



From Disability to Ability:

Working with Municipalities to make them more Accessible





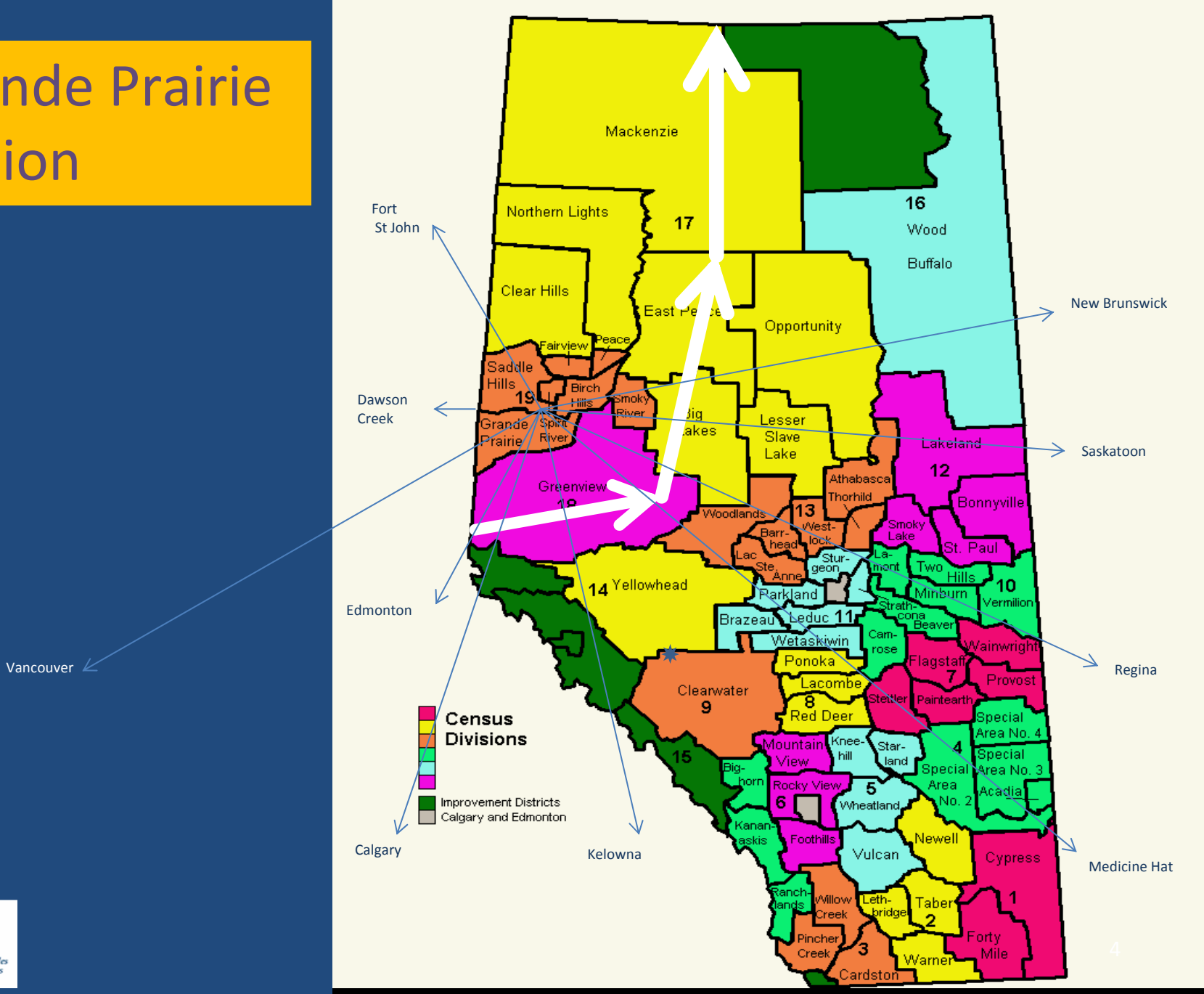
The Canadian Paraplegic Association (Alberta)

Our Mission:

To empower persons with spinal cord injuries and other physical disabilities to achieve independence and full community participation.



Grande Prairie Region



Imagine:

You have dependents at home

You are hospitalized.

Over time, you learn what it means to lose the use of



Arms



Legs



Fingers

How does life change when a child is born with a physical disability?

Acquires a brain injury, a neurological disease or a spinal cord injury?

loss of speech

Vision

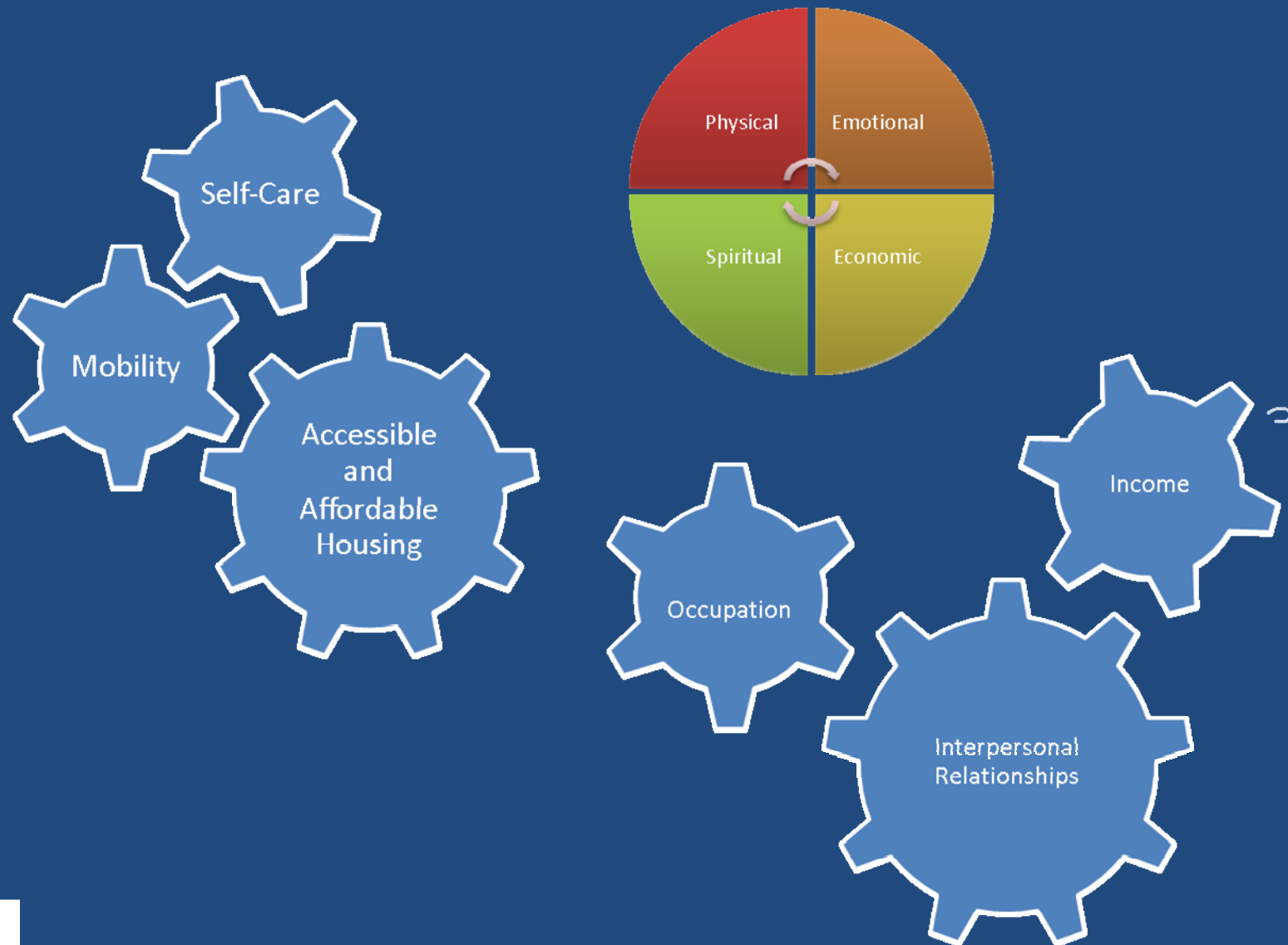
short term memory?

Is your community ready for you?

Barriers and Challenges

Culture
Isolation
Self-Image
Complacency
Discrimination
Marginalization
Lack of Knowledge
Physical Environment
Like-minded spiritual support
Available educational opportunities
Meaningful Occupation
Mindfulness

Community, Social and Civic Life



The Power of Connections

2011 The City of Grande Prairie
Receives the Percy Wickman
Award for Barrier-Free design

Mayor Bill Given joins the Chair-Leaders
Enabling Access Event



2012 The Chair-Leaders event include city councilors and WIC staff

City engineers ride the sidewalks in power chairs

Barrier-Free Access By-Law C-1237B

Community Engagement Strategies

2013



Chair-Leaders and volunteers in GP, Ridge Valley
and Grande Cache

Representative from Municipality of Greenview

Request to reach out to Town of Peace River

GP Downtown Business Association

Accessibility Advisory Committee of Grande Prairie



- EastLink TV:
- Tim Gedcke



ChairLeaders2013 - Shortcut.Ink

Reaching out in 2014

Grande Prairie

Grande Cache

Fairview

High Prairie

Peace River

Dawson Creek



Accessibility Advisory Committees

Local  Regional

Interagency
Lived Experience
Community Based
Municipal involvement



Since 2010

- Accessible public buildings, parks and transportation
- City participation in public awareness events
- Partnerships with NGOs providing barrier free housing
- Community Engagement



Where are we going?

Active Living

Enhanced workplace design

Accessible Affordable Housing

Tourism

Peer conferences

Inter-municipal accessible and public transportation

More Community Living Attendants

Accessible medical services

And How will we get there?



*Canadian
Paraplegic
Association
(Alberta)*


*Association
canadienne des
paraplégiques*

Toll Free: 1-888-654-5444

www.cpa-ab.org

Thank you!



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