

# What We're Hearing

## PDD Review Panel

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### Grande Prairie - Community Conversations

The Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) program review panel visited Grande Prairie, Alberta, October 30 and 31, 2018. More than 45 people who receive PDD supports, their families, service providers, community disability workers, Government of Alberta staff and other interested Albertans came to share their views about the PDD program review at five Community Conversations.

The Community Conversations were an opportunity for participants to share their experiences directly with the review panel. Participants could also provide written comments and suggestions about the topics addressed by the PDD program review.

The issues and themes below were noted by review panel members as they reflected on their conversations with Grande Prairie participants.

### What's Working Well?

- Many participants spoke about positive working relationships among families, service providers and staff with the PDD program.
- These strong working relationships were referenced by a number of participants as key to supporting effective transitional planning for children reaching adulthood in the northwest region.
- An innovative housing model was described as successfully supporting people with complex service needs.

### What Can Be Improved?

- People with disabilities indicated they want greater input on decisions affecting them, especially those concerning their support staff.
- Service providers and Government of Alberta staff indicated they want more input on how strategic decisions are implemented.
- Attendees from multiple participant groups suggested that the PDD program should strengthen its commitment to individualized service delivery.
- Several family members suggested developing a Family Resource Centre for the region. Participants believe this would help families using Family Managed Services and those with children transitioning to adult services.
- A range of attendees also raised the need for affordable housing and transportation options for people with disabilities.

The verbal feedback and written comments offered by participants at the sessions will be analyzed to support the review panel's continuing work.

### What Else is Happening?

Albertans are also providing feedback to the review through an online questionnaire, written and video submissions as well as artwork.

The review panel will continue to visit communities across Alberta in the coming months. Your participation and feedback is important. The schedule of community conversations, online questionnaire, address for submissions and an email to sign-up for updates can be found at the [PDD program review webpage](#).