

May 3, 2016

The safety of persons with developmental disabilities in their homes and communities is a priority for Human Services. On March 31, 2016, Minister Sabir accepted the recommendations of the Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) Safety Standards Consultation Team and repealed the PDD Safety Standards Regulation in its entirety.

This means that proactive inspections under the now repealed PDD Safety Standards Regulation will no longer take place. However, inspections can still take place under the authority of other legislation:

- If during a previous inspection that was carried out to satisfy the requirements of the PDD Safety Standards Regulation, Alberta Health Services (AHS) public health inspectors identified violations under the *Public Health Act* (the Act); the inspector may follow-up under the authority of that Act.
- AHS public health inspectors may also still inspect if a complaint is received under the authority of the Act in certain types of housing, as they would do for all Albertans. This includes housing that is not occupied solely by the owner or the owner's dependents.
- If an individual receiving PDD program supports resides in a home with four or more people, where the operator is responsible for the provision of the accommodation (by ownership or lease), the *Supportive Living Accommodation Licensing Act* (SLALA) will continue to apply. This means licensing inspections, conducted by Alberta Health Licensing Inspectors, will occur on a minimum of an annual basis. These homes will also still require inspections by AHS public health inspectors and safety codes officers to meet licensing requirements.

- Safety code legislation, such as building and fire codes, remain in effect for all Albertans. This means building and fire codes will apply to homes of individuals receiving PDD services to a residential standard, as opposed to the care or treatment standard. The care or treatment standard will still apply where an individual is dependent on staff as the only means to evacuate in the event of a fire or emergency or is detained. Inspections will occur based on a referral, complaint or incident.
 - Retrofits to homes of individuals receiving PDD program supports are only required when directed by a safety codes officer based on an inspection. While the second phase of the consultation takes place, these inspections are unlikely to occur, unless prompted by a specific complaint.

With the repeal of the PDD Safety Standards Regulation, there is no longer the requirement to provide evidence of compliance with the Regulation as a contracting requirement and past non-compliance with the Regulation will not affect the ability of agencies to contract with PDD going forward.

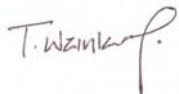
Service providers continue to have obligations to ensure safety, including the adherence to the Creating Excellence Together (CET) accreditation standards set out by the Alberta Council of Disability Services. The CET accreditation standards specify safety obligations and procedures in the areas of: physical environment; equipment maintenance; risk management; medication assistance; and complaints and concerns.

If you have further questions, please contact the PDD Branch at 780-427-1177, extension 3, or HSPDDConsult@gov.ab.ca.

The Consultation Team's Summary Report and Recommendations can be found on the PDD Consultation website at humanservices.alberta.ca/pddconsultation.

Recommendations were based on dialogue with thousands of members of the disability community throughout Alberta. The Consultation Team's mandate has been extended and they will be consulting with the disability community starting in May 2016, to develop safety solutions for the homes of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Sincerely,



Tim Weinkauff
Acting Executive Director
Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) program