



ALBERTA

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Office of the Minister

March 26, 2018

Dear Community Partner,

Last week, our government announced Budget 2018. As the Minister of Community and Social Services, I want to take the opportunity to provide you with an update on some of the highlights.

As our economy recovers from the worst recession our province has seen in a generation, we are focused on a recovery built to last. With significant revenue shortfalls we were left with a difficult choice: make reckless cuts to the public services that Albertans rely on or provide stable investments in social services to ensure all Albertans continue to receive the support they need.

Some would want us to make cuts on the backs of the most vulnerable by making cuts to social services, education and health as was done in the past every time recession hit our province. We chose a different path. We chose to protect and improve programs such as Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH), Persons with Development Disabilities (PDD) and Family Supports for Children with Disabilities (FSCD).

Budget 2018 provides stable investments in disability services with an increase of \$127.4 million to help 1000 more children and their families through the FSCD program, and 450 more adults through the PDD program. We have increased funding to address staffing cost pressures. We have also increased spending on the AISH program by \$85 million to ensure 3000 more Albertans are able to access this program. Additionally, we are proud to include new funding for the creation of the first Office of the Advocate for Persons with Disabilities.

We have, however, heard concerns and we know there is always more we can do to better meet the needs of Albertans and support the great work of organizations like yours. I assure you I am committed to working with you to address the challenges facing our province. That is why on January 19, 2018 I announced we would be launching a PDD review. We look forward to engaging you on this important work and I invite anyone with ideas to share them through our survey at <https://www.alberta.ca/PDD-review.aspx>.

Thank you for all that you do each and every day to support Albertans. We look forward to continuing to work with you to make life better for Albertans with disabilities.

Sincerely,

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

Irfan Sabir
Minister