



**ALBERTA
SPINAL CORD INJURY
INITIATIVE**
Going Forward Together



On a Roll

and on the Right Track

**The Alberta
Spinal Cord Injury
Action Strategy**

Forward

This document is the culmination of six months of extensive consultation with stakeholders in the field of SCI, including Albertans who live with SCI and similar disabilities, and their family members. It builds on previous policies and plans designed to encourage and direct collaborative action that will assist Albertans with disabilities improve their quality of life and achieve full community participation. With those plans as a starting point, **On a Roll** calls stakeholders to action and sets out a path to achieve positive results.

Early on in our consultations, stakeholders told us that they did not want a document that simply outlined the needs of people with SCI and offered high level strategies to address them. Instead, they wanted us to create a document that laid the foundation for actionable items with well-defined and achievable outcomes. We took their advice and created a plan and process that would support the development of action plans to address priority issues affecting Albertans with SCI.

Through a Delphi survey, stakeholders identified and prioritized issues, telling us that housing, home care/attendant care, and adaptive equipment/devices were considered top priority at this time. At a forum in March 2010, stakeholders confirmed these as priority and began the process of drilling deeper into the issues and brainstorming possible solutions. From there we created three Task Teams in the three priority areas, and asked them to develop action plans that could be implemented by March 2012. The Alberta SCI Solutions Alliance approved a \$300,000 grant to support implementation. The details of the plans are published separately as Part Three of this report.

It is our sincere hope that On a Roll and On the Right Track will continue to engage and guide stakeholders beyond March 2012. Results of the Delphi suggest many more areas of importance to Albertans with SCI. This document, combined with the experience we have gained through the strategic planning and implementation processes, means that we are better equipped than ever to keep moving toward our vision of an Alberta where people with SCI are valued as equal citizens, fully participating in the social, economic and political life of their communities.

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Context and Acknowledgements



On a Roll and On the Right Track: The Alberta Spinal Cord Injury Action Strategy (On a Roll) has been created as part of The Alberta Spinal Cord Injury Initiative (SCI Initiative). In 2007, the Government of Alberta contributed \$12 million to support this five-year initiative. Management is shared among the Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF), the Rick Hansen Institute (RHI) and The Alberta Paraplegic Foundation (APF). The APF established two committees to advise the SCI Initiative: the Alberta SCI Solutions Alliance and the Alberta SCI Research Team (see page 17). The Canadian Paraplegic Association (Alberta) provides secretariat support for the APF and the two committees.

The Alberta SCI Initiative focuses on four related goals:

- ❑ **Create Solutions That Work** – create and implement solutions that respond to the priority needs of people with SCI and related disabilities in Alberta.
- ❑ **Pursue Research Innovation** – leverage research excellence in Alberta by sharing resources and building national linkages to accelerate translation of new knowledge into best practices.
- ❑ **Engage Communities in Finding Solutions** – build understanding of and investment in the needs of persons with SCI in Alberta and the Canadian commitment to full citizenship for persons with disabilities.
- ❑ **Create and Support Effective Leadership** – apply RHF leadership expertise and coordination experience to Alberta Solutions and related processes.

On a Roll will inform decisions taken in the final year and a half of the SCI Initiative (November 2010 – March 2012) and provide the foundation for ongoing collaboration within the SCI community.

The Alberta Leadership Teams and the Rick Hansen Foundation gratefully acknowledge the Government of Alberta and the departments of Health and Wellness, Seniors and Community Supports, and Culture and Community Spirit for their support of both the SCI Initiative and the development of the Alberta SCI Action Strategy, **On a Roll**.



Reflection

More than 4,000 Albertans live with a spinal cord injury. Another 140 traumatic spinal cord injuries occur each year in our province.

The past decade (2001-2010) has witnessed several significant efforts to plan for improved status and inclusion of persons with disabilities in Alberta and Canada. Excellent plans, strong policy recommendations and outstanding pilot projects have all held the promise of progress. And yet, regular surveys to identify priority unmet needs of Albertans with spinal cord injury continue to draw attention to the same areas and themes. We have yet to generate the treatment, care and support breakthroughs at the front line that fundamentally and sustainably improve quality of life.

There's been so much talk and so much written over the years about what needs to be done. We approached **On a Roll** with optimism and a commitment to somehow break through this constant reiteration of basic concepts **to produce results** – to generate action that will really make a difference. We can take an old policy or idea and make it live, perhaps for the first time; we can take a pilot that proved itself but was never replicated, and make it a best practice that we all endorse and act on; and we still have the potential to create something new that will improve the status, wellbeing and quality of life of Albertans with SCI.

On a Roll focuses on those goals and strategies that have already been endorsed by the SCI community AND that are well supported by current

Alberta policies and plans. It builds on four key policy/planning foundations:

- ❑ **In Unison 2000: Persons with Disabilities in Canada** – the report of the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers responsible for Social Services set the stage for a multi-sector commitment to inclusion, welcoming all to participate fully in society.
- ❑ **The Alberta Disability Strategy** – the 2002 foundation for full citizenship for Albertans who have a disability. It emphasized fair treatment, adequate supports, opportunities to pursue education and employment, choice and the ability to participate in all aspects of Alberta society.
- ❑ **The Alberta Spinal Cord Injury Collaboration Initiative** – reports in 2003 and 2005 built on the Alberta Disability Strategy vision, and promoted collaborative action to address the needs of Albertans living with a spinal cord injury.
- ❑ **Going Forward Together** – the 2007 proposal to the Government of Alberta, outlining the commitment of Alberta's SCI community to reduce disability and improve quality of life for Albertans with SCI.



Principles and concepts from these documents are now common in Alberta public policy (see Appendix document). **On a Roll** is both a call to action and a commitment to produce. It once again defines the 'right track' towards improving outcomes for Albertans with SCI and ensuring that our collective efforts deliver the best results.



Purpose and Process

The Alberta SCI Action Strategy has been crafted with four goals or purposes in mind:

- ❑ To provide a conceptual and planning framework for collaborative effort in the SCI Community
- ❑ To identify priorities, develop action plans and launch related initiatives, all intended to significantly improve health and quality of life outcomes for Albertans with SCI
- ❑ To position this work on the agendas of the communities and governments that must ultimately support implementation
- ❑ To give the SCI community one voice and a shared purpose

On a Roll defines a common vision and guiding principles to direct our work together. It identifies two sets of strategic priorities for the SCI community: priorities for systemic improvements in the continuum of treatment, care and support, and more specific or focused priorities to address unmet needs that require immediate attention.

For each priority identified, we developed goals and high level strategies, and recommended first steps or actions to get us rolling forward together on the right track. These guided the development of eight Action Plans in three priority areas which are to be implemented by March 2012.

The process to achieve all of this was relatively straightforward:

- ❑ Key informant interviews were held with stakeholder leaders representing the SCI continuum, ranging from funder to ultimate consumer.
- ❑ A directed literature review was conducted for the Strategy by staff of the Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities. Results were analyzed by project staff and consultants.
- ❑ A content analysis of all related policy/planning documents was conducted to identify complementary vision, principle, outcome, and strategy elements.
- ❑ A DELPHI study was conducted to determine priority unmet needs of Albertans with SCI.
- ❑ Basic elements of a proposed Alberta SCI Action Strategy were reviewed, discussed and debated at a Stakeholders' Forum.
- ❑ Task Teams were assigned to the top three priority unmet needs - to develop and launch action plans.
- ❑ Task Teams developed action plans that included timelines and resource requirements.
- ❑ Project working groups were created to implement the action plans.
- ❑ Task Teams were replaced by an Advisory Committee to oversee implementation and evaluation.





Situation Analysis

Our opportunity to move forward aggressively has never been better. The SCI community has learned to work together and demonstrates this commitment on a daily basis. Provincial policies that affect us are being developed and coordinated centrally, opening the doors to systemic improvement in all parts of Alberta. Researchers and service providers have collaborated to generate consensus on many elements of evidence-based best practice. Cost drivers have risen to the point where all agree that new ways of doing business must be found. And there is a new appreciation for the importance of leveraging the contributions of the consumer, the family caregiver and professionals in a community setting.

Commitment to Collaboration

In 2007, The provincial SCI community joined forces to create ‘Going Forward Together,’ a proposal to the Government of Alberta to support activities that would improve the well-being of Albertans with SCI. The government responded by providing \$12 million over five years (2007-2012). An Alberta SCI Solutions Alliance and the Alberta SCI Research Team were established to direct the use of those funds, under the auspices of the “Alberta SCI Initiative”. Under the SCI Initiative, active living stakeholders came together to plan, develop and manage their own dedicated grant program. Alberta researchers organized and administered a fund for clinical research, studentships and fellowships, and created national partnerships to support translational research. **On a Roll** will carry on the commitment to action through collaboration.

Province-Wide Policy Development and Planning

Our relatively small community is spread throughout the province. In the era of regionalism, we experienced great inconsistency in

policy and service from one part of Alberta to another. The effort required to influence the many governance and executive bodies involved was a barrier in itself. We are now in a position where a sound, evidence-based presentation can lead to adoption of a consistent best-practice throughout the province. We are more than prepared to partner with public sector policy makers and planners to achieve common outcomes.

Translational Research

Canada’s governments have come together to support practice-based research designed to improve SCI outcomes. Through the Rick Hansen Foundation and Rick Hansen Institute, the information is now flowing to service providers and consumers. The publication of SCI Rehabilitation Evidence (SCIRE) exemplifies the growing interest in research findings. We have never been in a stronger position to develop evidence-based policies, plans and interventions.

Thirst for New Ways of Doing Business

Governments and their arms-length partners are more open than ever to considering options that will maintain or improve outcomes while reducing costs in the short and long term. Particular attention is being focused on systemic efficiency, appropriate and timely care, integrated service, achieving balance between centralized and community based supports, prevention of secondary complications, and shared responsibility. **On a Roll** will identify new behaviours and change that carries a high return on investment.

New Appreciation for Leveraging and Partnerships

Experience with the Chronic Care Model has demonstrated the value of partnerships that engage professionals/clinicians, community resources, family members and consumers towards improved outcomes. The SCI community is prepared to demonstrate the benefits of productive interactions between prepared, proactive practice teams and informed, activated consumers. It’s time to act on widely accepted principles such as this.



Principles

On a Roll is a collaborative effort. As such, it is imperative to respect the values, beliefs and principles of partners and stakeholder organizations. The good news is that the challenge of assembling an overall set of principles respected by all participants is relatively easy. (See Appendix document for a summary of the principles put forward in the plans and policies of related organizations and government agencies.)

We are all saying the same thing, albeit in slightly different words. The principles that guide the Alberta SCI Strategy were derived from this consensus. Particular weight was placed on the values and principles endorsed by the Canadian Paraplegic Association (Alberta), the 2003 SCI Collaboration Initiative, the Alberta Disabilities Forum, and the Alberta Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities. There is no priority order intended.

All of the principles are based on the 'social model of disability' which views disability as a consequence of environmental, social and attitudinal barriers that prevent people with impairments from maximum participation in society. This approach sees people with disabilities as consumers of what society has to offer – leading to choice, empowerment, equality and integration. It largely rejects the view that people with disabilities are dependent on society – a view that often results in paternalism, segregation and discrimination.



Inclusion – the Right to Participate

We recognize persons with disabilities as full and contributing citizens of Alberta – living with respect and dignity, with equal rights and responsibilities. Alberta communities must be fully accessible and welcoming – free of physical, attitudinal and systemic barriers.

Consumer Engagement

Albertans with SCI will be included whenever policies or practices that affect their quality of life, supports, or status as citizens are being considered. They will hold shared responsibility and a determining voice in the design and delivery of programs and services that they require. Albertans with SCI are responsible, within their individual capabilities, for their own lives and their obligations as citizens.

Independence, Information and Choice

Albertans with SCI have the right to optimal independence and self-reliance, to be fully informed about issues that affect them and their family, to informed choice, and to hold the determining voice in the design and delivery of the programs and services they require.

Empowerment and Access to Supports

Albertans with SCI require the means to maximize their independence, participate fully in their communities, and enhance their well-being. It is a wise social investment to provide the adaptive equipment, socio-psychological adjustment support, attendant/caregiver support, mobility support and education required to create a 'level playing field' of equal opportunity.

Collaboration and Partnerships

The continuum of treatment, care and support required from moment of injury throughout life with a spinal cord injury involves many institutions, organizations, communities and individuals. Transition along the continuum must be seamless. Coordinated planning and resource sharing among agencies must be a given. We must avoid duplication and competition between providers at all costs.



Vision

Our process involved a review of 30 relevant, related policies, plans and strategies – together providing context for the Alberta SCI Action Strategy. The vision elements selected for **On a Roll** are reflected in ALL four of the foundation documents listed on page 2.

We have chosen to present a short vision accompanied by related visionary outcomes. In many cases, the visionary outcomes are simply more specific iterations of our principles. We want the principles to become our reality.

Visionary Outcomes

A Common Vision
Albertans with SCI are valued as equal citizens; fully participating in the social, economic and political life of their communities.

Alberta is an inclusive and barrier free society. Albertans with SCI and other disabilities live in fully accessible and welcoming communities that are free of physical, attitudinal and systemic barriers.

Albertans with SCI have the support they require to achieve optimal independence and their full potential as contributing citizens in their community of choice.

Service providers at all points on the SCI continuum of treatment, care and support adopt evidence-based best practices and collaborative approaches that optimize outcomes for individuals, avoid duplication and improve systemic efficiency.

Each Albertan with SCI has the opportunity to participate in the development of customized responses to priority unmet needs – solutions that meet evolving, self-identified requirements to pursue the rights, obligations and benefits of citizenship in their journey through life.



Goals

This section provides a high level overview of what we intend to do to achieve our vision and the four visionary outcomes. Our approach balances our obligation to assist with systemic improvement that will have longer-term benefit while addressing the urgent, priority unmet needs of Albertans with SCI in the short term. In all cases, we rely on partnerships and collaborative effort to leverage the unique

contributions of government, institutions, community organizations, researchers and consumers. The approach also anticipates continuing and new investments in Alberta’s SCI community and field – taking advantage of our relatively small size to pilot enhancements that will ultimately benefit all disability, health and social support services.

The table below summarizes four visionary outcomes, eight related goals and 24 potential strategies synthesized from the comments of the many stakeholders with whom we consulted. While the list may appear overwhelming at first glance, we will be relying on many committed organizations and individuals to help us move forward. Moreover, many of the strategies are already in place and simply need additional support. This table is designed to serve as a starting point for current action planning. With updates, it can guide future planning as well.

After each strategy, please see the following codes:

- ❑ C/O – current and ongoing commitment of a key partner organization (e.g. Premier’s Council, Alberta Disabilities Forum, CPA Alberta)
- ❑ SCII – currently underway, funded through the Alberta SCI Initiative (\$12 million Government of Alberta investment)
- ❑ N – new, requiring start up effort

| Visionary Outcome | Related Goals | Strategies – the specifics of moving forward |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Inclusive, Barrier Free Communities</p> <p>Alberta is an inclusive and barrier free society. Albertans with SCI and other disabilities live in fully accessible and welcoming communities that are free of physical, attitudinal and systemic barriers.</p> | <p>Goal 1: Help Albertans focus on ability rather than disability and create a culture of respect and dignity for people with disabilities.</p> <p>Goal 2: Help Alberta implement best practices in barrier free, universal access.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Support efforts by the Premier’s Council and the Alberta Disabilities Forum educate about and promote the value of full participation of Albertans with disabilities (C/O). ❑ Work with the Rick Hansen Institute in support of our joint commitment to engage communities, build awareness, promote inclusion, and showcase success (SCII). ❑ Support efforts by the Alberta Barrier Free Council and the Premier’s Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities to promote the concept of Universal Design and to encourage all Alberta Ministries to model related behaviours (C/O). ❑ Develop best practice guidelines for Visitability and Universal Design (SCII). ❑ Spearhead an advocacy initiative to make Alberta communities fully accessible, building on the work of CPA (Alberta) Community Development Coordinators (C/O, SCII). |

| Visionary Outcome | Related Goals | Strategies – the specifics of moving forward |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Empowerment and Access to Supports</p> <p>Albertans with SCI have the support they require to achieve optimal independence and their full potential as contributing citizens.</p> | <p>Goal 3: Strengthen the consumer’s capacity to choose.</p> <p>Goal 4: Facilitate access to services in ‘community of choice.’</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Strengthen education and information services that help Albertans with SCI access appropriate services and make responsible choices (C/O, N). ❑ Offer ‘self advocacy’ training through the CPA (Alberta) Peer Program (N). ❑ Build SCI modules and support systems into Alberta’s evolving approach to chronic care, continuing care and community supports (N). ❑ Work towards expansion and broader application of the ‘self managed care approach’ for Albertans with SCI – health, attendant care, disability supports, housing, etc. (C/O, N). ❑ Build capacity to provide counselling/service coordination support in all parts of Alberta -leverage community resources to improve outcomes for Albertans with SCI (C/O). ❑ Position CPA (Alberta) Community Development Coordinators to help providers of mainstream services better understand how to improve accessibility for Albertans with SCI (C/O, SCII). ❑ Work with government to develop an all-Alberta approach to ensure universal and timely access to customized personal and technical supports for Albertans with SCI – based on the Premier’s Council Community Supports Model (C/O, N). |
| <p>Evidence-based, Coordinated Services</p> <p>Service providers at all points on the SCI continuum of treatment, care and support adopt evidence-based best practices and collaborative approaches that optimize outcomes for individuals, avoid duplication and improve systemic efficiency.</p> <p>See Appendix document for a description of the SCI continuum</p> | <p>Goal 5: Promote, identify and adopt best practices.</p> <p>Goal 6: Facilitate cross-continuum collaboration and efficiency.</p> <p>Goal 7: Strengthen SCI translational research activity in Alberta (acute, active rehab, community integration).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Link all Alberta SCI providers to SCIRE (SCI Rehabilitation Evidence) and RHI to position Alberta as an early adopter of evidence based best practices (N). ❑ Work with Alberta Health Services and the ministry of Seniors and Community Supports to establish mechanisms for province-wide endorsement of evidence-based best practices for services to Albertans with SCI, including compliance mechanisms (N). ❑ Develop service teams strategically positioned to serve all Albertans with SCI (C/O – very early stages). ❑ Position “navigators” to help all newly injured Albertans with SCI understand and access optimal treatment, care and support (C/O). ❑ Re-launch the SCI Community Transitions Strategy from the 2003-2005 SCI Collaboration Initiative (N). ❑ Actively engage Alberta SCI researchers in the RHI Translational Research Program, including efforts to attract and leverage Alberta funding (SCII). ❑ Encourage Alberta SCI researchers and practitioners to focus on and inform practices related to the visionary outcomes and goals of On a Roll (N). |

| Visionary Outcome | Related Goals | Strategies – the specifics of moving forward |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Response to Priority Unmet Needs</p> <p>Every Albertan with SCI has the opportunity to participate in the development of customized responses to priority unmet needs – solutions that meet evolving, self-identified requirements to pursue the rights, obligations and benefits of citizenship in their journey through life.</p> | <p>Goal 8: Facilitate immediate, participatory responses to the priority unmet needs of Albertans with SCI.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Position service teams and navigators (Goal 6) with responsibility for helping those with critical unmet needs develop and/or access customized solutions (SCII). ❑ Maintain an SCI Solutions Fund to provide immediate assistance to individuals who cannot access support for their own priority unmet needs (SCII). ❑ Utilize a multi-perspective Task Team approach to address 3-5 priority unmet needs every three years – critical issues facing large numbers of Albertans with SCI. See diagram on next page for overview of current issues identified (N). ❑ Facilitate consumer engagement in any and all processes related to the development and/or delivery of services that Albertans with SCI require (C/O). ❑ Identify and advocate for best practices related to consumer empowerment in the health, social service and disability fields (N). |



Priority Unmet Needs

Stakeholders recognized that significant progress against the four visionary outcomes would take concerted effort and time. Knowing that this was the case, and that it was important to be action and outcomes-oriented in our approach, we asked stakeholders, through a Delphi survey, to rank a list of unmet

needs in order of priority. The eight top-ranked issues are shown below, linked to the Visionary Outcomes. The top three unmet needs were: affordable, accessible housing; attendant care/home care; and adaptive equipment/devices. All three relate to the visionary outcome of ‘Empowerment and Disability Supports.’ Involving Albertans with SCI in the planning and implementation process reflects the spirit of the fourth visionary outcome ‘Response to Priority Unmet Needs.’ (See Appendix document for a more detailed summary of the Delphi results.)

| Visionary Outcomes | Top Eight Priority Unmet Needs – in rank order (highest ranked at top) |
|--|--|
| <p>Inclusive, Barrier Free Communities Alberta will be an inclusive and barrier free society. Albertans with SCI will live in fully accessible and welcoming communities that are free of physical, attitudinal and systemic barriers.</p> | <p>Affordable, Accessible Housing</p> <p>Attendant Care/Home Care</p> <p>Adaptive Equipment/Devices</p> <p>Financial Support</p> <p>Transportation</p> <p>Accessible Infrastructures</p> <p>Transition Support/Navigation</p> <p>Caregiver and Family Support</p> |
| <p>Empowerment and Access to Supports Albertans with SCI will have the support they require to achieve optimal independence and their full potential as contributing citizens.</p> | |
| <p>Evidence-based, Seamless Services Service providers at all points on the SCI continuum of treatment, care and support will adopt evidence-based best practices and seamless, collaborative approaches that optimize outcomes for individuals, avoid duplication and improve systemic efficiency.</p> | |
| <p>Response to Priority Unmet Needs Every Albertan with SCI will have the opportunity to participate in the development of customized responses to priority unmet needs – solutions that meet evolving, self-identified requirements to pursue the rights, obligations and benefits of citizenship in their journey through life.</p> | |



Action Plans, 2010-2012

Immediately following a Stakeholders' Forum in March 2010, three Task Teams were created to develop action plans in the three priority areas: affordable, accessible housing; attendant care/home care; and adaptive equipment/devices. Task Teams were made up of 8 – 12 representatives of various community service and government agencies as well as consumers from across the province. (See page 19 for a list of Task Team members).

The Task Teams were challenged to develop and launch an action plan by Fall 2010, which they did. Eight action plans were approved for funding by the AB SCI Solutions Alliance in October 2010. They were as follows. (Please note that these descriptions are current as of the time of publication. As with all projects, new information can lead to changes in direction and implementation. Readers are asked to consult Part Three of this report, scheduled for release in summer 2012) for a description of the final projects and their outcomes.)

Community Resource Guide

The objective of this project is to develop a searchable website of local and provincial resources in the areas of housing, home care/attendant care, and adaptive equipment and devices. It will meet consumers' need for easy access to information on services in their local area.

Community Living Attendant Training Program

Partners in this project will create a training program for community living attendants with physical disabilities. The program will be community driven and facilitated by people with disabilities and

community partners. It is based on the philosophy of consumer/employer directed care. It will prepare students with the theory and practical skills to provide a flexible array of supports specific to each consumer's/employer's unique independent living needs.

Research and Funding for Pressure Relief and Pressure Reduction Devices

This project will summarize the available research and best practices relating to pressure sore prevention and treatment and share that information widely with consumers and care providers. A second component of the project involves a call for proposals and distribution of \$40,000 to consumers requiring pressure reducing and relieving equipment.

Improved Trials for Computer Equipment

The goal of this project is to improve access to trials with computer equipment so consumers with SCI and other physical disabilities are able to better assess what equipment will work for them. Mobile accessible work stations will be placed in regional CPA (Alberta) offices and will be loaned out to consumers for trial. Videos of consumers demonstrating how to use the various types of equipment will be made and placed on the internet.



Best Practices in UTI Treatment for Intermittent Catheter Users

This project will identify, document and advocate for effective treatment of urinary tract infections (UTI) in the case of spinal cord injured persons who void using intermittent catheterization. A clinical algorithm for UTI treatment along with consumer education brochures on UTI prevention and treatment will be developed. To further knowledge translation a protocol document will be developed providing evidence from the literature to back up the recommendations of the algorithm and brochures.

Evaluation of Supportive Housing Models and Development of a Sample Business Case

Taking a community development approach, this project seeks to provide community groups throughout the province with good quality information on a variety of supportive housing models that have shown success in Alberta and elsewhere. A housing model that incorporates best practices in supportive housing design will be developed for use by community stakeholders to support their efforts to develop more supportive housing units throughout the province.

Residential Accessibility Assessment Tool

The goal of this project is to provide agencies, home owners, and home builders with a standardized tool that will help them easily assess the accessibility of a home according to various levels of access. Once completed, stakeholders and consumers will have access to a user-friendly tool that may be used to guide the construction of accessible homes, or assess the accessibility of existing homes according to various levels. A key aspect of the project is to involve stakeholders from a variety of sectors, with a view to achieving wide acceptance and use of the tool. This would be a critical first step to improving consumer access to accurate,

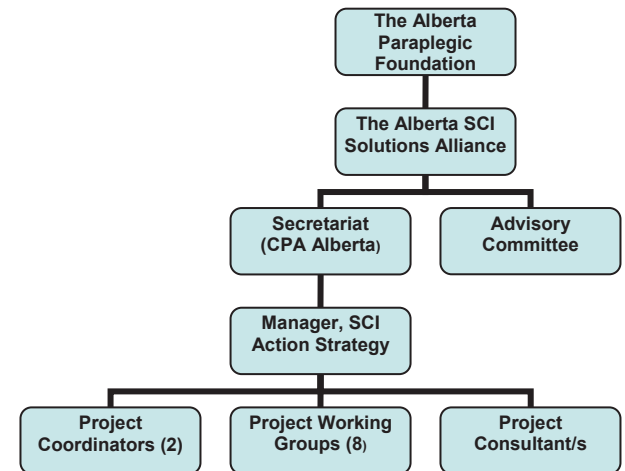
detailed information on accessible homes via registries or community guides.

Builders' Award

This project involves developing a concept design for a provincial award that recognizes excellence in the design, construction and marketing of accessible homes. Key to the project's success is the ability to identify an agency/organization within the construction industry that is willing to work with the project working group to fully develop, finance and implement the award. The goal is to increase awareness of, and interest in, building more, and a wider variety of, accessible homes throughout the province among stakeholders in the construction industry.

Leadership Model

Each Action Plan will be implemented by a volunteer working group consisting of consumers and professionals with expertise and an interest in that particular area. Working groups will be supported by a project coordinator and will, if required, contract staff with special skills needed to complete the project. The Manager works with an Advisory Committee made up of representatives of the disbanded Task Teams and one member of the Alberta SCI Solutions Alliance. The Advisory Committee's role is to oversee implementation and provide guidance on evaluation and communication.





F following the Call to Action

This document concludes the same way it began –with a call to action and a commitment to produce. Early on in the consultation process, stakeholders expressed the desire that this strategy would lead to action – that it wouldn't remain a well-meaning wish list of actions we *might* take.

With the call to action clearly in focus, members of the SCI community and the broader disability community came together and identified priorities, developed action plans to address them and worked toward implementing them. Their work started us “on a roll” down “the right track.” Our challenge now is to sustain the momentum.

With the right factors in place, **On a Roll** can continue to guide collaborative action that leads to innovative solutions to the urgent, priority unmet needs of Albertans with SCI. The development of **On a Roll** reminds us that, among other things, success requires:

- ❑ a shared vision, principles, and goals that unite stakeholders
- ❑ a commitment among stakeholders to contribute their time, experience, and expertise to planning and implementing strategies

On a Roll is both a call to action and a commitment to produce. It defines the ‘right track’ towards improving outcomes for Albertans with SCI and ensuring that our collective efforts deliver the best possible results.

- ❑ consumer involvement at *all* stages of the process from consultation through strategic planning, implementation, evaluation, and communication
- ❑ accountable leadership, made up of a broad range of community representatives and including consumers and their family members
- ❑ a solid process with skilled facilitators as guides
- ❑ protected funds available for implementing action plans

We approached **On a Roll** with optimism and a commitment to somehow break through the constant reiteration of basic principles *to produce results* – to generate action that will really make a difference. There will always be challenges to overcome, and with them new opportunities and new ways of doing business. What remains a constant is the enthusiasm and optimism among Albertans that positive change can be achieved.

On a Roll represents an enduring call to action to work together to achieve that change. Only in this way will we realize our vision of an Alberta where people with SCI are valued as equal citizens; fully participating in the social, economic and political life of their communities.





Contributors

On a Roll would not have been possible without the commitment and enthusiasm of dozens of individuals and organizations from around the province. The following individuals volunteered their time or were supported by their employers to participate in various stages of the strategy development process. Their passion and optimism is evident throughout this report. We thank them and congratulate them for their achievement.

Bill Adair, Ontario

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