

The MS Community Advisory Council seeks your input!



What and who is the MS Community Advisory Council?

The purpose of the MS Community Advisory Council is to learn from and collaborate with Albertans affected by MS and partner organizations in order that we may better advocate for improved care, services and supports and recognition of the role of community based services within a more coordinated system of supports for persons affected by MS. The Council consists of 16 members and/or clients of the MS Society from across the province. In addition, members of the Council also include the following 13 organizations:

- Accessible Housing Society
- Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities
- Alberta Continuing Care Association
- Alberta Home Care and Support Association
- Alberta Senior Citizens' Housing Association
- Canadian Paraplegic Association
- Case Managers from Health Services
- Centre for Social Entrepreneurship School of Business
- EmployAbilities
- MS Society of Canada, Alberta Division
- Steadward Centre
- University of Alberta Hospital
- University of Alberta, Faculty of Nursing

Submission to Government

The MS Community Advisory Council is preparing a submission for the Government of Alberta which will **detail five priorities** that were identified at the MS Stakeholders Forum in October 2008:

1. **Access to rural services** (e.g. problems finding community services & supports or travel/transportation difficulties).
2. **Appropriate housing** (e.g. problems facing young persons with MS in LTC).
3. **Access to Multidisciplinary Integrated Care** – (e.g. all required services in one place at the same time of a visit of a new patient).
4. **System navigation** (e.g. finding one's way around and accessing available supports and services).
5. **Unified approach** (Provincial Approach) – (e.g. a coordinated and cooperative approach to providing services).

Your input is wanted!

- We want your examples, stories, and illustrations of these priorities.
- How as a person with MS, a caregiver, a family member, health care professional, a representative of an organization that works with individuals with MS and their families have you been impacted by these issues? Examples include:
 - Did you have problems finding and accessing services you needed – if so which ones?
 - Has transportation impacted your ability to access services? If so, in what way?
 - Have you experienced problems with housing or are aware of the situation of a younger person with MS in long term care?
 - Have you ever been frustrated by having multiple appointments for multiple supports and services in multiple locations and at different times?
 - Let us know! **Share your story!**
- If these priorities and issues affect you, then you have a story to tell.
- **Your stories will make the difference.**
- **E-mail/Mail** your story (Approximate length – a paragraph) to **Garry Wheeler**, Vice President Alberta Division (garry.wheeler@mssociety.ca) 150, 9405 50 Street, Edmonton, AB T6B 2T4
- If you have any questions please contact **Julie Kelndorfer**, Director, Government and Community Relations at Julie.kelndorfer@mssociety.ca or call (780) 463-1190.

The deadline for submitting stories is Friday, August 14. (The earlier the better ☺)
Help us make a difference for all Albertans affected by MS!