

Script Excerpt from If Everybody Looked the Same... We'd Get Tired of Looking at Each Other!

Who wants to be an AISH millionaire?

Cast sets up for game show.

Darcy: Hello and welcome everybody to Who Wants To Be An AISH Millionaire? I'm Regis Billfin, your host. These five contestants are going to work together to try to become a few of Alberta's elite AISH millionaires! You know the ones - getting rich off the system. But don't despair because you, too, can become an AISH millionaire - not by cheating the government, but by winning our game!

It's simple really.... We ask multiple choice questions. If you get the answers right - you add money to your pot of gold. One million dollars is up for grabs. So let's play Who wants to be an AISH millionaire? Question number one - for one-thousand dollars. What does AISH stand for? Is it:

- a) Arrogant Ingrates Sucking the System High (and dry)
- b) Assistance for Idiots, Spastics, and the Hopeless
- c) Association to Insure Support for the Handicapped or
- d) Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped?

Jen: Although I'm sure many people think we are a bunch of idiots just milking the system, AISH actually stands for (d) Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped.

Darcy: Correct for \$1,000! Question number two - for ten-thousand dollars. What is the maximum amount of AISH a person can receive in a month? Is it:

- a) \$1,800
- b) \$855
- c) \$1,250 or
- d) \$795

Tom: Even though it is not enough to live on, the total amount of AISH a person can receive each month is (b) \$855 a month.

Darcy: Correct for \$10,000! You guys really know your stuff! Question number three, for \$100,000. Which government department is responsible for administering AISH? Is it:

- a) Health and Wellness
- b) Community Development
- c) Human Resources and Employment or
- d) Resource Development

Lee: Well, Regis, most people think it's Health and Wellness, because they take care of People with Developmental Disabilities but the answer is actually (c) Human Resources and Employment.

Darcy: Is that your final answer for \$100,000?

Lee: Yes, that's my final answer.

Darcy: Correct for \$100,000!! Okay team. One answer away from becoming AISH millionaires. Here it is - your final question: AISH was raised in 1998 because of public protest and outcry. How much did AISH go up? Is it:

- a) \$125 a month
- b) \$32 a month
- c) \$55 a month or
- d) \$78 a month.

John: The answer is (c) 55 dollars a month.

Jerry: No, it's (b) 32 dollars.

Darcy: Well team, which is it going to be? (c) \$55 or (b) \$32.

John: Can I ask the audience for help?

Darcy: Sure! Okay audience, I want you to clap if you think it is (c) \$55 a month (clapping). Now, clap if you think it is (b) \$32 a month. Well, there you have it. Pretty much (whatever audience indicates). Well, team, what do you want to do?

John: Well, Regis. I was at those protests. We pushed to have a 55 dollar increase. I am positive it is (c) 55 dollars.

Jerry: No, it's (b) 32 dollars.

John: Our final answer is (c) 55 dollars.

Darcy: Final answer?

John: Final answer!

Darcy: Ohhhh. No, that's the wrong answer! It is (b) \$32. AISH went up in 1998 from \$823 to \$855 a month. That will cost you. But hey, don't feel bad. You each still get \$855. That's better than nothing, right! (everybody freezes)

Voice over: On December 15, 1998, the Social Services Minister announced that seven Albertans were collecting AISH benefits while sitting on "million-dollar nest eggs". He admitted that the "millions" were in the form of trust accounts set up to provide for the AISH recipients' continued care. He gave no details on any of the "millionaires" or on any of the trust funds, for example, whether they were the result of settlements for provincial sterilization victims. Recent information has brought into question whether these AISH "millionaires" ever existed.