

# ACDI 2015 – A Year in Review

## *Committed to a Strong Committee*

- Developed, monitored and achieved the 2015 ACDI Goals
- Updated the Committee Terms of Reference.
- ACDI member attended the Vitalize Conference, Alberta's key training and skills development conference for the non-profit/volunteer sector and shared their learning with the committee.

## *Guest Speakers: In the Pursuit of Understanding Processes & Opportunities*

- Maureen Mudry, Manager of Parks Planning & Development – discussed upcoming accessibility projects.
- Donna Merkyl, Special Projects Coordinator – presented a photo display of the Hockey Hounds Center accessibility improvements completed in 2014.
- Richard Sieppert, Manager of Transit Services and Ronda Grant, Manager of 911 – shared the booking procedures for Special Transit.
- James Will, General Manager, Human Resources Department - discussed policies for the active inclusion of people with disabilities into the workforce.
- Brian Webster, Deputy Fire Chief Support Services – explained fire and emergency response procedures, particularly as they relate to people with disabilities.

## *Working with Departments: to Achieve Greater Accessibility and Inclusion*

- Worked with Municipal Works to review and recommended priorities with regard to accessibility improvements. These priorities and rationale were forwarded to Municipal Works for their consideration in their 2015 work schedule and into the future.
- Worked with Municipal Works and Planning Department to make Friendly recommendations with regard to accessibility considerations in the future planning of restaurant patio extensions that encroach on sidewalks.
- Worked with the Safety Codes Department to develop an Accessibility Checklist - a set of reference guidelines for those needing or wanting to make their home, rental properties or business accessible to people with disabilities.

- Worked with Business Licensing and Corporate Communications to co-host a targeted public information session to explain changes to the Taxi Bylaw aimed at facilitating the creation of an accessible taxi business(es).
- Canalta Center – An abbreviated accessibility audit of the facility was conducted and an accessible Medicine Hat webpage was created to share the accessibility of the facility with the public.
- Worked with Land and Properties Department and made recommendations concerning accessibility improvements for future Affordable Housing projects.

### ***Advocating for Accessibility and Inclusiveness in the Community***

- Emergency Preparedness – hosted a Table Top Exercise for disability serving agencies and senior housing complexes to discuss the concept of “sheltering in place” and actions and procedures necessary in disaster scenarios where the concept would be the best choice for the public’s safety.
- International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) – Members contributed to the IDPD committee, led participatory disability awareness sessions for children at River Heights School and co-hosted with the MHPL a mini resource fair and an inspirational film about the early life of Stephen Hawking and his challenges with ALS.
- *Accessible Medicine Hat* and *Words with Dignity* Bookmarks continue to be distributed to the public.
- Postcards were created and distributed about year round *Sidewalk Safety* and *Did You Know* that outline many of the ways in which the City of Medicine Hat has become more accessible.
- Representative from ACDI were present at the Adult Resource Fair and the Fall Trade Show to help explain disability issues and promote awareness of the committee and its purpose to the public. Awareness bookmarks and postcards were shared with the public.
- ACDI worked with SHAW cable to produce a video demonstrating the impact of snow and ice on people with a variety of disabilities and encouraging the public to clear their sidewalks. The video may be seen on Cable 10 and on the city’s Accessible Medicine Hat website.
- An ACDI letter of support for the City of Medicine Hat’s application for an Enabling Accessibility Grant was written. The purpose of the grant was to upgrade the Rotary Track washrooms to make them accessible.