

The disAbility Lens

A newsletter of the NDP Persons Living with disAbilities Committee
JULY 2015



The view from here

Jan Zawilski and Teresa Daw, Co-Chairs

Elections invariably get people talking about the changes they would like to see and the hopes they have for the future of our country and of us as citizens and residents. The NDP Persons Living with disAbilities Committee (PLWDC) has been engaged in many conversations and debates about the way forward for people living with disabilities (PLWD) in Canada. Early in the year, we adopted a vision statement of the Canada that we seek:

Our vision is an inclusive, accessible Canada for all people living with disabilities as guided foremost by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In our vision, Canada actively upholds and protects the equality of rights, enables equitable participation and opportunities, and demonstrates respect for and protects the dignity of all people living with disabilities, their families and significant others throughout Canadian society.

In our view, Canadians have at their disposal a powerful tool for attaining such full and effective inclusion of PLWD: the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The NDP has been firmly



NDP Persons Living with disAbilities Committee Co-Chairs, Jan Zawilski from Drummondville, Quebec and Teresa Daw from Peterborough, Ontario

committed to the CRPD and its Optional Protocol since it was opened for signature and believes that the CRPD should be used to bring about significant changes in the lives of PLWD in our country.

Considering the importance that we attach to the CRPD, this second edition of our newsletter focuses on this important international framework for disability rights. Our feature article

Continued on page 2

Also in this issue

The CRPD: A powerful framework // **PAGE 2**

Critic's corner // **PAGE 5**

Two of our Candidates // **PAGE 6**

Political participation means more than voting // **PAGE 7**

Manufacturing unfair elections // **PAGE 8**

Statistical overview // **PAGE 10**

presents an overview of the CRPD. In Critic's Corner, Mike Sullivan demonstrates how his office uses the CRPD to apply a disability lens to current issues. Also in this newsletter, we consider what the CRPD says about political participation and how the NDP is responding to that call, giving special attention to our candidates with disabilities and to the enAble Fund. In another piece, we look at aspects of the (Un)Fair Elections Act through the lens of the CRPD.

Advocating for the CRPD and gaining allies also means that we need to be able to describe the compelling situation of PLWD. According to the UN, persons with disabilities are the most disadvantaged and marginalized minority group in the world. The World Health Organization says that

over one billion people, or about 15% of the world's population, live with some form of disability. The data for Canada is in line with the international picture. Our newsletter includes a brief statistical portrait of PLWD in Canada which confirms that these citizens are collectively a very underprivileged group in Canadian society and which serves as a call to implementation of the CRPD.

We have worked with our Party to make the implementation of the CRPD a priority action. Additionally, as Co-Chairs of the PLWDC, we firmly believe and advocate that our Party should also commit to the adoption of a Canadian Act to ensure the implementation of the CRPD by the federal government. The Act we envisage would create the mechanisms necessary to

facilitate the implementation of the CRPD and its Optional Protocol at the federal level, and provide leadership in the coordination of the items under provincial and territorial jurisdiction. With the creation of a formal process that requires all federal cabinet ministers and their departments and agencies to apply a disability lens to all bills, policies, strategies and programs, the changes so long hoped for by Canadians with disabilities and their families could begin to be progressively realized.

Building an inclusive, accessible Canada like that envisioned in the CRPD is change that we would like to see. We invite you to engage with us. And we encourage you to vote your vision by voting NDP! ■

The UN CRPD

A powerful framework for change

Jan Zawilski and Teresa Daw

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is a powerful tool for equality of rights and for full and effective inclusion

and participation for persons living with disabilities (PLWD) across the world. The NDP has firmly committed to use the CRPD to

bring about significant changes in the lives of PLWD in our country. The CRPD explains what existing human rights mean in a disability

The UN CRPD: A powerful framework for change

Continued from page 2

context for everyday life, and sets out reporting and monitoring procedures to track implementation by countries that have ratified the Convention. In this way, the CRPD orients government action at all levels towards increasingly bringing about the required measures that will ensure full citizenship for PLWD. This article presents a global view on the origin and fundamental purpose of the CRPD and presents what we expect to be our Party's main commitments on this matter.

In 2001, the UN set out to develop the content of the CRPD. These negotiations were completed in just three years – less time than for any other human rights treaty – and included governments as well as nongovernmental and international organizations and national human rights institutions. Key rights organizations in Canada's Disability Community such as the Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD) and the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) were actively involved in the drafting of this convention.

The CRPD and its Optional Protocol (discussed below) were adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2006 and were opened for signature in March 2007. A record number of UN member States signed it. The CRPD came

into force on May 3rd 2008. Canada ratified only the Convention on March 11th, 2010.

The CRPD is groundbreaking for the manner in which it was drafted, adopted and signed. It exemplifies what modern human rights instruments should be able to accomplish. Unlike many earlier international treaties that simply stated what rights are recognized by the UN, the CRPD outlines key steps and actions for States Parties to take in order to promote and protect the human rights of PLWD. The CRPD does not recognize new rights per se because the UN already recognized that PLWD had the same rights as other citizens. However, despite the existing instruments that confirmed this, the continuing discrimination many PLWD face throughout the world forced the UN and its members to recognize that existing human protections were insufficient to guarantee the exercise of their rights. Something was needed to better articulate not only how recognised civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights operate within a disability context, but also the obligations that states have to protect and promote these rights.

Removing the barriers facing PLWD means more than making places and services accessible; it also

means making sure that PLWD are not impeded from full and effective participation and inclusion in society and that PLWD are treated with equality, dignity and respect (article 3). To promote inclusion, States Parties must consult and actively involve PLWD in the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the CRPD, and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to PLWD (article 43). The CRPD also seeks to build on the existing reporting and monitoring models from other treaties, where states are required to report on their implementation progress to the UN, while also seeking to develop more dynamic participation with civil society and closer monitoring by independent mechanisms.

The Optional Protocol mentioned above provides procedures for individuals or groups to make complaints about alleged violations of the provisions of the CRPD by States Parties. Individuals who have exhausted national remedies for alleged violations of their rights may seek to have the matter reviewed by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, who may then report on the matter and make recommendations to the member State. Our country has not yet signed or ratified the Optional Protocol and this remains

Continued on page 4

The UN CRPD: A powerful framework for change

Continued from page 3

a sad indicator of the lack of priority given to the rights of PLWD by the Harper government. The NDP has previously signalled support for signing and ratifying this Protocol, not wishing to prevent stakeholders from seeking justice through the aforementioned UN Committee.

Within two years of ratification of the CRPD, each State Party is required to provide an initial report to this UN Committee setting out the constitutional, legal and administrative framework for implementation. The UN Committee, which is made up of independent experts nominated by member States will make suggestions and general recommendations as part of the review of each report (article 34). Subsequent reports will chronicle progress made in realizing the rights of PLWD as a result of the implementation of the CRPD, while responding to the challenges, concerns and other issues highlighted by the UN Committee.

Canada's first report was scheduled to be delivered in 2012. However, it was only made public in February 2014 and its content

was mostly descriptive in nature, presenting little or no analysis of the obstacles to overcome and no clear plan or process to implement the CRPD and monitor progress.

This is not surprising as the Harper government has not demonstrated any leadership regarding the implementation of the CRPD. On the contrary, its lack of an informed perspective on disability has resulted in the creation of new systemic barriers to the participation and inclusion of PLWD in our country. The Post Office and VIA RAIL cut backs are but two examples that clearly show the lack of awareness and concern for the specific needs of PLWD.

By contrast, we have worked with our Party to make the implementation of the CRPD a priority for action. We saw this commitment in the May 2014 Private Member's Motion (M-523) introduced in Parliament by Mike Sullivan, our Party's critic on Disability Issues which called for:

1. Signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol;

2. Developing a comprehensive National Implementation Plan for the CRPD including benchmarks and time lines;
3. Establishing an independent monitoring mechanism to follow the progress made and to further orient Government action in relation to the CRPD;
4. Ensuring that the Disability Community is actively involved in the monitoring process.

As we move towards the 2015 election, we look forward to platform announcements that continue to reflect a strong NDP commitment to the implementation of the CRPD. It is time to clearly show PLWD and their families in Canada and the international community that this country will engage in the process to ensure the exercise of the rights of all of its citizens living with disabilities. ■

UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND OPTIONAL PROTOCOL

www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml

CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/const/page-15.html



Critic's corner

**Mike Sullivan, MP York South-Weston
and NDP Critic for Disability Issues**

As the current Parliament winds down for the summer and gears up for the federal election expected this fall, we can look back and note some achievements in advancing issues important to people with disabilities. In my function as Disability Critic, I have been trying to apply a disability lens to the issues that I have been dealing with in Parliament. In doing so, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) has become one of my main reference points.

The UNCRPD continues to form the bedrock of NDP disability-related policy. This important international framework (which Canada ratified in 2010) lays out the goals that we as a society should pursue in enabling people living with disabilities to participate fully in daily life, whether at work, at school, at play or in many other areas. Unfortunately the current Government has not put forward a comprehensive plan to implement the UNCRPD in Canada or even consulted its partners in this field in developing a plan. Consequently, on

behalf of the NDP I tabled a motion calling on the Government to work with its provincial, territorial, disability, human rights and other organizations to implement the UNCRPD. We took the additional step of writing to the Minister of Foreign Affairs to ask the UN's Special Rapporteur on Disability to officially visit Canada to assess our progress on meeting Canada's commitments to the UNCRPD. Unfortunately the Government refused to do even this.

I can tell you that our NDP under Tom Mulcair remains committed to bringing to life the commitments Canada made on signing and ratifying the UNCRPD. Earlier this year, with the help of the PLWD Committee, the Council of Canadians with Disabilities and the Canadian Association for Community Living, a special presentation was made to the NDP federal caucus (and staff) on Parliament Hill, to discuss (and inform) about issues facing persons living with disabilities – the UNCRPD, applying a disability lens to policy, workplace accommodation, income support (among others) – in preparation for the upcoming federal election. I was pleased with the level of commitment by my caucus colleagues.

In keeping with the fundamental principles of the UNCRPD, the NDP is committed to changing attitudes about people living with disabilities and modifying legislation, policy and programs that still discriminate on the basis of disability. Some may recall an unfortunate incident in 2013 where a family with an autistic child was told (anonymously) in a letter to euthanize their child. The police investigated but found that disabilities were not covered under the hate crime provisions of the Criminal Code and so no charges could be laid. I introduced a Private Members' Bill to correct this oversight, and I am pleased to say that, in the end, the Government adopted my initiative in the form of legislation that came into effect in March this year.

Recently we also became aware of a mother working in Canada seeking permanent residency status whose application to have her teenage daughter join her was refused by the Government because the daughter was deemed "medically inadmissible" due to her hearing disability – despite the fact that the mother had found a suitable education program for her in the local school system without additional cost to taxpayers, and despite the fact that there was no medical treatment required for her

daughter. We raised this issue in the House, decrying this discrimination – the Minister would not listen to this fundamental human rights argument. This type of attitude is not surprising as neither the Conservatives nor the Liberals have given any attention to this issue in the past despite the fact that this issue has been raised by the disability community for several decades.

Not only is the Harper Government not showing any leadership regarding the implementation of the UNCRPD, it is creating systemic barriers to the full and effective inclusion and participation of persons living with disabilities in daily life. The controversy over Canada Post's decision to end door-to-door mail delivery continues and is a good example of this. Not only have seniors and groups representing persons living with disabilities protested the lack of consultation and the problems of

accessibility posed by the installation of community mailboxes, but a number of municipalities have also challenged Canada Post's community mailbox policy, citing these concerns and others. I am pleased to say that the NDP, under Tom Mulcair, will restore door-to-door home mail delivery and eliminate this new obstacle created by the Conservatives. We firmly believe that door to door mail delivery is an essential service that many Canadians (including seniors and persons living with disabilities) require.

While the most recent Government budget is consistent in not addressing the concerns of many Canadian families over job creation, health care and child care (not to mention the various needs of people living with disabilities and their families), one issue that the NDP has long campaigned on made it in: the Employment Insurance Compassionate Care Benefit will be extended from 6 weeks to 6 months

(beginning January 2016). However, more work needs to be done to make EI more responsive to the needs of persons living with disabilities in light of the UNCRPD. A comprehensive plan to implement the UNCRPD should guide government action to review existing measures such as EI in order to identify and implement the changes required to accommodate the specific needs of persons with disabilities and their families, and to facilitate the effective exercise of their rights. ■

I welcome any and all comments on issues facing Parliament on disability matters – please contact me at:

Mike Sullivan
MP York South-Weston

House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6
(no postage required)

or by e-mail at
mike.sullivan@parl.gc.ca

Two of our candidates



Michelle Bilek, the NDP candidate for Mississauga-Erin Mills, is a dedicated community activist holding leadership roles in local and regional initiatives on poverty reduction, homelessness strategies, food security, and ending violence against women. Inclusion, equity and sustainability are the bedrock of Michelle's political values.



Jennifer Martel, the NDP candidate for Abbotsford, B.C., is a dynamic community leader with a range of union and non-profit board experience. A lifeguard and swim instructor, Jen coached the Abbotsford Special Olympics swim team for several years and previously chaired the Abbotsford Special Olympics' fundraising committee. Jen is determined to build a better Canada by delivering the change we deserve.

Political participation means more than voting

Teresa Daw

Article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) calls for ensuring that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others. The ability to freely express one's will in a secret ballot using appropriate, accessible and easy to understand methods is fundamental. The NDP rightly opposed the Harper Conservatives Fair Elections Act, which created new barriers to voting for people living with disabilities (PLWD), as discussed in the article Manufacturing Unfair Elections.

Nonetheless, political participation means more than voting. The right and opportunity to be elected is another element of political participation enshrined in the CRPD. In addition to the long-standing goals held for women candidates, the NDP holds as a goal that 30% of all candidates in winnable ridings will be persons from equity-seeking groups – aboriginal people, PLWD, visible minorities, LGBT and youth. As of June 11, 2015, 235 NDP candidates had been nominated, 57 (24.3%) of whom are people from equity-seeking groups. Three are people living with disabilities.

Clearly, there is much work still to be done. Our electoral district associations and the Persons Living with disAbilities Committee

are to be commended for their candidate searches among PLWD. However, as discussed in the **last edition of the disAbility Lens**, the obstacles for PLWD to running for office are substantial. The United Kingdom's Access to Elected Office Strategy provides a possible model for designing a similar initiative for Canada. Mike Sullivan, NDP Critic for Disability Issues, tabled a motion (M-509) [http://www.parl.gc.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members/Mike-Sullivan\(59087\)/Motions](http://www.parl.gc.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members/Mike-Sullivan(59087)/Motions) in May 2014, calling for a report on this possibility.

In the meantime, committed to assisting NDP candidates with disabilities get elected to office, the NDP Persons Living with disAbilities Committee launched the enAble Fund last December. This fund will provide financial support to NDP candidates living with visible and invisible disabilities - candidates like Michelle Bilek in Mississauga-Erin Mills and Jennifer Martel in Abbotsford.

But this fund does more. In keeping with Article 21 of the CRPD, political participation requires “the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas on an equal basis with others.” Therefore, the enAble Fund may also provide financial support to any NDP candidate for campaign expenditures on

activities or items that are intended to increase or enable engagement with persons living with disabilities. Indeed, your contribution to the enAble Fund is also an act of political participation and may be made here:

ndp.ca/donate/enable-fund

Finally, another element of political participation contained in Article 29 of the CRPD is “To promote actively an environment in which persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate... in the activities and administration of political parties”. The NDP is the only federal political party with a standing committee that looks into disability-related issues. The NDP is also the only party with constitutional provisions for the representation of persons with disabilities on the Federal Executive and the Federal Council. This structure ensures that the lens of disability is applied to the activities, policies and decisions of the Party.

The realization of the rights of people with disabilities in Canada will depend in large part on the will of Canada's governing bodies. Who governs is dependent on our collective political participation. The federal NDP has already demonstrated its commitment to create an environment and opportunities for the progressive implementation of these human rights for PLWD. Voting NDP is a vote for the CRPD. ■

DONATE TO THE
enAble fund
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Manufacturing unfair elections

Sean Cousins

From the perspective of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Fair Elections Act (FEA) unnecessarily limits the electoral powers of persons with disabilities. While a number of article provisions listed in the CRPD could be highlighted under this argument, the most relevant concerns section 21, which implicates governments to take “all appropriate measures” in the design of a political economy—one that enables persons with disabilities in particular to “exercise the right to freedom of expression and opinion.” The exchange of all information and any uptake must therefore be made “on equal basis” among electors, such that “all forms of communication” operates according to the needs and expressions of interests from persons with disabilities. However, this universal pledge is under threat according to the enacted provisions of Bill C-23.

Public education and information programs

While the FEA empowers the Chief Electoral Officer to inform the public about accessibility, the same legislation removes the Chief Electoral Officer’s power to promote democratic participation. (The Canada Elections Act (S.C. 2000) enabled Elections Canada to promote voting to “persons and groups most likely to experience difficulties in exercising their democratic rights.”) This promotional role is needed because historical disadvantage has prevented some people with disabilities from having barrier-free access to civic engagement information. Accessible and inclusive public education programs can bridge systemic information gaps. For example, Elections Canada is no longer obliged to make use of accessible media to disseminate or share information about electoral participation, which serves as a critical access point linking public information to persons with disabilities. Accessible plain language information, Braille, large print, and ASL or LSQ videos, for example, promotes electoral participation for members of the disability community.

Alternative voting processes

The printed paper ballot remains a mainstay of Canadian federal elections. For some members of the disability community, this form of political expression functions as a significant barrier. If print is a barrier for a voter, s/he cannot independently verify that his/her ballot has been marked correctly.

To achieve fully inclusive and accessible voting, Canada must continue testing alternative electronic voting processes, as was done in the 29 November 2010 federal by-election in Winnipeg North. Under the FEA, the Senate and the House of Commons must approve any testing of an alternative electronic voting process. Previously, tests of alternative voting methods only required “the prior approval of the committees of the Senate and of the House of Commons that normally consider electoral matters.” Consequently, a higher level of approval for such tests is now required. Furthermore, the FEA in the same breath has ushered the verdict on this point into the hands of an unelected Senate.

Voter identification rules

One of the core amendments made to the Canada Elections Act through the FEA concerns the restrictions placed on vouching. Additionally, “the voter information card” is prohibited from being used as “one of the documents that could be used to establish the elector’s address.”

Vouching previously meant that an elector without proof of identity or residence could still vote by taking an oath if s/he was accompanied by another elector who provided the poll official his/her proof of identity and residence and vouched for the elector under oath. The need to meet the new voter ID requirements means vouching can only occur in cases where the elector can prove his or her identity but has no available means to state residency. Additionally, the person who vouches for another’s

residency must now be from the same polling division and provide two pieces of identification.

For those living with disabilities, the risk of being disenfranchised appears heightened as people with certain disabilities or in particular circumstances due to disability, are less likely to have sufficient identification and less likely to be able to prove where they live. In the former case, people will not be able to vote.

In the latter case, since the voter identification card cannot be used as proof of residence, the elector can exercise the right to vote only if another elector can vouch for him or her through the revised method noted above. People with disabilities or retirees living in care homes may not possess a selection of ID useful to officially state their residency, and may

not have someone in their polling division who can vouch for their residence. Such circumstances require the need for a benefactor to draft a letter of attestation, which, in principle, transfers a cost to the presumed benefactor. Furthermore, the benefactor may not be in a position to provide such attestation letters, which the safety net of vouching with full privileges traditionally provides. Again, some people will not be able to vote.

Departing thoughts

Accordingly, the freedoms of expression, opinion, and access to information for persons with disabilities are infringed at least along these three dimensions of the Canadian political economy under Harper’s so called FEA. It appears that Canada has a long way to go before it can find itself in a position to fully realize the ideals of the CRPD. ■

Voting

VOTER REGISTRATION

elections.ca/content.aspx?section=vot&dir=reg&document=index&lang=e

VOTER IDENTIFICATION

elections.ca/content.aspx?section=vot&dir=ids&document=index&lang=e

ACCESSIBILITY

elections.ca/content.aspx?section=ele&dir=2015ge/acc&document=index&lang=e

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

Persons living with disabilities in Canada

Jan Zawilski and Teresa Daw

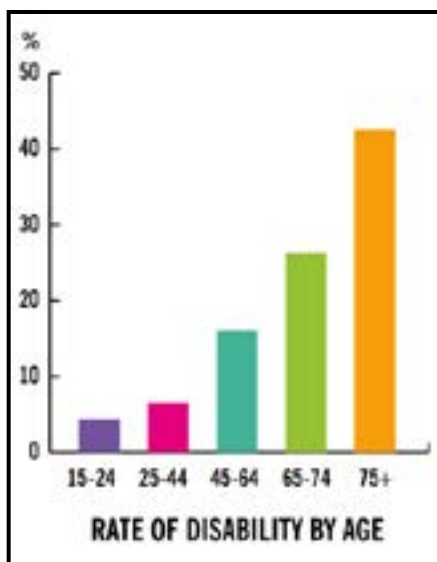
The Persons Living With disAbilities Committee (PLWDC) recently produced a document that provides an overview of the most recent data made available by Statistics Canada regarding Canadians living with disabilities. This article highlights the main findings.

Population

According to the 2012 Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD), 13.7% of all Canadians 15 years and over (or nearly one in seven) live with disabilities or 3,775,910. Of this number, 55% were female (2,076,890) and 45% were male (1,699,020).

Age

Disability increases with age, and consequently, the proportion of the population that has a disability is greater in middle age and elder years. Also, as baby boomers age, the total number of people living with disabilities is on the rise. The 2012 CSD reported the following rates:



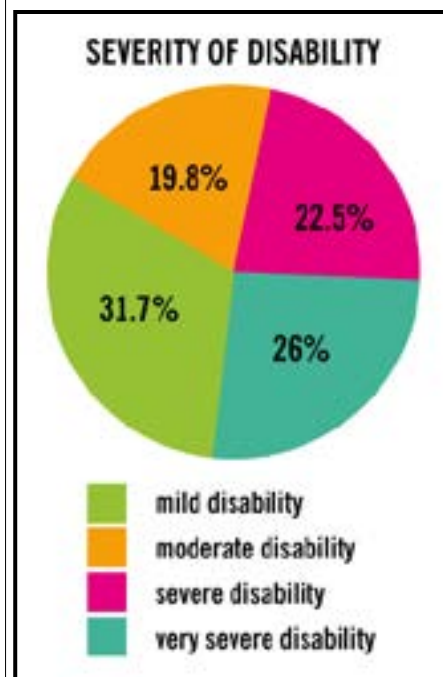
4.4% for people aged 15 to 24
6.5% for those aged 25 to 44
16.1% for those aged 45 to 64
26.3% for those aged 65 to 74
42.5% for those aged 75 and older

Severity of Disability

The 2012 CSD also provides data on the severity of the disabilities of persons aged 15 and over in Canada:

31.7% (1,195,590) have a mild disability
19.8% (747,980) have a moderate disability

22.5% (849,540) have a severe disability
26% (982,810) have a very severe disability



Thus one in two persons with a disability have a severe or very severe disability. It is also relevant to note that 80% of persons with disabilities use an aid or assistive device, 75% take at least one prescription medication and half (49%) need help with heavy household chores.

Prevalence and types of disability

The 2012 CSD shows the following rates for each type of disability in the general population aged 15 years and over. A person could declare as having more than one type of disability.

DISABILITY TYPE	% OF POPULATION
Pain	9.7
Flexibility	7.6
Mobility	7.2
Mental/psychological	3.9
Dexterity	3.5
Hearing	3.2
Seeing	2.7
Memory	2.3
Learning	2.3
Developmental	0.6
Unknown	0.3

Households and disability

Statistics Canada's 2009 Survey of Household Spending shows us to what extent persons with disabilities are part of our households. Of the estimated 13,417,000 households in Canada, 3,248,900 or 24.2% included at least one household member with a disability. Thus, about one household in 4 is affected by the numerous challenges facing persons with disabilities and their families in Canada.

Caregiving

Statistics Canada's 2012 General Social Survey - Caregiving and Care Receiving also shows us to what extent caregiving is an important phenomenon in our country. Of the estimated 28,716,200 people aged 15 and older, there were an estimated 8,084,100 or 28.2% who provided care to at least one person with a disability or a senior. Thus, more than one person in 4 in Canada is a caregiver.

Education

The 2012 CSD also provides data on the education of persons with disabilities and the most stunning information concerns people with less than a high school diploma and university graduates. Persons with disabilities are two times more likely not to have completed high

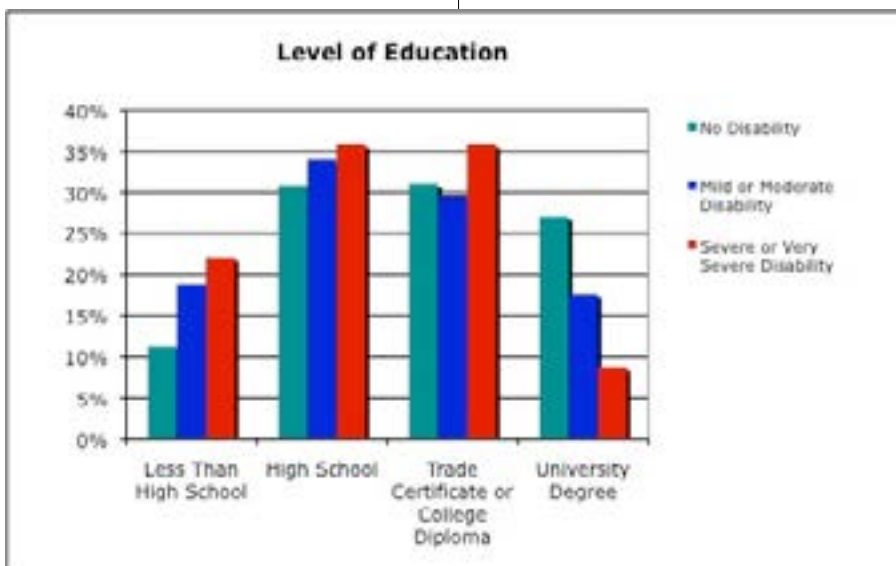
school or equivalent than people without disabilities (19% vs 9%). Also, people with disabilities are two time less likely to be university graduates compared to Canadians without disabilities (16% vs 31%). This obviously has an impact on their rate of participation in the labour force and their income.

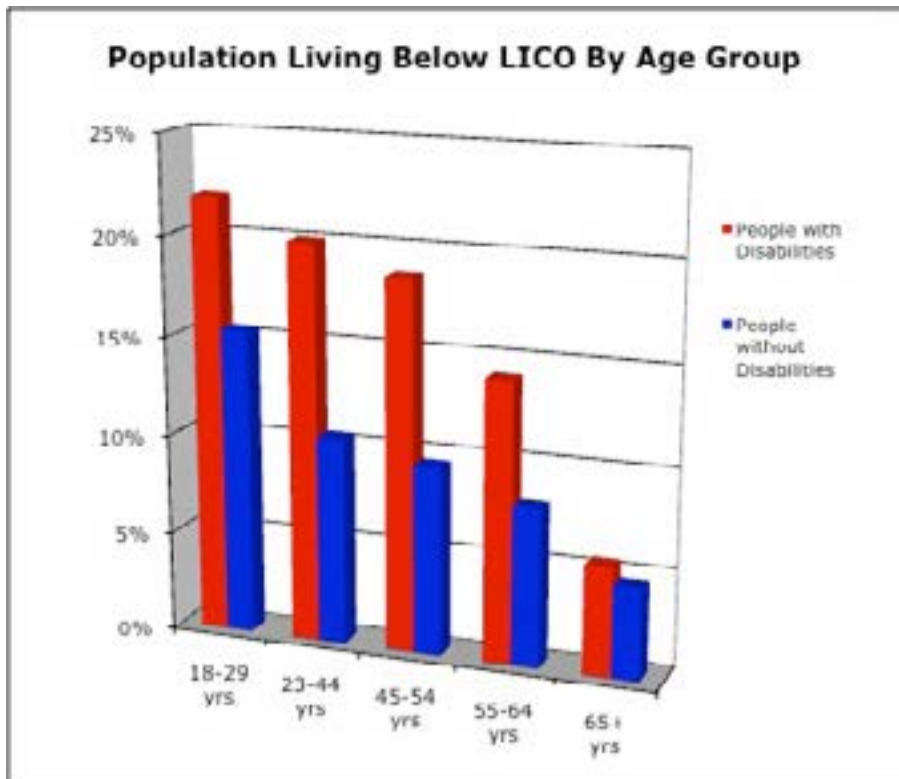
Employment rate

According to CSD data, less than half of working-age adults with disabilities are employed (47%) and this rate is significantly inferior to the rate for Canadians without disabilities (74%). This lower employment rate has a significant impact on the income of persons living with disabilities.

Income

Finally, the 2012 CSD reveals





includes at least one person with a disability and more than one Canadian in four is a caregiver. Furthermore, the data on education, labour market participation and income clearly shows that persons living with disabilities are far likelier to be underprivileged and marginalised compared to Canadians without disabilities. This portrait should concern the Federal Government and orient the adoption and implementation of more targeted and efficient policy in this area in keeping with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. ■

that the median annual income of persons with disabilities is \$10,000 less than those without disabilities. In 2010, the median income for persons with disabilities age 15 to 64 was just over \$20,000 compared to just over \$30,000 for Canadians without disabilities. The data available from Statistics Canada on the low income cut-off (LICO) used

to measure poverty also shows that persons with disabilities in this age group are about twice as likely to live in poverty than Canadians without disabilities.

In summary, disability in Canada is an important social phenomenon as one Canadian in seven has a disability, one household in four

CANADIAN SURVEY ON DISABILITY, 2012

statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-654-x/89-654-x2015001-eng.htm

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