

Warmest greetings,

Every Canadian Counts Coalition has been the leading advocate in Canada for the creation of a new funding model that would address the issue of the widespread shortfall in services and supports for persons with long term and chronic disabilities. We need your help to close the gap between what's available and what is needed. In short, we need to 'End the Wait' for disability supports and services.

Persons with disabilities and their caregivers know the challenges and frustrations associated with obtaining the disability supports they need. In fact, many thousands get no support at all. You know this, but the Canadian public more broadly does not, and therefore we need your story.

Why stories? Because they work. In Australia, the production of the stories based on the [Shut Out Report](#) was instrumental in garnering widespread public support for services.

To increase this awareness and understanding among Canadians, Every Canadian Counts wants stories of lived experiences that illustrate and highlight the weaknesses and failures of the current disability support and services system across the country. With these stories in hand, we will work towards showing, using supplementary data, that this is not a minor problem but affects hundreds of thousands of Canadians.

The goal of our 'Stories Project' then, will be to illustrate the inadequacy of the current disability support system in Canada and establish the undeniable need for a new approach – a comprehensive approach only offered through the creation of a National Disability Insurance Plan.

What should the Stories say?

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

- What services and/or supports are needed that are not being met or addressed?
- What was your experience in trying to get needed services and supports?
- Are you on a waiting list or simply have not bothered to apply because you think it is too onerous or futile?
- Do the services provided not meet need, but this is all you could get?
- Are service levels provided inconsistently: do you have to constantly re-apply, or would lose services should you move?
- If you are a person with a disability and not earning income, would you be able to earn income if you had needed supports?
- If you are a caregiver, to what degree are you prevented from working?
- What percentage of the day is spent looking after the essential needs of the person with the disability?
- As a caregiver or family member, if there was sufficient funding, would you continue to be the 'paid' caregiver if that was an option?
- Finally, and importantly, we would like the stories to suggest how your life would change if there were sufficient and appropriate supports available.

You may well have more than one situation to tell us about.

You are welcome to provide photos or short videos. Stories can be anonymous using pseudonyms for example.

Please submit your story here: <https://forms.gle/WPKczDbX3MAW47Fc6>

For more information about us please visit: <https://everycanadiancounts.com/>

Thank You,

Every Canadian Counts Coalition,

229 Colonnade Road South,

Ottawa ON K2E 7K3

1 (613) 447 8894