

Outlook on Lifestyle

Politicians respond to survey on assistive devices

During the recent provincial election the candidates were presented with questions from various interests groups seeking party positions on various topics. Among those submitted, representing disabled person's interests, was Persons United for Self Help (PUSH) four question "Challenge Ballot."



Against the odds

PAT WOODE

Topics were Employment, Transportation, Accessibility, and Assistive devices. I will highlight the replies for assistive devices as this has the most immediate impact for you.

"Do you support the immediate expansion of the Ministry of Health's Assistive Devices Program (ADP) to allow persons with disabilities, regardless of their age or the severity of their disability, to have at least 75 per cent of the cost of these devices covered?"

NDP - Bob Rae
Yes. We are committed to covering 100 per cent of the cost. No time frame given.

PC - Larry Grossman
Yes.

Liberal - David Peterson
Yes, full expansion by 1989.
September 15, 1987

All age restrictions are removed for ostomy supplies.
November 15, 1987

All age restriction are removed for wheelchairs, seating systems, and mobility aids.

1988
Medical glasses, orthoses and hearing aids will be extended to all age groups

1989
Visual and communication aids and incontinence supplies can then be purchased under ADP by persons of any age

March 1, 1989
The entire program will be fully implemented

Total cost is forecast to be \$67 million serving approximately 150,000 people. The Ministry of Health confirmed this election promise as government policy.

On the federal scene, Michael Wilson, Minister of Finance, announced the following additions to the items eligible for the medical expense deduction, effective for the 1987 taxation year:

conversion kits to modify family vans

synthetic speech systems, braille printers and large print devices that are used for personal computers

electronic speech synthesizers that enable nonspeaking individuals to "speak" using a portable keyboard

television closed caption decoders for the deaf

monitors which can be attached to babies identified as being prone to Sudden Death Syndrome

These deductions are not retroactive to 1987. The three per cent of income rule is still in effect. If you have medical expenses that are not included then I urge you to write to the Minister expressing your concerns.

Against the Odds will be shown on Oct 7 at 7:30 p.m. and again Thursday Oct 22 at 6 p.m. Our guest will be a representative from the FAIR committee discussing auto insurance.

ONLY YOU



CAN STOP DRINKING AND DRIVING

It kills friendships. It breaks up families. It destroys happiness. It ruins lives. We can't say it any plainer than that. Get in a car with someone who's had too much to drink and you take your life in your hands. Get behind the wheel after you've had too much to drink and you not only endanger your own life, you jeopardize the lives of innocent people besides. If you drink, don't drive!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THESE COMMUNITY MINDED BUSINESSES FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN BRINGING HERALD READERS THIS IMPORTANT MESSAGE

CELEBRITY CIPHER

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another. Today a clue: 5 equals 0.

W P O S D H P W N Z N D Q B
S E W Z L L F E H P P D Z A G D N W V G F
Z W W O N D P G D Y E H Z S K Z H A D
P G Z P P G D B Z N D S F F Y D S P F
J Z E Q O N D . . . W E S H D B G F F X .

SOLUTION: "Students rarely disappoint teachers who assure them in advance that they are doomed to failure." — Sidney Hook.

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