

What We're Hearing

PDD Review Panel

Edmonton - Community Conversations

The Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) program review panel visited Edmonton, Alberta December 4 to 6, 2018. Over 285 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 at six 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 highlights below are only a few of the issues and themes noted by review panel members as they reflected on their conversations with Edmonton participants. This is a summary only and does not reflect everything heard during the sessions.

What's Working Well?

- Many families spoke positively about the PDD program, particularly Family Managed Services, and the support they receive from community disability workers.
- Service providers said the change in contract length from one year to three years is working well. The longer contracts provide greater continuity of care for individuals and more flexibility when planning services.
- Participants spoke positively about advocacy organizations and their work to support Albertans with developmental disabilities.

What Can Be Improved?

- The length of time it takes to get PDD services.
- Training and salaries for community disability workers.
- Communication and information about the PDD program and the services it offers.
- Transition planning for people moving between programs as well as greater collaboration between the justice, health, and social service sectors.
- Transportation options for people with disabilities.
- A more holistic approach to determining eligibility and support needs.

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

How Can I Get More Information?

Please visit the PDD review webpage at <https://www.alberta.ca/pdd-review.aspx>. You can also sign up for email updates on the site.