



# Wheel-E

February 2008 Issue, vol.27

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## What's New...

### **Reaction to Landmark Canadian Transportation Agency Decision:**

#### **Disabled Canadians Jubilant to Have Transport Barrier Removed**

Winnipeg, January 10, 2008 – Today the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) released a landmark decision concerning the right of individuals with disabilities to travel by air without having to pay for a second seat, for an attendant or other use, to accommodate their disability. In a historic decision in the "One Person, One Fare" case, the agency has recognized the right of these individuals to have access to a second seat when traveling by air in Canada without having to pay a second fare.

"Canadians with disabilities are celebrating today," said Pat Danforth, Chairperson of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities Transportation Committee. Joanne Neubauer, one of the principal complainants in the case, agreed. "We hope that this decision sends a strong message to all transportation carriers," she said. "Access is the rule."

The CTA decision acknowledged the importance of a number of established human rights principles underlying the arguments of the complainants in the case, noting that these principles dictate that persons with disabilities have the same rights as others to full participation in all aspects of society and that equal access to transportation is critical to their exercise of that right.

“The Canadian Transportation Agency recognized the fundamental soundness of our arguments, which have a strong foundation in existing human rights jurisprudence,” said David Baker of bakerlaw, legal counsel for the complainants in the case. “While the number of people who will benefit and the actual cost to the airlines are larger than in any previous case, the principles applied by the Agency in its decision were clearly established by the Supreme Court of Canada in its March 2007 CCD v. VIA Rail decision,” said David Baker.

Disabled Canadians said the decision had the potential to make an enormous difference in their lives. “This is about independence,” said Sandra Carpenter of the Centre for Independent Living in Toronto. “It’s about our ability to be part of Canadian society and to have barriers to our participation removed.”

The decision was many years in coming – the late Eric Norman, Joanne Neubauer, and the Council of Canadians with Disabilities filed the original complaint with the CTA in 2002, seeking to establish a situation of equality for passengers with disabilities who travel with attendants.

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## **BC WHEELCHAIR SPORTS WINS BID TO HOST WORLD RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Canada Gets the Nod Over Great Britain

Ottawa - BC Wheelchair Sports Association (BCWSA) and the Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association (CWSA) have won the bid to host the 2010 World Wheelchair Rugby Championships from September 16 - 25, 2010, in Vancouver defeating Great Britain in the process.

“This is truly rewarding,” says Kathy Newman, Executive Director of BCWSA.

“We had plenty of experience putting this bid together and after losing the chance to host the world wheelchair basketball championships, we were determined to make this one a winner.”

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Edmonton

## Red Carpet Affair 2008

The red carpet is beginning to roll out for a whole new event – currently scheduled for **Friday, March 7, 2008**.

Visit our webpage at: [www.cpa-ab.org/redcarpet](http://www.cpa-ab.org/redcarpet)

If you have any questions, please contact Marc Quinn at CPA in Edmonton 424-6312 ext. 2226 or [marc.quinn@cpa-ab.org](mailto:marc.quinn@cpa-ab.org)  
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### **Family Support Evening (starting February)**

If you are a SPOUSE, PARTNER, PARENT or CHILD (18+) of someone who has a spinal cord injury and would like to speak to other family members of individuals with SCI in a confidential group or one-on-one environment to learn about:

- Coping / Adjustment issues
- Personal Care Management
- Relationships
- And more!

Then be our guest every Third Wednesday of the Month (starting February 2008)

7:00pm – 9:00pm  
Canadian Paraplegic Association (Alberta)  
305 Hys Centre, 11010 101 Street  
Edmonton, AB

To register and/or for more information contact:

Ross Norton, Solutions Coordinator  
Ph: (780) 424-6312 ext 2227  
Email: [ross.norton@cpa-ab.org](mailto:ross.norton@cpa-ab.org)  
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### **Tax Time Peer Event**

Come out and learn about disability tax credit, what can be claimed as medical expenses, and any questions you may have about this years upcoming tax season. Speakers will be present from Canada Customs and revenue agency.

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

7:00pm – 9:00pm

Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital  
Unit 3B Atrium, 10230 111 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB

To register and/or for more information contact:

Ross Norton, Solutions Coordinator  
Ph: (780) 424-6312 ext 2227  
Email: [ross.norton@cpa-ab.org](mailto:ross.norton@cpa-ab.org)

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### **Little Bits Therapeutic Riding Association for Persons with Disabilities**

provides recreational riding with therapeutic benefits to riders in the Edmonton area. Adults and children are offered one-hour classes at various times throughout the week. The spring session goes for 12 weeks (April to June) and the fall session (September to November) is 10 weeks. Programming is held in Edmonton's beautiful river valley at the Whitemud Equine Centre. Classes are taught by certified instructors, on horses that are specially selected for the program. Little Bits provides volunteer support (up to 3 helpers) for each rider and supplies all safety equipment necessary.

Little Bits, through various fund raising events held over the year subsidize programming fees. Riders must pay a yearly membership fee of \$15.00. Currently fees are \$48.00 per hour and riders are able to work off a portion of the cost by assisting with fundraising events.

Benefits of therapeutic riding are many and varied. Physical benefits include increase in strength, flexibility, coordination, balance and agility. Riding gives people a sense of empowerment, independence and accomplishment. It helps to improve social skills, conversation skills, and appropriate behaviors. The biggest benefit is that it is fun and exciting and it provides therapy in an alternative setting.

For more information about LBTRA or to volunteer please see our website at:

[www.littlebits.ca](http://www.littlebits.ca), or contact us at 780-476-1233.

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### **Tetra's Edmonton Chapter**

The Tetra Society's mandate is to create assistive devices for people with disabilities. Tetra recognizes that people aren't handicapped by their disability, but by obstacles in their living environment. Volunteer engineers, health care workers and design technicians work with clients to develop aids or modifications to their environment so greater independence and integration in their communities can be achieved. The solutions are often simple but can change someone's life.

If you're looking to have an assistive device made, or have any questions about making your living environment more accessible, email Tetra's Edmonton Chapter coordinator Jocelyne Mui at [jmui@ualberta.ca](mailto:jmui@ualberta.ca) or [jocelyne.mui@cpa-ab.org](mailto:jocelyne.mui@cpa-ab.org), or call at (780) 993-4822. Tetra is looking for skilled volunteers to help build and create customized assistive devices that reduce physical barriers in all aspects of basic living. Contact Tetra if you or anyone you know would be interested in volunteering!

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## Calgary

### **Transportation Funding Available - Rotary Challenger Park**

The "Everyone Can Play Fund" Subsidy Program HAS EXPANDED "The Everyone Can Play Fund" subsidy program launched in January 2007 and is now providing even MORE SUPPORT. This program is specifically designed for organizations who serve people with disabilities and/or those who are economically disadvantaged. We are happy to offer support for your group's TRANSPORTATION costs. The Calgary Foundation, through its' community grants program, has provided us funds to assist with this component.

As well, we are PARTNERING with our newest tenant here at the Park. If groups need an actual transportation service provider, Renfrew Educational Services will allow us to gain access to their bus network, subject to availability. Financial support is available IMMEDIATELY; however, we will have details on the bus transportation arrangements AFTER March 1st.

You can apply for both the transportation cost subsidy and your booking subsidy when you complete the "Everyone Can Play Subsidy request form". For more information or to receive a form, please call: 250-2707 or visit our website at [www.challengerpark.com](http://www.challengerpark.com). We want to thank both the Calgary Foundation and Renfrew Educational Services for their support.

ACCESSIBILITY to Calgary Rotary Challenger Park has just gotten better

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### **Picture this...film festival**

It's time again for Picture this...international disability film festival!

This is our seventh year of presenting great films by and about people with disabilities to Calgary audiences and beyond. Eighty films were submitted to this year's festival from 15 countries around the world, including India, Georgia, Denmark, Brazil, France and New Zealand, to name a few!

1. You can learn more about the festival by going to the website at [www.ptff.org](http://www.ptff.org).
2. We would also be happy to send you promotional materials...just ask!

3. We would be thrilled if we could come out and talk to your group about the festival as well.

Just call Sheryl at 717.5610 or write to [director@ptff.org](mailto:director@ptff.org) to book a speaker. Hope to see you at the festival!!!

**February 9, 11-13 2008.**

We have a new venue this festival -  
La Joie De Vivre 1008 – 14 Street S.E. Calgary.  
Centrally located in historic Inglewood by 9th Ave. and 14 St.

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## Lethbridge

### **Attention Hockey Fans...**

The United Way has been given Flames tickets to sell. The tickets were donated to us by 107.7 the River & Rock 106...so all of the proceeds from the ticket sales come back to the United Way.

We currently have 20 tickets in section 314. The price is \$35.00 per ticket.

GAME: Calgary vs. Dallas  
DATE: Saturday, February 2, 2008  
PUCK DROPS: 8 pm

We also have 20 tickets to sell for the Hitmen vs. Hurricanes game on Sunday, March 9. The tickets are in section 103 and are \$25.00.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please call the United Way office @ 327-1700.

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## Red Deer

### **It's finally here!!!! 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Diamonds & Denim Gala**

Our Diamonds & Denim Sweetheart Gala will be held February 16, 2008 at the Red Deer Lodge.

We are very excited this year to have **The Dominion of Canada** as our Major Sponsor.

The entertainment at the event will be Duane Steele, a local award winning country music artist.

We will again feature a diamond raffle, live and silent auctions, and great dining and dancing.

For additional information on other sponsorship opportunities or table & ticket sales, please call Paulette or Cheryl at 403-341-5060. Act fast because tickets are limited and will be sold on a first come first served basis!

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## Medicine Hat

### **An Update...**

A Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) was formed and met on November 29 to discuss their role in assisting Sue and Shirley in their community roles. The first major project they were given was to provide input into a Spring Peer Conference booked for May 8, 2008. The Peer Conference has begun to take shape starting at 1:00pm with speakers and a mini trade fair and the evening ending with a turkey supper and entertainment. Jot down May 8th in your calendar and plan on joining us in Medicine Hat for an informative and fun filled day.

Sue and Shirley both had very active roles in the local IDDP day on December 3rd. Sue was even quoted in the local paper. The morning was filled with 500 children learning about disabilities and how people with them live their lives just a little differently. Shirley assisted with an evening event at City Hall in which all City Aldermen entered and spent the remainder of the meeting in wheelchairs.



The final touches are being put on our Focus Group for January 28th when Teren Clarke will join us and about 10 clients and stakeholders. We are looking forward to an informative evening sharing information and experiences.

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## Creative Solutions

### **Maintain Your Independence**

Don't be forced into a Power chair. The DPX System will help you maintain your independence and freedom with your existing manual chair. Check it out at:

[www.DPXsystems.com](http://www.DPXsystems.com)

Watch a demo at: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eG9q6iHF\\_bI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eG9q6iHF_bI)

Call (702) 799-9924 for more details.

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### **Roll with it: Disabled pups get new legs**

Three Chihuahuas in New York get a new set of wheels, er, legs, after being born without front legs. The pups are getting strapped into aluminum frames with rubber wheels, bought with donor dollars.

<http://cosmos.bcst.yahoo.com/up/player/popup/?rn=3906861&cl=5924202&ch>

We want to hear your creative Ideas. Please send them to

[CPAAlbertaNewsletter@cpa-ab.org](mailto:CPAAlbertaNewsletter@cpa-ab.org)

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**MEDChair Calgary to offer new adaptive technologies** service to help people with physical limitations at office, oil patch and home.

“What MEDChair Calgary will provide beginning in February 2008 is a unique line-up of products that you won't find at mainstream retailers,” explains Jones. “It is a one-stop shop (both online [www.medchaircalgary.ca](http://www.medchaircalgary.ca) and in-store 7413 Macleod Trail SW) for ergonomically designed products that help people (young and old), at work and at home with their physical limitations.

Below are a just a few of the hundreds of specialty items available through MEDChair Calgary.

### **Comfort Keyboard System**



The Comfort keyboard is one of the top ergonomic products in the world. It is one of the most adjustable keyboards with a tri-dimensional swivel that permits infinite positioning options for each of the three sections: tilt, rotate, bend, flex, twist, flatten etc.

### **Foot Mouse with Programmable Pedal**



The Ergonomically designed Footime™ foot mouse and programmable pedal help people with hand, arm or shoulder stress/injury do all PC entries (typing and web surfing) by foot. It's a two-part input device: one for cursor control ("slipper"), the other for mouse clicks and shortcuts (the pedal). The slipper shaped cursor controller is intuitively easy to use and efficient. With elastic strap and Velcro ends, the "slipper" can fit all foot sizes. Two-level pedal design prevent user from stepping on the wrong buttons. These buttons not only mimic all "hand" mouse clicks, but also allow people to program their own customized shortcuts.

For more information, please contact:

Mr. Allan Jones A.T.P., Operations Manager, MEDlchair Calgary  
(403) 252-5366 [www.medichaircalgary.ca](http://www.medichaircalgary.ca)

Mr. Bas van Lankvelt, Chief Operating Officer, MEDlchair, (403) 254-1419

Mr. Neil Bousquet APR, PR MEDlchair (403) 256-8834

[neil.bousquet@medichair.com](mailto:neil.bousquet@medichair.com)

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### **Winter Fun!!**

In recent years, one particular Tetra chapter has become specialists at enabling people with disabilities to enjoy a variety of winter sports.

The Vernon chapter has created a whole series of assistive devices to allow alpine and downhill skiing, including sit-skis and sleds – including a variety ingenious inventions pushed and pulled by service dogs. [More...](#)



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### **Share or Seek Solutions Online!**

Social networking websites like Youtube, Facebook and MySpace are all the rage these days. But for people with SCI, online social networking is a tool they've used for years. Consider CareCure, the massive US-based online forum site that boasts more than 15,000 members with either a SCI or an interest in SCI. Here in Canada, there's never been a viable "Canadian-made" alternative. But the SCI Solutions Alliance hopes to change that, with its new website ([www.scisolutionsalliance.ca](http://www.scisolutionsalliance.ca)). There you'll find forums dedicated to sharing information on SCI solutions, innovations and best practices. The site is in its infancy with a modest 34 registered members. But the potential is enormous, so if you feel like contributing, pay a visit to the site where you can learn more about the Alliance and its work, as well as register and join a truly Canadian SCI online community.

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For Your Information

### **Need employment help?**

WORKink is Canada's most powerful online career development and employment portal for Canadians with disabilities.

WORKink was the first Web site to offer online employment counselling, and one of the first Web sites to provide online chat room technology for counselling purposes, meetings, and presentations. Among its many features, WORKink™ provides job search tools, career guidance, and resources pertaining to education and employment. Since 1997, the site has grown rapidly from a small Toronto initiative to what it is today- a National success!

In the current WORKink capacity as Canada's leading online employment resource, it is used by stakeholders in every region of the Country.

[www.workink.com](http://www.workink.com)

For more information on WORKink™, please contact Georgia Whalen at

[gwhalen@ccrw.org](mailto:gwhalen@ccrw.org)

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### **"Strong at the Broken Places"**

I would like to draw your attention to a new book "Strong at the Broken Places". The book chronicles the lives of five people with various CHRONIC disabilities who have risen above the challenges and moved on with their lives. Richard himself has MS, is legally blind, but is a journalist(Washington Post). What is interesting, is if you look at his web page [www.richardmcohen.com](http://www.richardmcohen.com) you will see an interactive supportive community that is developing from persons, families and caregivers living with chronic disabilities. You might want to keep this information at hand to pass along to anyone you think would find it helpful INCLUDING professional people working within the health care system.

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### **Tourism for All**

The centre of expertise on accessible tourism, aiming to provide visitors with accurate and timely information, in the manner in which they wish to receive it, to enable them to make informed choices. <http://www.tourismforall.org.uk/>

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### **Wanting to start or continue a career in trades?**

**More People in Trades** is an organization committed to promoting trades as a viable career option. Committee membership includes representatives from the provincial government, local business, industry, and education. **We have money available to assist Southern Albertans to start or continue a career in trades.** If you know of a person or group that has a passion for a trade but is having trouble getting past a barrier then we want to know about it!

We are looking for your assistance in distributing this request to people and / or organizations that may be interested in applying for funds. Your help is needed and appreciated. [Grant applications](#) will be received until March 15, 2008.

If you have any questions about the application or if you would like additional information about what we do, please do not hesitate to call Allan Friesen at 403-382-3593 or email at [afriesen@ab.bluecross.ca](mailto:afriesen@ab.bluecross.ca)  
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## Items for Sale

### **Healthcare Equipment Trader**

Mission Statement

To reduce costs to families and those of us challenged with disability by providing a means of buying/selling quality used equipment.

The Healthcare Equipment Trader is a source for previously owned healthcare equipment. Many items are listed in this trader. Items such as: Scooters, van lifts, shower chairs, power beds, etc. This Trader Reaches Individuals, Organizations, Homecare Offices, Rehab. Depts., Senior & Other Associations in Capital & Aspen Health Regions.

For Information or to be put on their e-mail list

E-Mail: [healthequiptrader@telus.net](mailto:healthequiptrader@telus.net)

Call 780 349-2110

Maxine & Robert

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### **Swap and Shop**

This service is provided through the CPA website. Province wide people buy and sell used and new equipment. Check it out at:

<http://www.canparaplegic.org/en/204>

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## Accessible Apartments for Rent

### **Accessible apartments for rent**

City Market Apartment located in down town Edmonton will have wheel chair adapted suites for rent for Feb 1, 2008. These are brand new studio styled and 1 bedroom suites and price ranges from \$495 to \$655 a month. For more

information, please contact Don Gluck at FIVE OAKS INC 425-2506 or Kuen Tang at the CPA Edmonton office 424-6312 ext 2241.

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## Call for Submissions/Subscribers

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[CPAAlbertaNewsletter@cpa-ab.org](mailto:CPAAlbertaNewsletter@cpa-ab.org)

(780) 424-6312 outside of Edmonton use toll-free number: 1-888-654-5444

Please give us your thoughts and feedback on our Newsletter. If you have announcements you would like posted, please submit to:

[CPAAlbertaNewsletter@cpa-ab.org](mailto:CPAAlbertaNewsletter@cpa-ab.org)

The next issue of CPA (Alberta) *Wheel-E* will be March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008. First deadline for submissions will be February 25<sup>th</sup> 2008. Please send in your announcements before the deadline!

To unsubscribe or to change your coordinates please email:

[CPAAlbertaNewsletter@cpa-ab.org](mailto:CPAAlbertaNewsletter@cpa-ab.org)

For more information about CPA (Alberta) visit our website at

<http://www.canparaplegic.org/ab>

**The Canadian Paraplegic Association (Alberta) is a Registered Charitable Association. Charitable Registration # 11883-5016-RR0001. To make an online donation, visit:**



<http://www.canadahelps.org/>

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