

Every Canadian Counts



Persons with disabilities and their caregivers know the challenges and frustrations associated with obtaining the disability supports they need. You know, but the Canadian public more broadly does not.

Every Canadian Counts wants to change that and in this we need your help. We need the stories that tell the story. We need stories of lived experiences that illustrate and highlight the weaknesses and failures of the current disability support system across the country.

The goal of this request is to create our 'Stories Project' and establish the undeniable need for, and illustrate the inadequacy of, the current disability support system in Canada. We want the federal government to address this need through a national disability insurance plan. This plan would be available for all persons with a long-term or chronic disability.

In all submissions, we would like the stories to suggest how your life would change if there were sufficient supports available.

In telling your story you may consider (but not be limited to) the following;

- to what percentage of the day is spent on looking after essential needs of the disabled person;
- if you are a disabled person and not earning income, would you be able to earn income if you had other supports;
- if you are a caregiver, to what degree are you prevented from working fulltime, or you are working fulltime (8 hours +) and also providing fulltime assistance;
- if you are the caregiver or family member and there was sufficient funding, would you continue to be the 'paid' caregiver;

In addition to that focus, it is perfectly ok to point out where you found the system let you down, made life unnecessarily difficult – or there was no support at all.

This could include the following kinds of situations:

- where inadequate funding prevents or ignores effective support
- where inflexibility exists
- where inadequate training or awareness leads to low service levels
- where what is provided is not what is needed, but there is no choice because of the rules, mostly due to low funding levels
- wherever employment productivity expectations, fail to allow for disabilities. This is a particular problem for the brain injured who can work, and work well, but who may tire easily and have to work in short spurts

- where service levels are provided inconsistently in general
- where service levels are provided inconsistently across different groups such as minorities
- how interactions with non-disability institutions such as healthcare and police are dysfunctional or discriminatory

You may well have another situation to tell us about.

We are asking for no more than 500 words in total. By supplying us with written, photo and/or video information, you authorize us to use this information and identify the authors of said information in our media and submission to government officials, at our discretion.

Please send your story to Hubert van Niekerk; stories@everycanadiancounts.com