

PHASE TWO SUMMARY REPORT

Persons with Developmental Disabilities

Safety Standards Consultation

Plain Language Version

SEPTEMBER 2016



Talking about Safety

The disability community was worried about the PDD Safety Standards (called “Safety Standards” in this paper) that were created in 2012 for people with developmental disabilities (called People with a big “P” in this paper). Many thought the new Safety Standards were not fair. The Government of Alberta (called “The Government” in this paper) put together a team of people (called “The Team” in this paper) from the community and from the government to look at how everyone can help to support People to be safe in the community.

The Team talked to many Albertans. Everyone was very clear that to be safe People need to live in and be part of their communities. The Team knows we cannot make sure People are always safe. The Team also knows People have the right to take risks (which means sometimes People can choose to do things that may not be safe).

Phase One – Listening to People

The first thing The Team did was listen to what hundreds of people had to say. Here is what they learned:

1. The Safety Standards were hard to understand.
2. It takes much more than health and safety laws for People to be safe.
3. Helping to keep People safe is everyone’s job.
4. Workers need to know how to help keep People safe.
5. People thought the new laws were not fair and might cost them too much money.

Then The Team asked The Government to do these things:

1. Get rid of the Safety Standards.
2. Get all parts of The Government to work together to get rid of the Safety Standards.
3. Get The Team to talk to everyone again to figure out the best ways to help People to be safe and a part of their communities.

The Government agreed to do these things.

Phase Two – Checking Ideas

This report is about what the team found out what we should do next now that the Safety Standards are stopped. We got together again to talk about how to be safe. The Team thought that there were five things that were really important (called “values”) to keep in mind when we plan to help keep People safe:

1. Make sure People are part of their communities.
2. Make sure The Government respects People’s rights, choices, dignity, and their health and safety.
3. Make sure The Government knows and respects that People’s homes are their homes.
4. Help keep People safe in the community in a way that really works.
5. Show what The Government should do to help keep People safe and to make sure that People have good supports.

The next step was for the team to test and check if the ideas to help People live safely in the community are good ideas. From June to July, the Team asked what people thought. The ideas came from the talks the Team heard while travelling around Alberta in early spring.

“I really appreciated the opportunity to be able to share my thoughts and opinions.”

There were many ways People could tell the Team if ideas were good ideas: Filling out a survey, a group phone call, a focus group or an email.



550 people did the survey or email



50 people did the group phone call



142 people met in a focus group

What Albertans told the Team

The community thought that safety was about more than safe homes. They thought that People were safer when they know many people and are a part of their communities. They also thought it is important for People to be comfortable in their homes. People need to learn how to keep themselves safe. People need workers who know how to keep People safe. Everyone needs to work together to make sure People are safe but that they still have the right to take risks and make choices.

What Albertans said about 5 Ideas talked about in Phase Two:

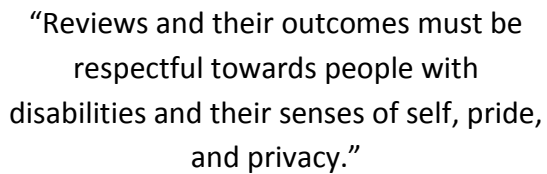
5 Ideas 		Good idea 😊	Ok and... 😐
<p>Look at the PDD Program and how it keeps People Safe</p>		<p>Led by outside of government</p>	
<p>Look at how Workers keep People Safe in the Community</p>		<p>Good idea</p>	<p>Hard to find money to pay workers and no schools</p>
<p>Look at Ways to make sure Agencies help keep People Safe</p>		<p>Tests are needed Everyone needs to be involved</p>	<p>Keep our homes, homes</p>
<p>Safety Standards made Together</p>		<p>Everyone helps make People safe</p>	<p>The same rules as every other Albertan No special laws for People</p>
<p>Other Ideas Voluntary Registry Support Advocacy Fire and Health Workers Teach Safety</p>		<p>We need more people to talk to</p>	<p>It's about choice and privacy Support families and self-advocacy</p>




Look at the PDD Program and how it keeps People safe

Most people thought it was a good idea to look at how PDD works to keep People safe by doing a review. Albertans said the review be led by people outside of the government. Some people were not sure what to include in the review. It is very important that services People get are made around their own needs, instead of a 'one shoe' or 'one service' as everyone's need are different.

People thought it was a good idea to have a better way for the Government and People to talk. Honest and open communication was important.



"Reviews and their outcomes must be respectful towards people with disabilities and their senses of self, pride, and privacy."

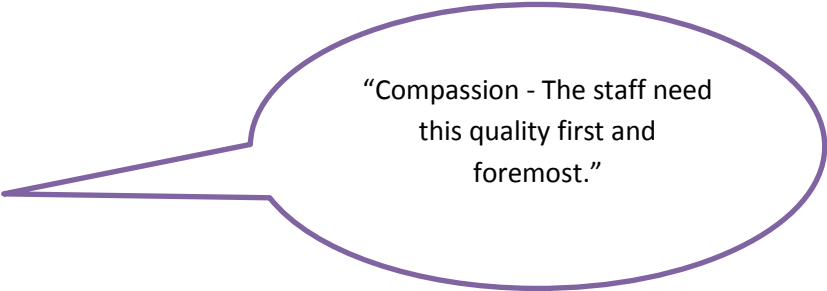


"I believe that open communication would serve to build trust and positive interactions between PDD and the disability community."



Look at how workers keep People safe in the community

People thought workers should have to learn things so they could do a good job. They thought schools, The Government and the People should work together to make sure workers can learn how to be a good worker. They thought workers should be paid more money when they learn how to be a good worker. They also thought someone should check to see if workers know the best ways to help People (this is a test for workers called "certification"). Everyone needs to work together to come up with a plan to get, teach and keep good workers. People also said it is hard to keep good workers because many of the schools to train people are closed.



"Compassion - The staff need this quality first and foremost."



Look at ways to make sure agencies help keep People safe

The Team heard that a Test for agencies to help keep People safe in the community helps. The Test could check for things like fire alarms and emergency kits. It could also check to make sure People do many things and know many people in their community. The Team knows that People need to be safe but also to have choices and dignity. They want the community to work together to make sure The Test helps People to be safe. The Team also thought it would be good to share The Test with families who do not use agencies so they know how to keep People safe too.

“Accreditation needs to be a partnership not just a book of rules.”



Safety standards made together

There are lots of rules and laws that help to keep people safe in homes. These rules and laws are for everyone. The Safety Standards were “special” rules and laws made just for People with developmental disabilities. The Safety Standards were confusing. Also, People did not want “special” laws and rules just for them. They want to be treated the same as other Albertans even if they get help from PDD. The Safety Standards have been stopped. We all need to work together to figure out a way to make laws and rules that keep People safe, are fair to everyone and that mean People can still be a part of their communities.

“Safety in home is not just PDD homes it is everyone’s home.”


“STANDATA has turned safety into physical (but safety goes beyond physical).”

 **Other Ideas**


When there is an emergency the police, firefighters, ambulance drivers and others (called “First Responders”) come to help. In Calgary, People can give the police their name and other information about them so all of the First Responders know how to help them if they are in trouble. People do not have to do this. It is their choice. First Responders can only use what they know about People to help them. If People decide they no longer want the police to know about how to help them in an emergency, they can ask the police to take their information off off the computer. This is one way to help keep People safer in the community.

People like the idea for the government to support families and self-advocacy. Some People also liked the idea of a person separate from government to talk to if they are upset.


People also like the idea for fire and health workers to tell People, their families and their service workers about safety, but only when they ask for help.



“It’s a place to go when you need an unbiased, safe place to talk about your concerns.”



“Everyone with a disability is different. One thing that is common is the sense of belonging. That sense of belonging to a home and community that includes people they like and love is the biggest and best safety tool one can have.”



“Yes I believe that this is vital information that could be important to emergency responders, however it needs to be voluntary and the information gathered kept confidential.”

Appendix

Consultation Team Members

John te Linde (Chair), Retired Manager of Social Policy and Planning for the City of Calgary, Psychologist

Michael Cooper, Community Member and Advocate

Ann Nicol, Chief Executive Office, Alberta Council of Disability Services (ACDS)

Tammy Poirier, Member of the Disability Action Hall

Marie Renaud, Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for St. Albert

Jennifer Stewart, Member of the Disability Action Hall

Cam Tait, Journalist, Member of the Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities

Bruce Uditsky, Chief Executive Officer, Inclusion Alberta (formerly Alberta Association for Community Living)