



ALBERTA
COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Office of the Minister

January 19, 2018

Dear Albertans, self-advocates, families and staff:

I want to thank you for the time you have taken over the past two years to share your experience, insight and feedback with me regarding PDD services.

Since becoming Minister, I have focused on making life better for Albertans with disabilities by taking immediate action to improve PDD services. I am proud that our government has made significant improvements to the PDD program over the last two years, including stopping Support Intensity Scale (SIS), repealing the Safety Standards, increasing funding for PDD by \$55 million and taking action to improve staff and client safety.

Throughout this work, I have remained committed to protecting and improving supports for persons with disabilities and ensuring the stability of the PDD system into the future.

I have had the opportunity to meet with many individuals, families, advocates and staff. I have seen that the PDD system has served Albertans for many years but I have also heard concerns from many Albertans related to access, outcomes and family engagement.

Many in the disability community have expressed support for a review of the system because of these issues. I am writing you today to share that we have heard these voices, we are listening and our government is planning a PDD review. The purpose of the review is to explore ways the system can be improved to ensure individuals and families get the best supports possible.

I have heard frustrations with reviews done in previous years for not being fully inclusive of the community, being administrative in focus, and lacking collaboration. I want you to know that our government is committed to doing better. We are committed to working closely and collaboratively with individuals, families, staff and advocates on the scope, timing and content of a PDD review. Anyone with ideas or suggestions for the review can share them with me at CSS.Minister@gov.ab.ca with the subject line PDD Review. After conversations with the community, more details on the scope and timing of the PDD review will be shared.

I look forward to hearing from you and continuing our work together to ensure Albertans with disabilities are supported and included in all ways.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irfan Sabir', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Irfan Sabir
Minister of Community and Social Services