Practicum Opportunities List – *Spring Draft*

**Association for the Rehabilitation of the Brain Injured (ARBI)**
3412 – Spruce Dr S.W.
[www.arbi.ca](http://www.arbi.ca)

ARBI provides a unique and highly successful approach to the rehabilitation of people who have acquired a severe brain injury. As a pioneer in community-based brain injury rehabilitation in Canada, ARBI has developed a holistic treatment model that provides professional methods of rehabilitation in a positive, caring environment.

Although not a prerequisite, students who have some degree of familiarity with ARBI will find it an asset as the focus of a project is negotiable.

Possible project details could include:
- Inquiry – Use of mental practice in the recovery of motor function in upper extremeties
- Development and implementation of a survey of the volunteer program
- Develop and update brain injury resource binders

**Between Friends Club of Calgary**
205 – 8989 McLeod Trail S.
[www.betweenfriends.ab.ca](http://www.betweenfriends.ab.ca)

The Between Friends Club is a charitable organization which provides year round recreational and social programs for people with disabilities, of all ages. They are unique in that they provide opportunities for all, no matter what the disability, in an integrated setting. They believe that every one deserves the chance to meet friends and have fun in an accepting and safe environment. They focus on abilities, not disabilities, and provide the opportunity to build confidence.

Project work in this placement would be directed primarily toward involvement in program planning and development for their ongoing fall and winter offerings, major calendar events, as well as Camp Bonaventure for the summer of 2014.
Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE) inclusive adult literacy program, and Speech Assisted Reading and Writing (SARAW) literacy program for adults with physical and developmental disabilities

SARAW is a talking computer program that teaches basic reading, writing and math skills to adults with disabilities who are reading at or below grade 7 levels. It is offered at Bow Valley College as a one-on-one learner-tutor program. Each learner and tutor attend the program two hours a week.

In 2006, SARAW initiated the Literacy Survey of Disability-Serving Agencies (Literacy Survey) to gather input from the disabilities community around inclusive programming. The Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE) class was designed, based on Survey results. ABLE is a part time, non-credit inclusive adult literacy class, teaching reading and writing to adults reading at grade 2 – 4 levels. Learners with disabilities work alongside their non-disabled peers in a classroom setting. The curriculum is module based – incorporating reading, writing and spelling activities into different modules such as Looking for Work and Foods and Nutrition.

BVC has an opportunity for a senior practicum student to work with the ABLE and SARAW programs.

The placement could involve aspects of all/any of the following:

- update community contacts database
- help organize ABLE focus group around gaining input from the disability community into the continued operation of the inclusive adult literacy program
- collate SARAW and ABLE student demographics
- assist in designing a better way to track these demographics for possible future use in research and/or funding
- help with the publication of a book of SARAW student stories
- tutor in ABLE class
- tutor one SARAW student (note that tutoring is highly recommended in order to truly understand literacy programming)
- assist with organizing a funders’ orientation to ABLE and luncheon
- assist in designing ABLE curriculum design – particularly creating reading and writing activities around the new census module

Brain Injury Services/Positive Developments

1914 9th Ave S.E.

Brain Injury Services specializes in post-acute brain injury rehabilitation. They are committed to providing a wide range of rehabilitation supports, services and programs to survivors of traumatic brain injury. They focus on customized individual support with an emphasis on quality of life, independence, community integration and personal choice.
Service programs within BIS include, Supports for Community Living, Rehabilitation Support for Survivors and a therapeutic residential service for newly discharged survivors.

**Calgary Alternative Supports Services (CASS)**
2335 30 Ave N.E.
www.c-a-s-s.org

Calgary Alternative Poss-Abilities program (CAPA) –

CAPA’s vision is for all individuals with FASD and other diagnoses that result in complex support requirements to have access to the resources necessary to ensure equal opportunity to pursue a meaningful life.

CAPA provides case management assistance to enable individuals to live and participate in the community and to develop the necessary service and interpersonal connections to assure success. A complementary component of the program mandate is to assist the community to identify and address barriers and challenges that serve to limit opportunities for CAPA clientele. To clients, they offer help in crisis stabilization, development of critical self efficacy and self advocacy skills, creation of a life vision, identification of knowledge, resource and self awareness gaps, navigation of service systems for access to the means to address those gaps, development of community connections, and personal empowerment. To community, they offer information, training in awareness and sensitivity to the challenges and needs of our clientele, assistance in identification of community assets, trouble shooting assistance when unexpected events occur, change management and team development.

This practicum would involve working with this team towards increasing community capacity for their adult ASD clientele.

**Calgary Ability Network**
12001 44 st S.E.

The Calgary Ability Network (through the CPAA) is a community based organization consisting of both local organization and persons with disabilities. It is intent on creating positive social policy change at the municipal level.

A student in this placement would be working alongside the Communith and Government Relations Coordinator and the Assoc ED of the CPAA toward the continued development of a Human Rights Working Group. Activities within this group would include research and inquiry on government and community disability issues, development of summaries and reports, proposal writing and participation in both the human rights committee and the promotion of the working group.
Calgary SCOPE Society
219 18 Street S.E.
http://www.calgaryscope.org/index.html
SCOPE is a non-profit organization that provides a wider variety of community based services for children, adults and families. Services range from community outreach and residential supports to counseling, advocacy and supports for families.

Canadian Back Institute
103-240 Midpark Way SE
http://www.cbi.ca/web/cbi-health-group
CBI is primarily a physiotherapy service that supports short and long term clients. The focus of this placement would be located within their return to workplace services that do not include any direct PT interventions, but rather provide individuals with long term, usually acquired, disabilities discover new elements in their return to a workplace.

Cerebral Palsy Association in Alberta –
12001 44 st S.E.
www.cpalberta.com
The CPAA provides supports for children, adults and families with any type of disability. Their services are broad and responsive to the needs of the community. Previous practicum placements with CPAA have allowed students to learn about the grant and funding proposal writing process, fund raising and program evaluation.

Cerebral Palsy Kids and Families (formerly Calgary Cerebral Palsy Assoc)
120-7015 McLeod Tr S.W.
www.calgarycp.org
A family-focused agency, started and maintained by families, that provides programs, information, support and resources to families and their children affected by cerebral palsy in the Calgary area through effective communication and community partnerships.

Possible projects include:
Development of online database of resources
Marketing and fund development
Assisting with monthly newsletters and publications
Development of an in-service training presentation/guide for individuals working with children with Cerebral Palsy
Program assistance with various, already existing promotional and fundraising, operations (Accessible Home Tour, Children’s Christmas Party, Cerebral Palsy Resource Fair).
Students will have the opportunity to perform multiple interests within the framework of a national advocacy organization. Research, including organizational development and facilitating change is a key component in the work of CDSS. Students may be asked to develop curriculums or other resources that are Canadian in scope. Students areas of interest will be considered if these ideas are congruent with the CDSS mission and vision. Students will be part of a small team of professionals working towards providing information, advocacy and education about Down syndrome.

**Chartwell Eau Claire**
301-7th Stree S.W.
Eau Claire is a retirement residence for seniors at various stages of their life. A student in this practicum would be working within the recreational therapy department doing research on programming, developing new programs and assessing existing ones.

**Community Rehabilitation & Disability Studies (CRDS) CORE 205/207 Practicum Program**
U of C Campus

CRDS requires students to coordinate and supervise the CORE 205/207 practicum courses. This would involve working closely with the CRDS practicum coordinator and CORE 205 course instructor in securing practicum sites, initiating students placements, providing on-going supervision of the students, conducting student evaluation, facilitating the course tutorials, grading practicum journals and attending CORE 205/207 classes. In addition, student(s) will be part of a pilot project with the U of C Peer Mentoring Network (www.ucalgary.ca/peermentoring). As part of the project, students will have the opportunity to take GNST 507/509, as an options course to be applied to credit count.

**Kerby Center**
1133 7 Ave S,W.

The Kerby Center offers daily living support and recreational/social opportunities for seniors including but not limited to an Adult Day Support program for seniors. The student in this placement would be involved in evaluation of this program as well as researching and developing a lit review to better assist with the further evolution of the day support program.
Family Supports for Children with Disabilities (FSCD)
http://www.calgaryandareacfsa.gov.ab.ca/home/515.cfm
Students placed in the FSCD program would be working in a variety of placements, including intake, case work and the multidisciplinary developmental team project (MDT).

Lifemark Health N.E.
2121-29 St N.E.

Lifemark Health is a large organization devoted to rehabilitation both short and long term. The area involved in this particular placement would be focused on vocation/return to work rehabilitation.

Project Details could include:
- Supported Job Search Materials – Employer contact lists for industries/job titles
  - Employer database
  - Marketing plan
- Review of vocational rehabilitation specialist jobs/resources
  - Presentation of material
  - Research and recommendations for other resources
- Development of tools to support vocational rehabilitation specialist
  - Labor market analysis summary for general job targets
- Review and documentation of LifeMark process from referral to completion

McMan Child, Family and Community Services –
#5 – 6208 Rundlehorn Dr. S.E.
www.mcman.ab.ca

McMan provides quality care and support to children, youth and families in local communities throughout Alberta. Their programs and services are developed in response to local community issues, needs and capacities and are delivered by local professionals and volunteers who understand – and are sensitive to - the values, conditions and realities of the people they serve.

Although the programs and services offered varies according to the needs of individual regions, they include: Family Support, Supported Independent Living / Youth Transitions to Adulthood, Foster Care, Youth Homelessness, Crime Prevention, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Community Outreach, Day Care, Support for People with Disabilities, Family Resource Centres and Family Group Conferencing.

Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD)
http://humanservices.alberta.ca/services-near-you/pdd-calgary.html
Placements with PDD would involve intake and case work.

**Prospect Human Services**  
915 33 Street NE  
http://www.prospectnow.ca/?p=2535

The more engaged people are in their work and their community, the more productive our society. Prospect Human Services is dedicated to identifying situations where groups of individuals are facing challenges with full participation, and developing the services and supports necessary to break down those barriers. Their current portfolio of programs and services provide support to both individuals and employers to help more fully integrate our community and our workforce.

Placements for this practicum would be within The Worx and Axis Disability Services

**Supported Lifestyles – Community Outreach**  
1914 9th Avenue SE

The SLS Community outreach offers a variety of focused groups for individuals from a PDD funded agency. Usually these are 12 week sessions that occur twice a year. Outreach currently organizes three groups: *Women’s Issues Group, Men’s Group, and Anger Management*. Further details will follow

**The Children’s Link Society**  
245 – 720 28 St N.E.

The Children's Link Society is that "place to start" for many families of children with special needs. They are a non-profit, charitable organization and have been in operation since April 1, 1997. The Children's Link Society is known and valued for, providing resources, parent to parent connections and hope to families and professionals who care for and work with children and youth with special needs.

Contact with The Children's Link Society is voluntary and at no cost to families. It is open to families, professionals, and others seeking information about supports, services, treatments, and programs for children with special needs and their families.

The following projects are available with CLS this fall:

- Development of a volunteer program
- Fund Development and marketing
- Needs Assessment
- Development of a program framework
- Evaluation of already existing programs
Transitional Vocational Program at Mount Royal University

Since 1980 the Transitional Vocational Program at Mount Royal University has been providing a variety of post-secondary programs to adults with developmental disabilities.

The Employment Preparation Certificate program has, with continuous development, evaluation and change, supported students to find and maintain competitive employment. Through excellence, innovation and leadership the full-time Employment Preparation Certificate program has become highly regarded and socially valued. Entrance into this program can be very competitive.

The Transitional Vocational Program also offers part-time studies. Courses include Literacy, Math, Computer Basics and the Volunteer Tutor Adult Literacy Service. All courses are taught by certified instructors and focus on individual student learning goals.

One aspect of this placement would include Fund Development and Marketing

Vecova
3304 – 33 Ave N.W.
www.vrri.org

The Vecova is a leading-edge, registered not-for-profit charitable research and service agency that has been meeting the needs of persons with disabilities and the community-at-large since 1969. Affiliated with the University of Calgary, the Vecova is recognized as a leader in the field of disability services and research. The internship practicum involves contributions to current, ongoing and new research projects from within Vecova’s research department. Details on current and upcoming research projects to follow:

Please note: this is an early version of practicum opportunities. Further placements will be added in August. However, if something on this list interests you, contact me at padesjar@ucalgary.ca and let me know.