

What We're Hearing

PDD Review Panel

Fort McMurray – Community Conversations

The Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) program review panel visited Fort McMurray, Alberta, November 6 and 7, 2018. More than 35 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. The panel heard insights, ideas and stories from many people. Participants could also provide written comments and suggestions about the topics addressed by the PDD program review.

The highlights below were noted as review panel members considered what they heard from Fort McMurray participants. This is a summary document only and may not reflect everything heard during the sessions.

What's Working Well?

- Community disability workers who worked with the same individuals for many years spoke positively about the agency they worked for.
- Participants indicated there are several inclusive and innovative services within the northeast region, like permanent supportive housing options for people who had past difficulties with homelessness, community inclusion programs for older adults with disabilities and the

municipality's committee on inclusion, diversity and equality.

- Government of Alberta staff spoke about collaborative working relationships across all program areas.

What Can Be Improved?

- Many participants identified a need to establish services within smaller communities and improve collaboration between PDD and Alberta Health Services, especially for people with complex service needs.
- Access to expertise and establishing services for people with difficulties in speech, hearing and/or vision was noted by several participants.
- The need for affordable housing and transportation options for people with disabilities was also raised by participants.
- Participants noted that some people with disabilities may be limited in their activities and relationships, if service providers and/or support staff do not share similar values.

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.