



Alberta Council of Disability Services

(formerly The Alberta Association of Rehabilitation Centres)

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February 29, 2008

By Fax

Premier Ed Stelmach
Room 307, Legislature Building
10800 - 97th Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Premier Stelmach,

Re: Alberta Council of Disability Services "New Deal"

Thank you for taking the time to chat with me in Calgary during the election campaign. It was heartening to hear your commitment to "closing the gap" between the wages and benefits paid to public sector employees and those paid to the staff of the Community Disability Services sector.

This gap has put the sector in crisis because we are unable to pay a livable wage to recruit, retain and train staff in the sector. If this matter is not addressed sufficiently and immediately the natural consequences will be that many agencies will be unable to continue to provide services. Those who may continue will have to drastically revise the service offerings and limit the clients they can accept as well.

Our calculations based on an independent consultants report indicates a gap of \$182 million to bring existing staff to the level that the Government of Alberta pays for equivalent work and responsibly. We have provided your Seniors and Community Supports Department with the details of this study.

Our member agencies are partners with the province in its effort to meet the needs of these vulnerable Albertans, but this partnership cannot continue as it currently operates. We look forward to working through this crisis with the province starting immediately after the election. We appreciate your support for our efforts in assisting the Government of Alberta in its efforts to meet its obligations to Albertans with disabilities.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geake', written over a horizontal line.

Ryan Geake
Executive Director
Calgary SCOPE Society
ACDS Board Member

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Nicol', written over a horizontal line.

Ann Nicol
CEO
ACDS

cc: Tim Wiles, Deputy Minister
Ken Chapman, Cambridge Strategies Inc.