

PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SAFETY STANDARDS CONSULTATION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

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

John te Linde has 33 years of research and management experience in both academic and applied settings. His background includes work in social planning, social policy, community development, business planning, family therapy, population surveys, needs assessments, program evaluations, information services, and psychology. John has published research articles, reports and book chapters in the areas of psychology, program evaluation, needs assessment, social planning and social policy. His awards include academic scholarships from the Province of Alberta and the University of Western Ontario, and postgraduate scholarships from the National Research Council. In addition, John has been awarded post-doctoral fellowships from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and the University of Calgary. John held teaching positions at the University of Western Ontario and the University of Calgary before joining the City of Calgary in 1984. John retired as Manager of Social Policy and Planning for the City of Calgary in 2013. He is a registered Psychologist in the Province of Alberta since 1982.

Marie Renaud – MLA, St. Albert

Marie Renaud was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, representing the constituency of St. Albert, on May 5, 2015. In addition to serving on the Standing Committees on Public Accounts and the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, she is also a member of the Select Special Ethics and Accountability Committee. Ms. Renaud has also devoted her time to various boards and committees. Besides serving as board chair for the Handicapped Housing Society of Alberta, she was a member of the board for the Alberta Avenue Business Revitalization Zone and the Norwood Child & Family Resource Centre. In addition, Ms. Renaud served on various committees, including the Rehabilitation Practitioner Advisory Committee for MacEwan University and the St. Albert Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee. She also previously worked with the Edmonton Council of Service Providers. Ms. Renaud holds a university certificate in counselling women from the women's and gender studies department at the University of Alberta and a diploma in community disability studies from MacEwan University.

Ann Nicol – CEO, Alberta Council of Disability Services (ACDS)

Ann Nicol has 30 years of experience in the human services field within Alberta. Ann started her career as a community outreach social worker before embarking on a 20-year career with the Government of Alberta serving in social worker and senior management positions. Before taking over as CEO for ACDS, Ann was the Executive Director of a national human service organization with programs for children and adults, including outreach, consulting, residential and vocational services. She is a sessional instructor at the University of Calgary's Faculty of Social Work.

Bruce Uditsky – CEO, Alberta Association for Community Living (AACL)

Bruce Uditsky is the Chief Executive Officer of the Alberta Association for Community Living. He is recognized internationally as an advocate and leader in community inclusion and social justice for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Bruce has served on the boards of numerous community organizations and was a founding member and Chair of the Alberta Disabilities Forum, a federation of provincial organizations representing persons with disabilities. He has been instrumental in the development of a number of unique and innovative community initiatives, in particular, in founding and expanding inclusive post-secondary education across Alberta and in other parts of the world.

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

Cam Tait was a reporter and columnist for the Edmonton Journal for 33 years. He wrote extensively about people with disabilities, including following the Rick Hansen Man in Motion World Tour for three months. Cam has spoken to countless groups on disability, volunteerism, and competed nationally in 1995 for Canada's Funniest New Comic. Currently, Cam works as a columnist with the *Edmonton Sun*, is the special project advisor for Challenge Insurance and had his autobiography, "*Disabled? Hell NO! I'm a Sit-Down Comic*", published by Harbour Publishing in 2015. Cam has cerebral palsy and has made connections with disability groups locally, provincially and nationally.

Tammy Poirier – Member of the Disability Action Hall

Tammy Poirier is an outgoing individual and has been a member of the Disability Action Hall for eight years. Tammy has a wealth of experience in living in the many types of housing models that PDD provides, including three group homes, living on her own and living with three supportive roommates. Tammy is very honoured to be on the PDD Safety Standards Committee and is very dedicated to helping Albertans support their rights to speak up for themselves. Tammy is well prepared to help people with disabilities to fight for their rights for the standards to be written with consideration of human rights. Tammy's previous advocacy experience was with the Calgary's Fair Fares discounted transit pass group. She helped to make the pass a reality for Calgarians in 2006. Tammy is also a current member of the PDD Advisory that strives to help make the PDD program better. Tammy has spoken at public rallies and to University students about human rights and celebrating disability pride and culture. Tammy also worked for Safeway and Calgary Co-Op, enjoys working with people, and spends her spare time as an artist, baker and painter.

Jennifer Stewart – Member of the Disability Action Hall

Jennifer Stewart has experience working in a variety of projects in the Calgary theatre community for the last 10 years. Jennifer has been a long-time member of the Disability Action Hall since 2000. Jennifer will be going into her seventh season with MoMo Dance Theatre and has performed in many of MoMo's pieces, including her solo "The Night Time is the Right Time," which was seen in Momentum and at International Day of Persons with Disabilities. In September 2007, Jennifer took part in The Leading Edge workshop with Mind The Gap Theatre Company in England. Recently, Jennifer was also in Julie McNamara's film "I dream, I dare, I do" sharing her wealth of insights into the importance of mentoring relationships and her expertise around mentoring vulnerable people in professional development in the Arts. Jennifer has also served as a juror for many years on the Picture this... film festival. Jennifer is currently writing her first script for a feature film highlighting disabilities and friendship. The film is set around three women with disabilities who share a home together. Jennifer enjoys going to movies in her spare time. She works part-time at Encana for the past 12 years.

Michael Cooper – Community Member

Originally trained as a community planner/organizer, Mike is now retired after a career in the provincial public service where he worked in senior positions in several Ministries specializing in the area of board governance. Mike's experience includes working at other levels of government as well as working with the not-for-profit sector in both urban and rural settings. An active volunteer in his community, Mike maintains an interest in the work of PDD as part of a family advocacy commitment on behalf of an extended family member.