

Information Guide

In 2012, following several incidents of harm to individuals receiving services through the PDD program, new safety standards were introduced through the *Persons with Developmental Disabilities Safety Standard Regulation*. The regulation:

- is applied when PDD staffing services are provided to one adult with complex needs or, two or more unrelated adults living in a home where regular overnight support is provided;
- does not apply to homes with four or more individuals licensed under the *Supportive Living Accommodation Licensing Act*; and
- does not apply if a person is supported by family-managed services (an individual, their family, or a person close to the individual who has hired paid supports either through a private citizen or an approved service).

The regulation has eight standards including maintenance, water and room temperature, medication assistance, and requirements for fire safety inspections, building codes compliance, public health inspections and zoning approval.

Since the regulation was put into effect, Albertans have raised a number of concerns including:

- **COST** - It may be expensive to make the home improvements that are needed to meet the standards.
- **INCLUSION** - Needing a home to be rezoned because a person with developmental disabilities receiving supports through the PDD program lives there does not lead to inclusive community living.
- **STIGMA and DISCRIMINATION** - Requiring inspections and holding the homes of people with developmental disabilities to different standards may create stigma and could be viewed as discriminatory.
- **AVAILABILITY OF HOUSING** - Landlords may not want to rent to people with developmental disabilities because of the safety standard requirements. This may mean that people could be evicted or have trouble finding a home to rent.

In light of concerns raised by Albertans and service providers about the regulation, the Minister of Human Services appointed an external Consultation Team to oversee and guide the engagement on safety requirements. The team includes individuals who are representing people with developmental disabilities, service providers, advocates and community members.

What is the engagement about?

The engagement will focus on the safety of individuals receiving PDD program supports. More specifically, the engagement will be on what the provisions of safety should be for people receiving services through the PDD program and to whom those provisions should apply. As such, anyone with an interest in the well-being and community inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities is encouraged to participate.

Persons with Developmental Disabilities Safety Standards Engagement

The Consultation Team recognizes there are many elements of safety that are important to people, however, they will be focusing their recommendations to the Minister on safety in the homes of individuals receiving services from the PDD program.

Individuals, their families and guardians, service providers, landlords, health and safety professionals and community members will have an opportunity to share their stories and help inform solutions that respect the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities to live safely in their homes, without compromising their rights or dignity.

The engagement has two phases:

- Phase 1: Eight Community Conversation Forums and a questionnaire that can be completed online or in paper copy format between February 18, 2016 and March 14, 2016.
- Phase 2: Focused conversations about solutions with stakeholders. Details on phase 2 will be finalized at the end of phase 1.

Input from the engagement will be used to create recommendations that foster safety in the community and affirm the rights of persons with developmental disabilities to live with dignity and opportunity in the community while recognizing and respecting their need for safe, healthy and supported lives.

What will we do with the feedback from phase 1?

The Consultation Team will submit a ‘What We Heard’ summary report to the Minister of Human Services before March 31, 2016. The report will also be posted on the PDD Safety Standards consultation website and highlight key themes heard throughout the engagement and inform phase two of the engagement.