



Every Canadian Counts ECC

*An emerging Canadian coalition
advocating for a national disability program to support
the more than 2.4 million Canadians
living with long-term, chronic disabilities*

Presentation to OCAPDD, January 202112,

Topics Discussed

1. How we got here (the history)
2. The Proposal
3. Now what?





1. How We Got Here

- OCAPDD Board recognized the Ontario disability support system was ‘stuck’
 - Agenda created in the 1970’s focusing on deinstitutionalization has remained unchanged but has stalled - multiple agendas ensued – horrendous fragmentation
 - Challenges known but incremental changes not working
 - Even significant sums did not do the job even with the additional billions of some years ago

Research undertaken: What was happening in other provinces?

- Reveals similar issues coast, to coast, to coast



A Quick Start

- ECCC was registered on 2014-01-07

Year 1

- The arrival of ECCC met with mixed reaction in the DD community
- Important formative support from some
- OASIS
- OCAPDD
- Significant and almost debilitating resistance from others
- DD sector not fruitful ground at first
- Political terrain federally not conducive (but neither was it in Australia)



2015-2016

- What was it?
 - Broadened our advocacy to beyond DD
 - Initially CNIB, March of Dimes, Neil Squires, DAWN, Rick Hansen initially
 - Lesson: great interest and a more advanced culture of collaboration among many and this is what generated energy and momentum to continue
 - Also helped by a change in government which saw the creation of a Minister Responsible for Persons with Disabilities



Highlight of 2016

- IIDL Conference in Feb
- Minister Qualtrough met with D. Ferguson, myself, Bruce Bonyhady and Andrea Spindel of the March of Dimes
- At that IIDL Conference the Minister expressed an interest in such a program
- Gained support of the Parliamentary Secretary to the PM



2017

- The Year of the Blowback
 - Minister changed direction – the constituency to support an insurance program was not yet there
 - Vested national interests had been committed to the Accessibility Agenda
 - ECCC lost its funding support but kept in kind from OCAPDD and Deaf Blind Ontario Services in particular
 - Kept giving numerous presentations



2017-19

Expanded Network of Engagement

- Target groups:
- Advocacy/support institutions
- Family Groups and Unions
- Students and Researchers
- Government



Advocacy Groups(1)

Accessibility Centre (Ottawa)

Advocating Parents of Nova Scotia

Autism Speaks Canada

Assembly of First Nations

Barrier Free Canada

Brain Injury Canada

CACL

Cdn Association of the Deaf

Canadian Association of Health Sciences

CCRW (Cdn Council of Rehabilitation and Work)

Cdn Cooperative Association

CASDA

Cdn Centre on Disability Studies

Cdn Economics Association

Cdn Hard of Hearing Association

Cdn Hearing Society

Cdn Home Care Association

Cdn Human Rights Commission

Citizen Advocacy

CNIB

Coalition of Persons with Disabilities (Nfld & Lbdr)

Communication Disabilities Access Canada

Council of Canadians with Disabilities

DAWN Canada



Advocacy Groups (2)

Deaf-Blind (Ontario)	Muscle Canada (Muscular Dystrophy)
DEEN Support Services	Neil Squires
Dignity 2016	Ontario Association on Developmental Disabilities (OADD)
Disability Alliance BC	OASIS
Disability Justice Network of Ontario (DJNO)	Ont Fed Cerebral Palsy
Disabled Persons International	People First Canada
Disabled Women's Network of Canada	People First Nova Scotia
Independent Living Canada	Planned Lifetime Networks
Kinaxis	Rick Hanson Foundation
Kinova	Roll a Mile
Kiwanis	SALAS
l'Arche	Sam Sullivan Foundation
Lifetime Networks Ottawa (PLAN affiliate)	Shriner's
March of Dimes	SSAH & Passport Coalition
Medicare for Autism Now	SBHAC (Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of Canada)
Mental Health Commission of Canada	Spinal Cord Injury Canada
MitoCanada	TAMIR
MS Society of Canada	TCE

Student Associations/Family Groups

	STUDENT GROUPS
	Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance
	Canadian Alliance of Student Associations
	NEADS (National Educational Association of Disabled Students)
FAMILY GROUPS	
Families for a Secure Future	
Family Alliance Ontario	
Family Net (BC)	
Hamilton Family Network	
The Real People Campaign	
Toronto Family Network	
Windsor-Essex Family Network	
	RESEARCH
	CCDS - Queen's University
	Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation
	Neurological Health Charities Canada
	Ontario Neurological Foundation
	PONDA
	Ryerson University
	Tamarack Insitute
	Tetra Society



UNIONS

- BTAC - Building Trades Association of Canada
- CUPW
- PSAC
- NUPGE
- CNA (Cdn Nurses Association)
- *CLC*



Advocacy with Government

- Minister Qualtrough
- Stephan Lauzon (Chair, Social Affairs Committee)
- Jim Munson Senate
- Anita Van den Beld (Champion)
- Sen. Enverga, MP Mike Lake (Conservatives)
- Daniel Blaikie NDP
- Paul Manly, Greens
- Many others



2020

- The Year of Accessibility (Act Passed Nov. 2019)
 - Blue Sky Strategy Group
 - Organizations focused on gaining access to the resources made available under that Act and not looking to take up new causes
 - Considered ending operations
 - That changed early fall
 - Video



So What has Changed?

- The **Inclusion Agenda** in the Speech from the Throne Fall 2020
 - Disability Inclusion Plan, which will have:
 - A new Canadian Disability Benefit modelled after the Guaranteed Income Supplement for seniors;
 - A robust employment strategy for Canadians with disabilities;
 - And a better process to determine eligibility for Government disability programs and benefits.



So What has Changed?

- ECCC is at the table and is being noticed
 - CMHC, HUMA Committee -
 - Participated in all major conferences in Nov/Dec
 - CCRW Disability and Work Conference
 - PLAN Canada sessions on shaping the Disability Benefit
 - Funding/support through partnerships
 - ECCC chosen to be the lead on the Rising Youth program
 - A second order participant in the Disability Confidence in Finance (DCIF) and employment development program for PWD's in Canada's financial sector
 - OCAPDD and summer student program – webpage update
 - Encouraging responses to our Editorials/Opinion pieces



Looking Ahead

- Finance Committee
 - Request to present has been forwarded to all members – on the economic benefits of the disability insurance program for Canada (post-COVID)
 - Request to present to the Minister’s Advisory Committee on the suggestion of members of the committee
 - Active engagement in the budget process through partners – *include-me* network & others



The message

- *Persons with disabilities in Canada are the most marginalized in Canada and vastly underserved in the current framework. As a member of the community of persons with a disability I would request the Canadian Government in its next budget that it allocate funding to undertake research into the costs/benefits, feasibility and viability of a national publicly funded disability insurance strategy for Canada. Such a strategy has been introduced in Australia with great effect, not only benefiting the economy significantly, but also improving the lives of hundreds of thousands of disabled Australians.*



The Objective

- Participate in every MP's budget-related public discussions
- Swamp the on-line budget consultation link
- Tell the Stories
 - The Stories Project





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