

Essential but Forgotten (EBF) Update

Hello ADWA Members!

It has been a busy spring, summer, and early fall for ADWA. ADWA staff and board directors have been working diligently and strategically this entire time. Members have been actively working on the EBF campaign. They have been writing to and visiting their MLAs. They have been talking to their families and neighbours. They have been making songs, videos and even dyeing their beards to bring attention to the challenges facing community disability service workers. While we are still waiting to see results in terms of wage increases for our workforce, we are certain that those elected to government know our concerns. Well done to everyone!

Our campaign is not over yet! Now we must ensure they take action to address the challenges being faced by our sector. We have a new Premier. We are gearing up for an election in spring 2023. ADWA has asked all political parties in Alberta to let us know if and how they support the community disability service workforce. When we receive their official answers, we will post them on our website. As candidates come to your door be sure to ask them if they support us and where we can find that information, such as in their party's platform. This will challenge them to put their support for us in writing. Present them with the [EBF brochure](#) or share the QR code with them so they can access the brochure on their own. It is time to use our power as citizens and prepare to vote for those who are committed to supporting us and what is important to us.

As part of the EBF Campaign, ADWA is launching "*Project Vote.*" While you may not know it, people in government or running for political office have access to voter information. This includes a list of people eligible to vote, their names and locations, as well as if they voted in the last election. If you are speaking to someone in government or running for political office, they will check to see if you are registered to vote and if you have voted previously. They cannot tell who you voted for, only if you voted. Politicians can only get into office if people vote for them. If we want to be taken seriously, they need to know we can make a difference to them. A simple solution—register to vote and on election day cast your ballot! Here's the link where you can see if you are already registered and, if not, where you can register to vote www.voterlink.ab.ca.

We know there are many people who work in the sector who are not eligible to vote. In order to vote you must be

- A Canadian citizen,
- 18 years of age or older, and
- be an ordinary resident of Alberta (meaning you normally live in Alberta).

If you cannot vote, you can still get involved. If you support the position of a political party, you can help out the party by volunteering for them or helping them in other ways (such as by making donations, which permanent residents normally living in Canada can make). Please visit [Elections Alberta | Chief Electoral Office](#) for all of the information you need about voting in Alberta. If you need to locate your riding (the area of the province where you vote based on where you live), find it here [Maps - Elections Alberta](#).

The Community Disability Service workforce is a large community—over 15,000 workers plus the people in our personal networks, as well as the many people with disabilities, their families and their supporters who are connected to us. We can make a difference if our concerns are heard. The next election will be critical for the future of our province. Get informed, get involved and make a difference!