

May 7, 2020

To All Alberta Disability Support Workers,

Thank you to the 12,000+ Community Disability Support Workers across the province who are ensuring that these essential services are being provided.

The work you do ensures that Albertans continue to have the opportunity to experience full and meaningful lives. By continuing to support Albertans with disabilities through this pandemic, you help them create and maintain connections, engage them in interesting and enjoyable activities, ensure that wellness (physical, emotional, spiritual), and safety come first, all while contributing value to both the people you are supporting and the surrounding community.

It is reassuring to see how many Community Disability Support Workers have, without hesitation, responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by demonstrating unwavering professionalism and compassion. Your day may look different than others, but it is just as important. Your response has kept people healthy and supported during this unprecedented time. The flexibility and resilience of the Community Disability Support Worker has meant that, not only are the broad range of "typical" services/supports being provided, but in addition, COVID-19 has added a whole new scope of support requirements for so many people. Our jobs have changed; the range of the work has changed; the knowledge needed to do the work safely has changed; the risk of the work has changed.

We recognize that while the work of many Community Disability Support Workers has changed in the previous weeks, so much still remains the same. Prior to the pandemic, and after Alberta moves past this crisis, please remember that the work you do is essential, is greatly appreciated, and is respected by many.

For all of these things, and for so much more, on behalf of Alberta's disability sector the Board of Directors of ADWA want to thank you, Community Disability Support Workers of Alberta.

To find out more about ADWA and the Community Disability Sector please visit our website (www.adwa.ca)