Parents and Guardians

Diagnosis

[Alberta Health Services \(AHS\) Multi-Disciplinary Team](#) at the Alberta Children's Hospital is equipped to perform diagnosis, provide consultation, and continually support with specialized services. The team works closely with Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD).

[Integrated Services in Education \(ISE\)](#) at the University of Calgary (U of C) is a formal diagnosis centre for children, adolescents, and adults. ISE provides diagnosis testing for a wide variety of disabilities, such as but is not limited to autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit disorder, learning disabilities, and developmental disabilities, etc.

Behavior Management

[Do 2 Learn](#) is a website that offers activities and guidance on building social skills and maintaining behaviors. The website offers a variety of interactive games and suggestions.

[Lives in the Balance](#) by Dr. Ross Greene provides training for parents/guardians, clinicians, and educators on working with challenging behaviors. Dr. Greene offers a wide variety of tools and methods for managing behaviors.

[Positive Behavior Supports](#) by Mount Royal University (MRU) is support and education for children with particular needs and can be utilized by parents/guardians, clinicians, and educators.

Funding

[Alberta Child Benefit \(ACB\)](#) provides direct financial assistance to lower-income families with children under 18 who have a family net income less than \$41,746 per year.

[The Watson Family Foundation](#) offers funds to support families in need of financial assistance for caring for children with disabilities. Please refer to the website to see application specific requirements.

Child Care

[Alberta Special Needs Care Listings](#) offers the opportunity to search for caregivers in your area, for specific needs, ages, and time.

[Approved Alberta Government Child Care](#) provides information for parents of children with disabilities on how they can receive support from the Inclusive Child Care Program in approved childcare centers, family day homes and preschools.

[Children's Hospice and Palliative Care Services](#) provides information, resources, and a list of services for palliative and end-of-life care services for newborns, children, and youth.

[Gozzany Health Services, Inc.](#) is a home health care provider that consists of registered nurses who can provide care for medically challenging cases.

Respite

[Children's Cottage Society](#) is a foundation that focuses on providing crisis support. There are a wide variety of services for families, such as crisis respite care. There are further supports such as the healthy family program, homelessness family support, and newborn support.

[Responsive Children's Supports Ltd.](#) is a respite care company that offers respite in homes or at the KidzHotel for planned or emergency overnight respite.

[Stepping Into Life, Inc.](#) is a respite care company that helps families with whatever time commitment they require.

[Supportive Communities](#) is a partnership project of Inclusion Alberta to help connect families to respite workers for ages 18 and younger.

Support

[Alberta Government - Connect with Other Families](#) provides parent support groups, link centers, and disability associations.

[Connections Counselling & Consulting Foundation](#) is a counselling centre that focuses on supporting families who have a loved one with a developmental disability.

[Family and Community Resource Centre](#) is a program located at the Alberta Children's Hospital that focuses on provide resources and support for families. Specifically, there is a focus on [Youth in Transition](#) which supports families with transitioning their children from child to youth, and there are resources for transition children with disabilities.

[Family and Community Support Services](#) and [Program Handbook](#) focuses on using a "people helping people to help themselves" approach and offers a wide range of programs and services at the community level.

Aging

[Aarbo Fuldauer LLP Estate Planning](#) provides information on discretionary trust and registered disability savings plans for parents of persons with disabilities to better plan for the future.

[Personal Directives](#) provides information on what a personal directive is, how to write one, and how to choose a representative. Personal directives is a legal document that you write in case you cannot make your own personal decisions in the future.

[Plan Calgary](#) formerly known as The Road Ahead, is a service that offers planning for the future for people with disabilities. Plan Calgary offers services that look at trusts, estates, will planning, and home ownership.

[Will Planning](#) provides information on how will planning and the development of a will works in Alberta, with additional information on what a will is, the different types, and choosing a representative, etc.

[Vanderleek Law Estate Planning](#) provides information regarding forming a will and estate planning.

Miscellaneous

[Able Translations](#) offers translation services on site, over-the-phone, or through transcription. The list of languages offered is extensive. Interpreters can be found worldwide.

[ACDS Online Learning Portal](#) through Alberta Council of Disability Services emphasizes the significance of direct service workers by providing an online portal for learning that helps non-certified services providers the chance to become certified service providers.

[Alberta Children's Hospital Pediatric Dental Clinic](#) offers dental care for special needs children and youth age 0-18 years old.

[Alberta Council of Disability Services Legislation](#) is a document that provides all of the legislation associated and promoted through the Alberta Council of Disability Services.

[Alberta Emergency Alert Apps](#) provides information about the available apps provided by Alberta Emergency Alerts.

[Alberta Health Services \(AHS\)](#) is general link to Alberta Health Services website for direction to different health related resources such as health link, disability services, and health services.

[Alberta Human Rights Commission](#) focuses on protecting Albertans ensuring equality and reduction of discrimination. Though not specific to Albertans with disabilities, they are a vulnerable population who could benefit from knowing their rights under the act.

[Alberta Health Services \(AHS\) Mobile Apps](#) provides information about all the available mobile apps provided by AHS.

[Alberta Health Services \(AHS\) Weight Management](#) are programs for both children and adults who have weight related concerns. AHS has a variety of resources that help increase knowledge and awareness for healthy lifestyles.

[Augmentative Communication and Educational Technology Service \(ACETS\)](#) by Alberta Health Services (AHS) is a service that offers assessments for communication devices. The only downfall is that there can be a long waitlist, therefore AHS suggests trialing devices prior to assessment.

[CanTalk](#) is a translation service that offers in-person, over the phone, and documentation support.

[Child Safe Canada](#) has a variety of programs that work on self-esteem and social skills, and resources for child safety. Programs vary for age groups, but generally can be for children or adults.

[College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta](#) provides a means for accessing medical professionals within Alberta.

[Community Education Services \(CES\)](#) provides opportunities for parents, guardians, and community members to attend free education seminars on child and youth health topics. Seminars can be viewed in person, through telehealth, audio line, or recorded.

[Complex Service Needs Initiative](#) from Alberta Health Services (AHS) works with the Government of Alberta and Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) to help adults with complex services needs that require integrated and supportive systems.



[Council of Canadians with Disabilities](#) is a national human rights organization of people with disabilities working for an accessible and inclusive Canada.

[Dakota Comforts & Designs](#) is a private, small company in Calgary that focuses on developing and selling custom materials, spaces, and devices for specific sensory and functional needs of children and adults with disabilities.

[Dial 211](#) is a telephone service run by the United Way, Distress Centre Calgary, The City of Calgary, and Inform Alberta that provides answers to questions or concerns, support for challenging situations, and connections to community resources.

[Disability Action Hall](#) is an advocacy group for Albertans with disabilities. Anyone can be a member as they primarily stand for making Alberta a better place for all citizens.

[disAbility Information and Resources](#) is an extended resource list by disABILITY for persons with disabilities and their families.

[Find an Audiologist or Speech Language Pathologist \(SLP\)](#) provides connects to finding registered audiologists or SLP's in Alberta.

[Inclusion Alberta](#) is a family-based non-profit federation that advocates on behalf of children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families. Provides links to resources for inclusion opportunities surrounding employment and education. They also have many connections to community programs within the city.

[International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#) is on December 3rd of each year, the United Nations (UN) celebrates persons with disabilities by promoting the rights and well-beings of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society. As a result, many countries around the world celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The website provides links to further explanation and resources.

[Foothills Dental Health Clinic](#) requires a referral and performs dental work for adults with developmental disabilities.

[Legal Aid Alberta](#) offers legal services at a minimal in areas such as law for youth, adult, civil, immigration and refugee, and families. Other areas of expertise include protection orders and domestic violence, and child welfare.

[Social Thinking](#) is a website that provides well-known work that focuses social learning for young children. The teachings are primarily done online, through books, and CD's.

[Transition Planning from Adult to Older Adult](#) from Connect Ability offers advice and assistance for adults transitioning to older adults. This transitioning explanation is primarily explained in terms of adults with developmental disabilities.

Transportation

[Alberta Motor Association \(AMA\)](#): Driving Education offers a wide variety of education options for individuals wanting to obtain their learners or license. AMA does have online driving curriculum and adaptive cars and learning options for people with disabilities.

[Calgary Transit Access](#) provides information on what Calgary transit is, who can use it, and how to apply, including Access Calgary services. Calgary Transit has a [Travel Training](#) course that offers one-on-one training for seniors and people with disabilities on how to use public transit safely and independently.

[Community Accessible Rehabilitation \(CAR\)](#): Pre-Driving Assessment Service is a publicly funded pre-driving assessment for Calgarians that looks at concerns like reaction time, visual fields, and medical exams, etc. It requires a physician referral.

[DREAMS Transportation](#) provides information on their transportation services and how to access and book their services.

[DriveABLE Driving Assessment](#) provides assessment for cognitively at risk drivers using technology. The assessment includes in office assessment and a road assessment. A referral is required.

[Mount Royal University Transitional Vocational Program \(TVP\)](#) is a postsecondary support for adults with disabilities offers a course specifically focused on studying and getting a learner's license.

[Rocky View Regional Handi Bus](#) is another transportation service for Calgary region that offers assistance and support for diverse travel needs.

[4 Seasons Transportation](#) is a private transportation service in Calgary for children with disabilities. Bookings require 24 hours' notice.

Literature

Christian Book Vendors

[Better Books and Bibles](#) is located off of 16 Avenue in Calgary, Alberta. Better Books and Bibles both new and used literature that focuses on improving your Christian walk.

[Christian Books, Bibles, Gifts, and More](#) is a book vendor in the United States that ships to Canada. There is a wide selection of literature amongst other items.

[Friendship Ministries](#) is a bookstore and advocacy group online that supports people with developmental disabilities. Christian literature can be purchased through their online bookstore.

[The Fig Tree](#) is located in West Edmonton Mall in Edmonton, Alberta. The Fig Tree ships to Calgary and carries a large variety of literature.

Christianity and Disability

For additional literature suggestions and literature pertaining specific topics please contact the Special Needs Ministry and inquire about our conference book inventory.

[Adam: God's Beloved](#) by Henri Nouwen in 1997, focuses on Henri's experiencing grieving the loss of his friend Adam, who had physical challenges and limitations due to a disability.

[No More Peanut Butter Sandwiches](#) by Jeff Davidson in 2014 is about a father who thought his life was wrecked when he had a son special needs, but he learns that his son is an amazing masterpiece and gift from God.

[The Beyond Suffering Bible](#) by Joni Eareckson Tada in 2016 is a study bible made for people who are suffering from disease, illness, and/or disability and the people who love them.

[The Bible, Disability, and the Church: A New Vision of the People of God](#) by Amos Yong in 2011 focuses on Amos' experience growing up with a brother who had down syndrome, and how to interpret biblical texts that discuss disability.

[The Power of the Powerless: A Brother's Legacy of Love](#) by Christopher De Vinck in 2002, focuses on Oliver, Christopher's brother who was born blind, physically impaired, and non-verbal.

[The Road to Daybreak: A Spiritual Journey](#) by Henri Nouwen in 1990, focuses on his experience leaving the academic world and moving in L'Arche. Henri recollects his spiritual encounters and changes.

[The Violent Bear It Away](#) by Flannery O'Connor in 2007, focuses on the experience of spirituality in a young boy with a developmental disability.

[Vulnerable Communion: A Theology of Disability and Hospitality](#) by Thomas Reynolds in 2008, focuses on the experience of parents who have sons with disabilities and their experience feeling misunderstood in the church community.

Mental Health

Centre Street Church offers a list of recommended counselling services. Please contact Central Campus at 403.293.3900 for information regarding counselling opportunities.

[Access Mental Health](#) is a non-urgent mental health services that runs via phone. Anyone with questions or concerns about their mental health or the mental health of a loved one can call the number provided on the Access Mental Health's website to connect with a professional. The professional can assist in navigating accessible mental health services for the individual in need.

[Bridging the Gap](#) is for young adults age 16-24 that looks at connecting and supporting them to mental health services.

[Canadian Mental Health Association - Alberta Branch](#) provides links to resources and support in Canada and Alberta region. Some of the services offered are focused on suicide intervention and prevention, wellness services, and workplace mental health training. There is also a [Calgary](#) branch.

[McBride Career Group: Growth 4 U](#) is a program for any age that helps people with mental illness obtain and maintain employment. First there is an in-depth client-assessment, then there is an 8-week paid work placement, and last there is support in maintaining a work position.

[Potential Place](#) is a community clubhouse program in downtown Calgary that supports people with mental illness. The clubhouse is a structured work community both at the center and off-campus with supported employment options.

[Wood's Homes](#) is a children's mental health center that provides supports for children, youth, and their families experiencing mental health concerns. There are a variety of programs from live in treatment to crisis services.

Common Types of Disabilities

The purpose of this section is to provide additional information on common types of disabilities. These resources do not replace formal diagnosis. If you have questions or concerns please address them with your medical support team. [Connect Ability](#) is a great resource that provides fact sheets that contain a description of the below disabilities.

- ▶ [Acquired Brain Injury](#)
- ▶ [Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder](#)
- ▶ [Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)
- ▶ [Cerebral Palsy](#)
- ▶ [Developmental Disability](#)
- ▶ [Down Syndrome](#)
- ▶ [Epilepsy](#)
- ▶ [Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder](#)
- ▶ [Hearing Disorders and Deafness](#)
- ▶ [Learning Disabilities](#)
- ▶ [Movement Disorders](#)
- ▶ [Neurological Disorders](#)
- ▶ [Oppositional Defiant Disorder](#)
- ▶ [Vision Impairment and Blindness](#)

For further inquiries about disabilities not listed above, please go to the [Centres for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

Associated Resources for Common Types of Disabilities

Acquired Brain Injury

[Alberta Brain Injury Initiative \(ABII\)](#) supports adults with acquired brain injury to live, work, and participate in their communities.

[Association for the Rehabilitation of the Brain Injured \(ARBI\)](#) is a rehabilitation service for acquired brain injury and stroke survivors. The rehabilitation is intensive, and community based with family support promoted to ensure a nurturing environment.

[Brain Injury Canada](#) provides information on acquired brain injuries with links to resources such as conferences, advocacy, and navigating care services.

[Pediatric Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program \(PBIRP\)](#) is an inpatient rehabilitation program for children and youth age 1 through 17. Referral is required. Methods of acquiring a referral are linked to the website.

[Southern Alberta Brain Injury Society \(SABIS\)](#) provides information on available events, adult support groups, service coordination, educational services, and caregiver support group.

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

[ADHD Families](#) provides information for individuals with ADHD and their families. There are links for further resources and toolkits that provide connection to further services and supports in Calgary area.

[Centre for ADHD Awareness Canada \(CADDAC\)](#) provides information for individuals with ADHD and their families. There are links to resources, advocacy, physician resources, and a CADDAC store for materials such as DVD's teaching about different aspects of ADHD.

Autism Spectrum Disorder

[Ability Hub](#) is a centre in Calgary that focuses on transitioning children with autism to adulthood and providing supports to adolescents, adults, and families living with autism. Ability Hub offers a resource list that has a wide range of resources for anyone requiring autism support.

[Autism Aspergers Friendship Society](#) provides respite care in recreational environments for families with children, youth, or adults with autism, aspergers, and attention deficit disorders, etc.

[Autism Calgary](#) provides information on Autism Spectrum Disorder and offers family supports, support groups, recreation groups, special events, and employment initiative.

[Autism Canada](#) provides information on about autism, with tips on living with autism, and resources.

Cerebral Palsy (CP)

[Alberta CP Sport Association \(ACPSA\)](#) is a supportive boccia ball and power soccer are offered in Calgary through the ACPSA. Information on dates, funding, and registration are available through ACPSA's website.

[Calgary CP Association](#) provides information on cerebral palsy, including current news and how to get involved. There are resources such as, family supports, resources and community support, and programs and services.

[CP Association of Alberta \(CPAA\)](#) provides information on funding, community education, advocacy, support services, and vacation topics. CPAA offers programs specifically in Calgary for children and adults with cerebral palsy.

Down Syndrome

[Canadian Down Syndrome Society \(CDSS\)](#) provides information for parents and family, such as supports for being a new parent of a child with down syndrome or supports for each of the life stages. There is further information on health, education, community, and resources.

[Ups and Downs - Calgary Down Syndrome Association](#) provides education and support for parents and social activities for children and adults with down syndrome in Calgary and surrounding areas. There are links to resources, community supports, and programs.

Epilepsy

[Epilepsy Association of Calgary](#) provides information on epilepsy for individuals with epilepsy, their families, and the public. There are available resources such as support groups, advocacy, and education opportunities.

[Epilepsy Canada](#) provides information on epilepsy with links on how to get involved, to donate, or sponsor an individual with epilepsy.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

[Alberta FASD](#) provides information from the government of Alberta on offered programs and services, education, and healthy pregnancies.

[Calgary FASD Network \(CFAN\)](#) provides information on FASD, FASD services, training and education, and the empowerment fund.

[Canadian Government FASD](#) provides information on prevention, cause, signs and symptoms, health effects, and supports for FASD.

Hearing Disorders and Deafness

[Calgary Hearing Aid and Audiology](#) provides hearing loss services, and has a resource list that provides links to supports for education, finances, and associated literature.

[Canadian Hard of Hearing Association: Calgary](#) is an advocacy group that is made and run by Calgarians who are living with hearing loss. The website has a resources section with information on funding, accessibility, equipment, education, and support groups.

[Canadian Hearing Society](#) provides information on services associated with employment, education, accessibility, counselling, and hearing healthcare. There is a knowledge centre for advocacy and awareness.

Learning Disabilities (LD)

[Learning Disabilities Association of Alberta \(LDAA\)](#) provides information on LD, with links to resources such as assessment, funding, and education etc. There is an app associated with LDAA called "The Learners Prep Kit" app that is designed to assist in the education process - link available through their website.

[Learning Disabilities Association of Canada \(LDAC\)](#) provides leadership and support to people with LD, their parents, teachers, and other professionals. They provide cutting edge information on learning disabilities, practical solutions, and tools that can be used.

Oppositional Defiant Disorder

[American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry](#) a resources document that provides information about oppositional defiant disorder, treatment, and answers to common questions.

Vision Impairment and Blindness

[The Canadian National Institute for the Blind \(CNIB\)](#) provides information on living with vision loss and resources such as rehabilitation, accessibility, and services offered in local communities.

[Alberta Society for the Visually Impaired: Calgary District](#) provides resources for educators, parents, and students.



Centre street
church

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